Svenska Handelsbanken

Press release

Stockholm 14 May 2001

Handelsbanken completes acquisition of Midtbank AS

At an Extraordinary General Meeting of Midtbank AS held today, certain changes in the Articles of Association were decided, including the removal of limitations in voting rights. This means that all the conditions for Handelsbanken's purchase of Midtbank have now been fulfilled.

Shareholders who have accepted Handelsbanken's bid will be advised on 15 May 2001 with payment on 18 May 2001.

For further information please contact: Pär Boman, EVP Head of Regional Bank Denmark, tel: +45 33-41 82 01, or Bengt Ragnå, Head of Investor Relations, tel: +46 8-701 1216