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## Global Corporate Governance Forum/IFC Southeast Europe – Corporate Governance of Banks High Level Policy Meeting

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# Improving Board Practices of Banks by Christian Strenger

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#### I. The Need to Focus on Board Quality

- Lack of board quality a major reason for the present crisis
- Considerably increased professional requirements and increasing liability of board members make quality improvements indispensable
- To compete in the markets for debt and equity capital, particularly domestic banks must focus on good governance quality

#### II. The Key Areas for Improvement

- 1. For non-executive board members
- 2. Governance issues for executive directors
- 3. Stronger supervision and risk oversight
- 4. Intensive dealing with conflicts of interest
- 5. Extensive and relevant transparency
- 6. Establishment and monitoring of ethical standards

### III. Recommendations for Regulators, Supervisory Authorities and Legal Bodies

#### Literature

'Enhancing Corporate Governance For Banking Organisations', Basel Committee, February 2009, www.bis.org.

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'Report on Bank Boards and the Financial Crisis – A Corporate Governance Study of the 25 Largest European Banks', Nestor Advisors, May 2009, www.nestoradvisors.com.

'The High-Level Group on Financial Supervision in the EU-Report' ('De Larosiére-Report'), February 2009, http://ec.europa.eu.