

Athens, 1st December 2009

Press Release

HSBC: The Bank with the largest capital adequacy in the world, according to the Standard & Poor's survey

HSBC ranks first in the world (June 2009) in terms of the risk-adjusted capital adequacy (RAC) ratio, as announced by Standard & Poor's.

More specifically, S&P presented the first benchmark information on risk-adjusted capital adequacy (RAC) of the largest banks in the world, aiming at effectively identifying risk in credits, transactions and shares. In this survey, S&P grants a rate of **9.2%** to **HSBC**, while the average worldwide RAC rate is 6.7%.

The fact that only 9 out of a total of 45 banks that participated in the survey ranked above 8% thus promoting **HSBC as the Bank with the highest capital adequacy in the world** amongst large financial organisations is quite astonishing. According to the survey, the risk-adjusted capital adequacy ratio was lower for Japanese banks and higher for banks operating in Canada and Benelux.

As Mr. Dinos Kamaris, Head of Treasury & Capital Markets of HSBC said: *"At a time when negative comments on banks are published in newspapers on a daily basis, the results of this specific survey are a great distinction for HBSC. It is a truly Global Bank, operating based on clear and long-term standards of financial strength, liquidity and conservative relation of foreign to equity funds. HSBC continues to focus on these standards while standing by its customers making sure that it remains The World's Local Bank."*