

PRESS RELEASE**Consolidated First Half 2008 Results of Emporiki Bank Group**

***Despite the adverse banking market conditions,
Emporiki's market comeback continues
(+14.1% loan portfolio growth in the First Half 2008),
including strong credit expansion in the Small, Medium and Large Corporate
segments (+21.5% in the First Half 2008).***

***Operating profit from continuing operations improved at € 4.4 mn for the 2nd
Quarter, vs. €12.0 loss for the 1st Quarter.
First Half 2008 Result at € -15.1 mn¹, due to rising funding costs, as well as
portfolio mark-to-market losses.***

***Transformation Program continues to evolve according to plan.
Business Centers' Network successfully completed and in full operation.
New Retail Operating Model in phased roll-out to the entire network.***

HIGHLIGHTS**➔ *Emporiki's market comeback continues:***

- Balance of loans to Large Corporates increased by €1.46 bn. (+33.8%) in the 1st Half of 2008.
- Balance of loans to SME's and Professionals increased by €685 mn. (+12.1%) in the 1st Half of 2008.
- Credit expansion continues at a high rate: Total bank loans outstanding grew by 14.1% during the 1st Half of 2008 versus 17.9% in the last 12 months.

➔ *The 1st Half 2008 Results are mainly impacted by prevailing adverse market conditions evidenced in narrowing spreads, particularly on the deposit side:*

- As a result of the liquidity crisis and the intensifying competition for attracting funds, the cost of funding continued rising in the 2nd Quarter: as a result, Interest expense for the 1st Half of 2008 increased by €67 mn. (+38%) versus the 1st Half of 2007.
- Operating profit from continued operations stood at €4.4 mn for the 2nd Quarter of 2008, with partial offset of the 1st Quarter portfolio losses.

¹ After taxes and minority rights

➔ ***In continuation to the restructuring and expansion of the Retail and Corporate & Investment Banking Networks, the Bank's competitiveness gradually strengthens:***

- The Service Center for Large Corporates (K.E.M.E.P.) started its operation in April, providing a full range of specialized products and services to customers of Corporate and Investment Banking.
- The Network of 21 Business Centers, exclusively dedicated to the service of Medium-size companies all over Greece, is fully up and running as of May.
- The Retail Pilot Program is in full progress in 24 Branches in Athens and Thessaloniki. The program aims at establishing a more client-centered and effective Branch model to the entire Bank's network until the end of 2009. Program rollout will continue in September with 35 more Retail Branches.
- Key banking operations, such as the processing of pledged cheques and housing loans, are now completely automated and centralized as part of the Operational Transformation Program, aiming at improving the quality of customer service and releasing Branches from back office tasks.

➔ ***Significant growth in Emporiki's international business:***

- Substantial growth of the loan portfolio of international subsidiaries: Balances increased by 52% compared to June 2007.
- The international subsidiaries network (Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and Cyprus) expanded to 79 Branches in the 2nd Quarter, versus 71 in the 1st Quarter, with 24 new Branches soon to be delivered.

➔ ***Effective management and control of operating costs continues:***

- Operating costs were contained, with staff expenses increasing only by 1.9% and other operating costs reduced by 1.7% compared to the 1st Half of 2007, despite additional costs related to expansion in the Balkans and the setting up and operation of new specialized networks for SME's and Large Corporates in Greece. Transformation cost amounted to €12.9 mn for the First Half 2008.

Mr. Anthony Crontiras, Vice-President of the BoD & Chief Executive Officer of Emporiki Bank, made the following statement:

"Emporiki's market comeback continued in the First Half of 2008, achieving high credit expansion rates, now including lending to large corporates and medium sized enterprises. During the 2nd Quarter, and despite continuing adverse market conditions, we managed to improve our performance and aiming at strengthening our profitability until year end. In parallel, we maintain our commitment to our strategic objectives, i.e. the completion of the Bank's rationalization and alignment with the highest international banking standards, our comeback to the Greek market, and our expansion to the S.E. Europe markets."

H1 2008 ACTIVITY REPORT

LOANS & DEPOSITS H1 2008 (Bank solo)

<i>(€ million)</i>	H1 08	H1 07	Ch (%)
Total Loans (Bank + Credicom)	22,841	19,223	18.8%
Mortgages	7,134	6,284	13.5%
Consumer loans (Bank + Credicom)	3,193	2,594	23.1%
Business sector	12,133	9,925	22.2%
- of which SMEs	6,341	5,385	17.7%
Total Deposits (Bank only)	17,737	16,707	6.0%

H1 2008 P/L STATEMENT (GROUP)

Key figures

<i>(€ m)</i>	H1 08	H1 07	Ch (%)
Net interest income	332.5	377.8	-12.0%
Fee and commission income	69.0	78.5	-12.1%
Other income	3.1	26.4	-88.1%
Net banking income	404.6	482.7	-16.2%
Staff expenses	(196.1)	(192.4)	1.9%
Depreciation	(16.7)	(16.2)	3.3%
Other operating expenses	(91.5)	(93.1)	-1.7%
Provisions	(94.9)	(106.9)	-11.2%
Transformation cost	(12.9)	(20.5)	-36.8%
Total Expenses	(412.1)	(428.9)	-3.9%
Profit from Continued Operations	(7.5)	53.8	-
Discontinued Operations Results	(1.5)	26.2	-
Earnings before taxes	-9.0	79.9	-
Income tax expense	(6.0)	(20.0)	-
Earnings after taxes & minority rights	-15.1	61.0	-

*H1 2007 figures are on a proforma basis

RATIOS

	H1 08	H1 07	Ch (bps)
Earnings per share (EPS) (€)	-	0.46	-
Cost to income (without transformation costs)	75.2%	62.5%	127
Loans / Deposits (bank only)	123%	110%	130

ANALYSIS OF H1 08 RESULTS

Net banking income: €404.6 million, -16.2%

- **Net interest income** was €332.5 million, down by 12.0%, due to intensified competition in loans and deposits, as well as the increased cost of wholesale funding.
- **Net fee and commission income** decreased by 12.1% to €69 million due to low activity of funds under management, bank-assurance products and credit cards.
- **Other operating income** amounted to €3.1 million. The trading income of H1 2008 was affected by the current market conditions and mark to market valuations.

Total expenses & provisions decreased by 3.9% to €412.1 million.

- **Staff expenses** increased only by 1.9%.
- **Other operating expenses** decreased by 1.7%.
- **Transformation expenses** amounted to €12.9 million.
- **Provisions** reached €94.9 million (-11.2% vs. H1 07).

ANALYSIS OF H1 08 BALANCE SHEET

In H1 2008 the annual YoY growth rate of **mortgage loans** of the Bank stood at 13.5% resulting in outstanding balances of €7,134million. New mortgage loan disbursements stood at €713 million.

In **consumer loans (including Credicom)** annual growth rate stood at 23.1% driving total outstanding balances to €3,193million. Credicom continued its notable growth with balances standing at €1,081 million in June 30, 2008, increased by 15% since year-end 2007 and by 41% by the end of H1 2007.

Loans to **SMEs** increased by 17.7% YoY, with balances standing at €6,341 million, enhanced heavily with the launch of the Business Centers' network in Q4 2007.

Deposits of the Bank increased by 6.0% YoY to €17,737million.

Group Equity in H1 08 stood at € 844 million.

➔ The Consolidated H1 2008 Results announcement is available at www.emporiki.gr and at www.ase.gr

➔ Investor Inquiries:
Konstantinos Angelopoulos, Head of IR
+30 210 328 2091
angelopoulos.k@emporiki.gr

Press Inquiries:
Christina Dimoudi, Press Officer
+30 210 328 2706
dimoudi.c@emporiki.gr