

Stockholm, November 19, 1999

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## Nordbanken Holding General Meeting approves merger agreement with Merita

The Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of Nordbanken Holding AB (publ) today approved the merger agreement signed between Nordbanken Holding and Merita Plc on September 20, 1999.

The Meeting further passed resolutions to approve the other proposals of the Board of Directors concerning a reduction in the share capital and the premium reserve, the issue of shares and convertible bonds to Merita shareholders and holders of Merita convertible bonds, an authorization to be granted to the Board of Directors to decide on possible further issues, and amendments to the Articles of Association.

The resolutions will be implemented on the condition that the merger agreement is also approved by the Extraordinary General Meeting of Merita to be held on November 23, 1999.

*Further information:*

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*MeritaNordbanken, one of the leading bank groups 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. Its service network comprises 800 branch offices in Finland and Sweden, some 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. Customer 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.*