News Release

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Ernst & Young appoints new partners Josef Severa and David Kesl

**Josef Severa and David Kesl have been newly appointed as partners in Ernst & Young’s Corporate Advisory and Risk Management department in the Czech Republic. Corporate advisory has become one of the fastest growing departments in Ernst & Young’s Czech practice.**

**Josef Severa** is responsible for the strategic development of Ernst & Young’s advisory services for the energy industry, leading the energy team for Central and Southeast Europe comprising Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and Serbia. In the Czech Republic, he oversees a team of leading energy industry experts headed by Ludmila Petráňová and Blahoslav Němeček, which provides energy industry clients with comprehensive advisory services as part of Ernst & Young’s Global Power & Utilities Center\*. With more than 18 years of experience, he is a highly respected expert in the fields of internal audit, risk management and internal control system set-up. He leads the Ernst & Young Excellence Center for Internal Audit Services in 21 central and eastern European countries while also devoting time to the personal and professional development of individuals and groups through coaching and associated development and educational programs. He has been involved for many years in the management of the Czech Institute of Internal Auditors. He joined Ernst & Young in 2001 after heading the internal audit department of Eurotel Praha. He has a degree in corporate finance from the Economics University in Prague. He is married and has one daughter.

**David Kesl** specializes in IT advisory and technology risk management. He has been with Ernst & Young since 2002, and before that worked at Arthur Andersen. He has been providing IT advisory, especially to financial institutions, for 15 years. His focus is IT strategy, information system selection and implementation, project and change management, information technology audit and review and technology risk management. He is a graduate in electrical engineering from the Czech Technical University. He is a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and Certified Accounting Expert (ACCA). He is married with three sons. He enjoys spending his free time with his family and his hobbies include ballroom dancing, cycling and skiing.

 *“In recent years, we have seen corporate advisory develop at a dynamic pace at Ernst & Young. We attach particular importance to this development, since we provide services in key areas such as the financial sector, the energy industry and the public sector. These new partner appointments result from a rigorous selection process, reflecting the long-time professional performance of each partner and representing a vote of confidence in their leadership skills. We appreciate the excellent results that are essential for the further growth of the Advisory department and our company,”* says Magdalena Souček, Country Managing Partner of Ernst & Young in the Czech Republic.

**\* About Ernst & Young Power & Utilities**

Power & Utilities are a key sector for Ernst & Young. In the Czech Republic, Josef Severa oversees the energy group headed by Ludmila Petráňová and Blahoslav Němeček. which provides energy industry clients with comprehensive advisory services as part of Ernst & Young’s Global Power & Utilities Center. Key areas include renewable energy sources, electromobility, government energy policy, regulation and compliance programs. We take an active part in energy sector activities: we established a platform for exchange among leading energy industry experts, we speak on key topics at professional conferences and serve on interagency committees. The goal is a common dialogue with leading energy sector experts on current issues, challenges and trends.

Ernst & Young Power & Utilities Center offersthe latest energy industry insights and coordinates a network of experts who make practical recommendations on issues that company executives and boards of directors face in audit and corporate, tax and transactional advisory. Through our experts, clients have easy access to insights on the most pressing energy industry issues, from accessing fossil fuels at competitive prices to navigating the environmental agenda.

**About Ernst & Young's Advisory Services**

The relationship between risk and performance improvement is an increasingly complex and central business challenge, with business performance directly connected to the recognition and effective management of risk. Whether your focus is on business transformation or sustaining achievement, having the right advisors on your side can make all the difference. Our 25,000 advisory professionals form one of the broadest global advisory networks of any professional organization, delivering seasoned multidisciplinary teams that work with our clients to deliver a powerful and superior client experience. We use proven, integrated methodologies to help you achieve your strategic priorities and make improvements that are sustainable for the longer term. We understand that to achieve your potential as an organization you require services that respond to your specific issues, so we bring our broad sector experience and deep subject matter knowledge to bear in a proactive and objective way. Above all, we are committed to measuring the gains and identifying where the strategy is delivering the value your business needs. It’s how Ernst & Young makes a difference.

The Corporate Advisory Department provides services in project management, financial management, IT advisory and IT investment optimization, performance improvement for companies and individual specialized functions, and managing costs and organizational and procedural changes. In risk management, Ernst & Young focuses on internal audit, managing and implementing EU-funded programs, managing financial and corporate risk, information system and process security and financial and accounting control mechanisms.

**About Ernst & Young**

Ernst & Young is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. Worldwide, our 167,000 people are united by our shared values and an unwavering commitment to quality. We make a difference by helping our people, our clients and our wider communities achieve their potential.

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