

Helsinki/Oslo/Stockholm, December 22, 1999

MeritaNordbanken extends offer to acquire all shares in Christiania Bank og Kreditkasse

MeritaNordbanken extends the acceptance period for its offer for all shares in Christiania Bank og Kreditkasse ASA for NOK 44 per share to 31 January 2000 at 17.00. The offer was announced on 20 September 1999 and has subsequently been extended to 22 December 1999 at 17.00.

The Board of Christiania Bank og Kreditkasse has recommended that its shareholders accept the offer as industrially sound and financially fair. MeritaNordbanken now awaits the result of the decision-making process initiated on the basis of the decisions by the Stortinget relating to state ownership in the financial sector.

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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 700 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.

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