

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Banca Intesa – bank of the year in Serbia**

The most successful rewarded with the annual award of the financial magazine “The Banker”

**Belgrade (28 November 2008)** - Prestigious financial magazine “The Banker”, a part of the famous publishing house “Financial Times Group”, based on a number of parameters, and above all, the achieved financial results, announced Banca Intesa “bank of the year” in Serbia. This prestigious recognition for the most successful bank was awarded to Ms Draginja Đurić, President of the EB of Banca Intesa Beograd at the awarding ceremony in London.

“We are very pleased that as the leading bank in Serbia, we have also received an award for excellent results on the international level. This recognition represents the confirmation of our dynamic development and business success in the course of previous year, that was reflected through our high growth rates recorded in all segments of business operations, strong increase of total assets and taking up the leading market position in conditions of intensified competition” said Ms Draginja Đurić on the occasion.

Title “Bank of the year” is every year awarded by “The Banker” magazine for different regions, countries and categories, and in the selection process, the choice of the most successful is, apart from the quantitative criteria such as total assets growth or profitability, also guided by the level of development of modern technologies and infrastructure as well as by development of strategies directed towards future and their implementation in practice.

Despite the numerous challenges set by the growing competition, restrictive monetary policy and crisis on the global financial market, in the course of the first nine months of 2008, Banca Intesa managed to strengthen its leadership position and realize excellent results in all segments of business operations. With net total assets amounting EUR 3 billion, total retail and corporate loans reaching the amount of EUR 2 billion and deposits amounting EUR 1.8 billion, Banca Intesa is the first on the list of the biggest banks in the country.

With total corporate placements amounting EUR 1.5 billion, Banca Intesa is one of the biggest creditors of corporate in Serbia. During the first nine months of 2008, the bank realized dynamic growth of corporate placements amounting EUR 564 million which is by 62% more when compared to the end of 2007. Total deposits to legal entities at the end of September reached the amount of 926 million which is by 9% higher compared to the end of 2007.

As for retail operations, Banca Intesa is among the leading banks on the domestic market in terms of savings volume with total deposits amounting EUR 916 million and market share of almost 15%. In comparison with the end of 2007, by the end of the third quarter of the current year deposits were increased for more than EUR 140 million i.e. by 15%. Retail placements also realized strong growth by 29%, to reach to amount of EUR 634 million.