

Foreword



Dear Shareholders and Investors,

A successful account always comprises several components. With regard to DekaBank's net income for 2010, this is the sum of three decisive success factors. Firstly, higher net commission income thanks to the positive performance of our funds. Secondly, considerably lower requirement for risk provisions in lending business, flanked by revaluations and profits realised on capital market credit products. Thirdly, the increase in income was supported by the consistent implementation of our quality and process campaign. Together, these three components ensured that we once again delivered record annual results for our shareholders. These excellent results have long-term, sustainable substance – and are not affected by any capital refunds not realised at DekaBank which may arise from equity trades carried out during the reporting year. In this respect, we have taken all the necessary measures to fully process the matter in cooperation with the relevant offices.

The most important message precedes the annual financial statements: our business model has been confirmed as a stability anchor and has once again proven its strength, especially in the face of unstable market and competitive parameters. This particularly applies with regard to our sustained earnings power. Since 2006, DekaBank has achieved its target economic result every year, excluding the crisis-stricken year of 2008, when non-recurring factors affected income negatively. This continuous upward trend, combined with low volatility, is an outer reflection of the stability and soundness of our business model. Its financial strength was also affirmed in 2010 as part of the stress test conducted by the European banking supervisory authority, which is an important external sign of confidence.

Internally, the fact that we are firmly anchored within the Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe ensures sustained stability in terms of framework conditions, which are at least equally as important, especially in an environment that remains

uncertain. The financial market crisis seems to have been overcome, with the global economy recovering in 2010. However, many uncertainties remain for the international financial and capital markets, including the national debt of some EU member states, the debate surrounding the stability of the euro, inflation control in Europe and the current process of revolutionary change in the Arab countries. These are all exerting considerable pressure, particularly on the financial sector.

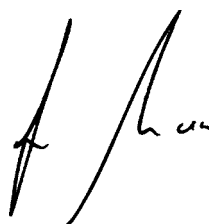
In an environment marked by such instability, a clear profile and convincing, future-oriented strategy are much sought-after. Our business model combines these two aspects and focuses on the requirements of the savings banks and their customers. They are the pivot of our activities as central asset manager, both in the investment fund business and the supporting capital market services, for retail customers as well as institutional investors. This sharply defined direction promotes reliability and creates a strong basis for trust. Our partners in the Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe know from their day-to-day operations just how important this level of trust is, especially in the securities business. Long-term satisfactory customer relationships are only feasible if customers have confidence in the expert advice, strong product quality and professional and service-based support.

Alongside specified goals and targets and a well-defined approach, realising a vision first and foremost requires one other element: trust in the vision itself. The savings banks are currently preparing to become the majority shareholders in DekaBank. This will make a longstanding wish come true. With "100% savings bank" on the agenda, DekaBank faces an historical turning point. We will now need to sharpen our profile and align our range of products, sales support and market positioning even more closely with the savings banks. At the same time, this also provides the opportunity to focus on positioning ourselves at the top in the securities business to become the market leader, something the savings banks have already achieved in retail banking. We

intend to develop this potential together with the savings banks. After all, record results cannot be "mass produced" without the corresponding sales clout. Using the dual lever as sole shareholder and exclusive sales partner, the savings banks will benefit from greater participation in their sales success in future.

We interpret the intended change in the shareholder structure as a clear sign of trust from the savings banks and their customers. It is one reason why we have chosen the motto "Vote of confidence" for this year's Annual Report. It is also why we have decided to use a composite picture design for the introductory section, which clearly puts the spotlight on savings bank customers. Several customers are presented, who have been able to make a personal wish come true by investing in Deka investment funds. The stories are told by selected staff along the value-creation chain of our funds, from product management to custody account service employees. In their teams, these colleagues make a daily contribution to further strengthening the trust that savings bank customers place in the Deka investment funds. This consolidates the basis for the shared future success of the savings banks and DekaBank.

Sincerely,



Franz S. Waas, Ph.D.
Chairman of the Board of Management of DekaBank