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PREFACE

In October 2005, the 10th Annual International Conference on Finance and Banking, *Future of Banking after the Year 2000 in the World and in the Czech Republic*, took place at the Silesian University, School of Business Administration in Karviná, Czech Republic. Every year, the conference focuses on a specific new development in the banking and financial sector. This year, mainly because of the 15th anniversary of the School of Business Administration, and the 10th anniversary of the conference itself, the theme was unspecified and all papers on financial and banking topics were reviewed and considered for presentation. Consequently, the conference hosted 209 participants from 35 countries and 5 continents.

This volume contains eight of the best papers presented at the conference and two invited papers. In spite of the fact that the book is a collection of independent studies it represents a comprehensive and cohesive work. All studies (book chapters) are tied together by common themes. Through original research, the book covers various aspects of financial and banking sectors in the enlarging European Union (EU), giving a comparison of their development in the new and traditional member states. Special attention is paid to prospective integration of the New Member States to the European Economic and Monetary Union and the implications for national economic policies.

The book contains ten chapters arranged in three thematic parts focusing on the structure of financial systems, banking sectors, and equity markets and monetary policy. In the first chapter, Tamás Isépy compares the financial superstructure in EU member countries, including the New Member States, and analyses how and to what extent the financial structures have an influence on the economic growth of a national economy or region. Some indices such as size index, activity index or efficiency index of the financial sector are used in the analysis. Cândida Ferreira examines a similar issue, the link between financial intermediation and economic growth in the context of European integration, in the second chapter. Panel fixed and random estimates are used to analyse data from 26 EU member and candidate countries. In the third chapter, Jaan Vainu presents some historical notes on the development of the Estonian banking system and the capital structure of banks. Several versions of financial ratio analysis are applied to bank performance analysis along with modified DuPont analysis and econometric modelling. The fourth chapter written by Janek Uiboupin aims to identify the main effects of the entry of foreign banks on the stability and performance of banks in new EU-members from Central and Eastern Europe. The empirical analysis used is Arellano–Bond dynamic panel estimation. Additionally, the summary of a survey based questionnaire is presented for qualitative

x Preface

analysis. *Daniel Stavárek*, in the fifth chapter, compares commercial banks' efficiency in four groups of homogenous countries with different levels of economic development and involvement in the process of European integration. Employing Data Envelopment Analysis, the hypothesis that the higher degree of European economic integration and economic development goes hand in hand with higher banking efficiency is tested.

In the sixth chapter, Asma Ben Salem identifies some countries or characteristics of countries that will affect the trends of foreign direct banking investments via mergers and acquisitions across Europe. A panel data of cross-border banking mergers and acquisitions in the main European countries from 1987 to 2004 are used to reveal the importance of banking market concentration as a determinant of further international growth of European banks. The seventh chapter by Karel Diviš & Petr Teplý focuses on testing a weak form of market efficiency in regards to capital markets in some new EU members and developed countries implementing a variance ratio test as a research method. The main conclusion is that the weak form of the efficient market hypothesis could not be rejected for Central European capital markets and that an improvement of market efficiency was observed over time on all markets. Jan Frait & Luboš Komárek look at the relationship between monetary policy and asset prices and the recent developments in the New Member States in the eighth chapter. The appropriate reaction of monetary policy to asset price bubbles is discussed, the main pros and cons associated with this reaction are summarized and the risks of asset market bubbles in the New Member States are evaluated. The ninth chapter written by Luboš Komárek & Martin Melecký analyses the relevance of the currency substitution phenomenon in the Czech Republic. The authors discuss consequences of euroisation as well as an estimation of a modified Branson and Henderson portfolio model, and application of several cointegration techniques. In the tenth chapter Jarko Fidrmuc & Roman Horváth examine the exchange rate dynamics in selected New Member States. To analyse the exchange rate behaviour, they perform the analysis in two steps. First, they estimate the monetary equilibrium exchange rates; and second, they use these exchange rates obtained in the subsequent GARCH estimations.

This book gives a deep insight into the financial sector of the enlarging EU. Additionally, it successfully pulls together theory and actual development of the European financial sectors.

Karviná, May 2006

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