Helsinki/Stockholm, September 15, 1999

## MeritaNordbanken denies news published by Helsingin Sanomat

It is part of the strategy of the MeritaNordbanken Group to seek cooperation with other Nordic banks. Usually our policy is not to comment on market rumours, but at the request of the Helsinki Exchanges, we are making an exception this time to deny the news published by Helsingin Sanomat concerning a merger with Unidanmark.

MeritaNordbanken, the leading bank group in the Nordic region, provides a broad spectrum of financial products and services to more than 6.5 million private individuals and 400,000 companies and institutions. The Group's service network comprises some 800 branch offices in Finland and Sweden, over 1,000 Swedish post offices and a wide range of effective telephone and Internet banking facilities. More than a million customers use the Group's electronic banking services. Household savings under management total almost EUR 45 billion. Outside the Nordic region, the Group has a presence in 19 countries. The two holding companies, Merita Plc and Nordbanken Holding AB (publ), are listed in Helsinki and Stockholm, respectively.