

Athens, April 23rd 2009

## Press Release

### **Distinction for the Greek Global Markets HSBC team by *The Banker* magazine**

*The Banker* magazine awarded the "Team of the Month" title for March 2009 to HSBC, in recognition of the local know-how displayed by the Greek team of the international Group. More specifically, HSBC has been granted this award for the important role it played as the primary dealer in the recent issuance of a syndicated €5.5 bn five-year Hellenic Republic fixed-income bond.

The distinction is of high importance, as "The Banker" magazine is considered to be one of the most reliable and pre-eminent international publications in the banking sector.

In this new world, where governments are competing against a host of new products, local presence should be reinforced, according to Mr. P.J. Bye, Head of the Public Sector Syndication for HSBC. According to Mr. Bye, HSBC is the number one international primary dealer in Greece. Even though the Bank's presence is not limited to one country, every market where the Bank operates is of utmost significance to the organization.

More specifically, "The Banker" states: *«HSBC is a Primary Dealer in Greece's sovereign debt, as it is for every other member of the Eurozone. Over the past few years it has pursued a strategy of building on those primary dealer relationships in all those countries, across sales, trading, origination and, increasingly, advisory».*

Mr. Dinos Kamaris, Head of Treasury and Capital Markets for HSBC Greece stated with regards to this distinction: *«The successful HSBC issuance of the 5-year bond has reinforced the presence of the Bank as an issuer in international markets. This particular distinction represents yet another important reward for our overall activity in Greece as well».*