EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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PUBLIC VERSION

Erste Group Bank AG
Am Belvedere 1
1100 Vienna
Austria

Global Payments Inc.
3550 Lenox Road, Suite 3000
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
United States

Subject: **Case M.12132 – GLOBAL PAYMENTS / ERSTE CARD**
Commission decision pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ([1]) and Article 57 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area ([2])

Dear Sir or Madam,

(1) On 6 November 2025, the European Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of the Merger Regulation, by which the undertakings Global Payments Inc. ('Global Payments', United States), and Erste Group Bank AG ('Erste Holding', Austria), will acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) and 3(4) of the Merger Regulation joint control over the whole of the undertaking Erste Card Club d.o.o, ('Erste Card', Croatia), currently solely controlled by Erste Holding, by way of purchase of shares. ([3])

(2) The business activities of the undertakings concerned are the following:

– Global Payments is a provider of payment technology and solutions primarily to merchants and financial institutions globally. Its services include merchant acquiring, enterprise and payment management solutions (principally in the US), payment card processing and online payment portal solutions,

([1]) OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'Merger Regulation'). With effect from 1 December 2009, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU') has introduced certain changes, such as the replacement of 'Community' by 'Union' and 'common market' by 'internal market'. The terminology of the TFEU will be used throughout this decision.
([2]) OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p. 3 (the 'EEA Agreement').
([3]) OJ C, C/ C/2025/6232, 17.11.2025

– Erste Holding is a universal financial services provider in Central and Eastern Europe. It offers a wide spectrum of banking services, including retail and commercial banking, investment and private banking, asset management, lending, mortgages and digital banking.

(3) Erste Card is active in merchant acquiring in Croatia.

(4) After examination of the notification, the European Commission has concluded that the notified operation falls within the scope of the Merger Regulation and of paragraph 5(d) of the Commission Notice on a simplified treatment for certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004. ([4])

(5) For the reasons set out in the Notice on a simplified treatment, the European Commission has decided not to oppose the notified operation and to declare it compatible with the internal market and with the EEA Agreement. This decision is adopted in application of Article 6(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation and Article 57 of the EEA Agreement.

For the Commission

(Signed)
Linsey MCCALLUM
Director-General (acting)
Directorate-General for Competition

([4]) OJ C 160, 5.5.2023, p. 1 (the 'Notice on a simplified treatment').