

Communicating Europe: Austria Manual

*Information and contacts on the Austrian debate
on EU enlargement in the Western Balkans*

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ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Who shapes the debate on the future of EU-enlargement in Austria today? This manual is meant to provide an answer to this question through a user-friendly overview of more than 160 key people in nearly 100 institutions.

It sets out by describing the Austrian media landscape: the crucial role of ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation), radio and print media (newspapers and magazines), both in Vienna and in the Austrian provinces. It then describes the most important interest groups. At the end it offers an overview of the key political institutions, the current government, parliament and the main political parties.

Any debate in any vibrant democracy is characterised by a large number of different voices that can be heard. Nonetheless, when it comes to Austrian views on enlargement, the voiced included in this manual are certainly among the most influential.

Vienna, December 2007

A. MEDIA

This section provides an overview of relevant Austrian media platforms, editors, and journalists with an interest in the Western Balkans and EU issues. Most of the journalists in this list speak good English.

Most press releases and announcements by political parties and civil society actors can be downloaded for free from www.ots.at (Originaltext-Service), a free sub-database of the Austrian Press Agency.

1. Electronic media: TV and radio

The Austrian TV scene is dominated by the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF). It had a complete monopoly until 1997, when the first private local TV channel started to operate in Vienna. It took another six years until the first private channel started to broadcast nationally in 2003. While ATV, later renamed ATV+ is until today is the only “terrestrial” rival to ORF. It will soon be joined by *Puls TV*. However, given the resources of these two private broadcasters they are not likely to challenge the predominant position of the ORF.

A different competition comes from cable and satellite: in particular German private channels such as Pro Sieben, Sat1, RTL and Vox. With regard to news, however, there is little competition to the ORF in Austria. Its main news bulletin at 7.30 pm is regularly watched by some 1.2-1.3 million people. The late night editions at 10 pm and at midnight are watched by some 500,000-600,000 people.

The situation is similar with regard to radio news. The most popular Radio Channel “Ö3” reaches some 3 million people in the morning, but these news journals are rather short: three and a half minutes every full hour in the morning and then a journal of 10 minutes at noon.

The morning and mid-day news bulletins on “Ö1”, the cultural channel, are longer: 30 minutes at 7am, 15 minutes at 8am and one full hour at noon. They still reach an audience of between 300,000 and 500,000 people, which is considerably more than most print media.

See the ORF’s webpage at www.orf.at. The main line telephone numbers for all ORF contacts are +43 (1) 87878-0 (main line ORF general and TV) and +43 (1) 50101-0 (main line radio). All editors and staff can be reached at Firstname.Lastname@orf.at.

For background info, programs and contacts see: <http://kundendienst.orf.at/>. For a contact list for all ORF broadcasting shows, international correspondents, and the (quite powerful) regional radio and TV stations, see <http://kundendienst.orf.at/service/kontakte/>. Ask for the ORF press department at +43 (1) 87878-0.

Background: Austria’s public broadcasting corporation is subject to a complex law and to parliamentary oversight. The ORF is governed by a 35-member “council” (*Stiftungsrat*). The members are appointed by the Austrian government, all political parties who are in the parliament’s main committee (*Hauptausschuss*) and the ORF audience representation (*Publikumsrat*). The ORF’s mission includes public education, also on European and international issues. The ORF played a vital role, for instance, in helping to forge a popular consensus to vote in favour of EU membership in 1994.

► Austria’s most important TV information shows are the *Zeit im Bild* (*ZiB*) shows. The *Zeit im Bild* prime time news show at 7.30 pm is the most widely watched TV news in Austria. The viewers of the late-night shows *ZiB 2* (at 10 PM) and *ZiB 24* (at midnight) tend to be younger and better educated than the *ZiB 1* audience. *ZiB 2* has slots for live confrontations, studio guests, short debates, and live interviews. The three editorial offices can be reached at zeitimbild@orf.at, zib2@orf.at, zib24@orf.at.

ZIB 2 (TV). A key editor and contact is Armin Wolf, recipient of the 2005 Concordia Press Freedom prize. Known as an excellent journalist and a critical, and well-versed interviewer of politicians, he triggered a major debate on political intervention and the future of the ORF in early summer 2006 (armin.wolf@orf.at). Another key editor of ZIB 2 is Johannes Marlovits (johannes.marlovits@orf.at).



► **Western Balkan correspondent:** While the ORF has close co-operation with major European news networks, it has only one correspondent in the Western Balkans, Christian Wehrschütz, based in Belgrade: Ul. Srpskih Vladara 15, 11000 Beograd, Serbia, Phone +381 (11) 3345493, christian.wehrschoetz@orf.at. He is responsible for most TV and radio coverage of the ORF in the Western Balkans.

► **Weltjournal (TV):** Key contacts here are Franz Kössler (editor) and Annette Scheiner (host) who oversee the editorial planning for the international affairs section and play the leading editorial roles for the weekly TV report *Weltjournal*, a tour of analysis around the globe providing background reporting on international affairs.

► **ORF cultural coverage:** A key contact is Martin Traxl, chief of the ORF's culture department, covering cultural issues ranging from classic concerts all the way to pop culture and independent movies for the ORF TV. Among other things, he oversees the weekly culture show, *Treffpunkt Kultur* (TV), treff.kultur@orf.at. Apart from domestic coverage, the show aims to be "a window to the world". Martin Traxl is also in charge of a ten part documentary series on the Balkans which will be broadcast in spring 2008 and is produced together with ESI.

► **ORF religion coverage:** The ORF provides over quite extensive and open-minded coverage on religious affairs. *Kreuz & Quer* and *Orientierung* are two serious weekly TV show on global ideas and religions, including reports from around the world. Questions on Islam and Christianity and inter-cultural and inter-religious understanding, on new debates in world religions, as well as international and domestic theologians, practitioners, new books and debates find a place here and receive high-quality coverage. Contact their editorial office at religion.tv@orf.at, +43 (1) 87878-13480, Fax: +43 (1) 87878-13719. The ORF radio has an editorial office on religious questions as well, at religion.hf@orf.at, +43 (1) 50101-18230, Fax: +43 (1) 50101-18923.

► **ORF ethnic minorities:** The ORF has an editorial office and prize-winning yet rather small weekly TV show, *Heimat, Fremde Heimat*, for and on ethnic minority groups in Austria. Contact: hfh@orf.at.

► **ORF FM4 Radio Station:** This is a rather urban, youth-oriented, and in large parts bi-lingual radio station (English and German) which has an interest in topics that are relevant to younger Austrians. FM4 would also be the radio station to, say, embark on live-broadcasting from a club in the Balkans, or to pick up stories with, and from, young South East Europeans. Contact their editor Martin Pieper (martin.pieper@orf.at). For their English language service, contact Chris Cummins, christian.cummins@orf.at, Web: <http://fm4.orf.at/>

► **ORF regional:** It is key to get in touch with the regional radio and TV stations of the ORF, since they have very high coverage and have a whole range of formats. At the ORF TV program, "Wien heute", the primetime public TV for Viennese, contact the editor (*Chef vom Dienst*) Matthias Schrom for issues relevant to Western Balkans. He pays attention to a differentiated coverage of issues which could involve xenophobic reflexes. Contact him at: Matthias.schrom@orf.at. At the ORF Tyrol, contact Markus Sommersacher, the editor-in-chief, Markus.Sommersacher@orf.at.

2. Print media: national print media

The Austrian print media scene is strongly dominated by the *Neue Kronenzeitung*, a boulevard daily that had an – internationally unmatched – national reach of 43.8 percent in 2006. Quality dailies like *Der Standard* or *Die Presse* reach between 4 and 5 percent, but are important as they have an important impact on the opinions of the elites.

2.1. The quality dailies: Der Standard, Die Presse, Wiener Zeitung

Three serious daily newspapers which are read by an educated audience and opinion leaders. All three of them have been providing platforms for debates on EU enlargement in South Eastern Europe.

► At the left-liberal *Der Standard*, the paper's former Brussels (and Germany) correspondent, Alexandra Föderl-Schmid, has taken over as editor-in-chief from Gerfried Sperl in early 2007. Der Standard co-operates with the *New York Times* and once per week publishes an English-language supplement.

Contact *Der Standard* at www.derstandard.at, phone + 43 (1) 531 70-0, fax +43 (1) 531 70-131, e-mail: chefredaktion@derstandard.at or Firstname.Lastname@derstandard.at. The person coordinating and logging op-eds, commentaries, and longer feature essays from abroad is Michael Jäger, michael.jaeger@derstandard.at.

► The liberal-conservative *Die Presse* also has a lot of international coverage and provides an editorial platform concerning the EU and South Eastern Europe, especially since a new, relatively young editor-in-chief, Michael Fleischhacker, took over in fall 2004. *Die Presse* has an English-language service, a guest commentary section, and a weekly feature and essay section called *Spectrum* (for the latter, contact Karl Woisetschläger, +43 (1) 51414-432, karl.woisetschlaeger@diepresse.com).

Contact *Die Presse* at www.diepresse.com, + 43 (1) 51414-0. Wolfgang Böhm is the editor on EU affairs (+43 (1) 51414-504, wolfgang.boehm@diepresse.com) and Christian Ultsch is the chief editor of the foreign affairs department (christian.ultsch@diepresse.com, +43 (1) 51414-469). Two other relevant *Presse* journalist on foreign affairs are Thomas Seifert (thomas.seifert@diepresse.com, phone: +43 (1) 51414-224) and Wieland Schneider who focuses particularly on South Eastern Europe (wieland.schneider@diepresse.com, phone: +43 (1) 51414-473). Find editor-in-chief Michael Fleischhacker at chefredaktion@diepresse.com.

► The *Wiener Zeitung* grew from a public administration newspaper into a full-fledged daily newspaper. The new editor-in-chief is Andreas Unterberger, an influential Austrian journalist known for his conservative points of view. Before he joined the *Wiener Zeitung* he had been editor-in-chief of *Die Presse*. Find the *Wiener Zeitung* at www.wienerzeitung.at, +43 (1) 20699-0, e-mail redaktion@wienerzeitung.at

2.2. Austrian Boulevard: Neue Kronenzeitung, Kurier and Österreich

► *Neue Kronenzeitung* boasts a daily coverage of more than 40% of the total population and mobilizes and shapes Austrian public opinion. The paper was pro-EU accession of Austria in 1994, but it has turned Euro-sceptic since and ran a series called "The EU Chaos" in summer 2005. The chief of the foreign affairs department is Kurt Seinitz (kurt.seinitz@kronenzeitung.at) who is open for stories from the Western Balkans and has travelled there repeatedly. One key to understanding the reflexes of this paper is to understand its long-term publisher and editor-in-chief, Hans Dichand, writing under the pseudonym "Cato". *Kronenzeitung* main line + 43 (1) 360 11-0, Internet: <http://www.krone.at>, e-mail: chefredaktion@kronenzeitung.at

► **Kurier** (www.kurier.at) is a widely read, popular daily newspaper. Among the high circulation dailies, it is the most serious one. Key figures are Christoph Kotanko, the editor-in-chief, and Margaretha Kopeinig, *Kurier's* EU editor, who won a government award in 2004 for excellent reporting on security issues and authored a book on Luxemburg's Jean-Claude Juncker. Kopeinig is a well-regarded, well established voice on European issues in the print media. Livia Klingl, the main editor of the foreign affairs section, has been reporting a lot on the Western Balkans, including on the wars in the 1990s. The Brussels correspondent is Patricia Haller. Contact the *Kurier* newspaper at + 43 (1) 521 00-0, Fax: +43 (1) 521 00-2604 (Editor-in-chief), fax + 43 (1) 521 00-2265 (editorial office), e-mail: Firstname.Lastname@kurier.at.

► **Österreich**, a new mass-daily, was launched in early fall 2006 by the Fellner brothers, who have also started *News*, *Format*, *woman*, in the past. The editorial design of *Österreich* is said to resemble USA Today. At the foreign affairs desk contact Peter Frick, Ernst Schneider or Roland Daxenbichler at welt@oe24.at; for economic issues get in touch with Christiane Appel, Mathisas Beer or Peter Frick at wirtschaft@oe.24.at. The travel section is headed by Silke Lunner (reise@oe24.at). Phone: +43 (5) 01101.

2.3. Weeklies

Serious political weekly magazines *Profil* and *Format*; the boulevard political weekly *News*, Vienna weekly magazine *Falter*, Austrian monthly magazine *Datum*.

► **Profil** is a left-liberal political weekly magazine which has been providing a platform for serious debates on enlargement and European issues. Georg Hoffmann-Ostenhof, the editor of the foreign affairs section, and Peter Michael Lingens, a co-founder of this magazine in 1970 and its former editor-in-chief, have been pro-enlargement, even making the case for Turkey joining the EU (a rarity in Austria). In their argumentation they have focused on the international ramifications and the transformative power of EU membership as seen in Ireland, Slovenia, Romania, and Turkey in past years.

Profil reporters and writers like Edith Meinhart (e.g. on migration and minorities), Gernot Bauer (on domestic politics), Otmar Lahodynsky (on Austria's EU policies), and Robert Treichler (foreign affairs general) have written on enlargement-relevant issues. Contact *Profil* at www.profil.at, main line + 43 (1) 53 470-0. emails: Lastname.Firstname@profil.at.

► **Format** is more business-oriented than *profil*, and features the opinions of industrialists, bankers, and trade experts. Find their editor-in-chief, Peter Pelinka, as well as a co-editor-in-chief, Waltraud Kaserer. Contact *Format* at www.format.at, main line +43 (1) 21755-0. emails: Lastname.Firstname@format.at

► **News** is a boulevardesque weekly magazine – a kind of gossip mouthpiece on Austria's opinion leaders – with a large readership and the necessary financial backing for international reporting from the spot. Phone: +43 (1) 245 20-5494, redaktion@news.at, www.news.at.

► **Falter** is an urban, establishment-critical, left-liberal weekly magazine mostly read in Vienna, whose publisher and editor, Armin Thurnher, is a prominent public intellectual, book author, political thinker, and weekly commentator. Another key person at the paper is the deputy editor in chief, Florian Klenk, who just returned to *Falter* from Hamburg where he worked for *Die Zeit*. A good journalist to contact on issues concerning the Western Balkans is Stefan Apfl. Founded as a "city newspaper" focusing on domestic affairs, more recently *Falter* has started to look at Austria's neighbourhood. See www.falter.at (in German), and contact their journalists and their editor-in-chief at Lastname@falter.at, phone +43 (1) 536 60-0.

► **Datum** is a relatively new monthly magazine on politics and social issues. A rarity in Austria, this magazine provides for in-depth, long reporting and strikes a rough balance between international and national issues. The stated aim of *Datum* is to promote quality journalism in

Austria. In September 2005, the Financial Times highlighted the progressive design of *Datum*. See www.datum.at (in German). Their – very open-minded – editor and contact for any Western-Balkan-relevant issues is Klaus Stimered, at kstimered@datum.at.

2.4. *Business media: Wirtschaftsblatt and Trend*

► **Wirtschaftsblatt** is a daily business newspaper which has been covering many economic issues related to EU-enlargement. Contact *Wirtschaftsblatt* at: + 43 (1) 601 17-0, Fax: +43 (1) 601 17 ext 259, <http://www.wirtschaftsblatt.at>, e-mail redaktion@wirtschaftsblatt.at

► **Trend** is a monthly economics and business magazine (www.trend.at), which has been looking at enlargement-related issues from the export angle and prospects for convergence. Contact: +43 (1) 245 20-5494, redaktion@trend.at.

2.5. *Lifestyle magazines*

Many of the Austrian lifestyle magazines feature international reports from a lifestyle or humanitarian angle, profiles of Austrians abroad, cultural festivals, gender roles etc.

► **Woman** (weekly, main audience: women). Contact editor-in-chief Euke Frank: phone +43 (1) 213 12-0.

► **Wienerin** (monthly, main audience: women) and

► **Wiener** (monthly, main audience: men). The publisher of both *Wienerin* and *Wiener* is Peter Mosser (phone + 43 (1) 60117-322, p.mosser@lifestylezv.at). The editor-in-chief of *Wienerin* is Karen Müller (phone: + 43 (1) 60117-964, k.mueller@lifestylezv.at), and your contact at the *Wiener* is Eberhard Lauth, the assistant editor-in-chief, e.lauth@lifestylezv.at.

2.6. *Individual journalists and Brussels correspondents*

► **Austrian Brussels correspondents:** Stefan Winkler (Kleine Zeitung Brussels correspondent, stefan.winkler@kleinezeitung.at); Gerald Stoiber (*Salzburger Nachrichten* Brussels correspondent, gerald.stoiber@salzburg.com), and Clemens Neuhold (*Kurier* Brussels correspondent, Clemens.neuhold@kurier.at) are working for Austrian print media in Brussels. The ORF radio and TV correspondents there are Raimund Löw, Sonja Sagmeister and Paul Schiefer (Firstname.Lastname@orf.at).

► **Individual journalists and writers:** Influential commentators – in Vienna – are Christian Ortner, Hans Rauscher (*Der Standard, Format*, hans.rauscher@derstandard.at), and Alfred Payrleitner, a former editor at the ORF who has gone freelance (*Kurier*, phone and fax + 43 (1) 869 8146). One prominent young voice is Corinna Milborn, a former journalist with the *Format* magazine. On 3 May 2006, Milborn published a book called “Die gestürzte Festung Europa” (“*The stormed European fortress*”), where she reported on foreign communities in various European cities. Find her at +43 (699) 19241273, Corinna@milborn.net.

3. **Print media – regional print media**

Regional newspapers boast coverage of up to 65 percent (!) in some Austrian provinces (*Vorarlberger Nachrichten, Tiroler Tageszeitung*). These regional media are usually under the ownership or at least leadership of regional media companies. Given their influence due to their semi-monopoly on information, it is important to address and integrate journalists of these newspapers into any outreach event one plans in Austria.

► **Kleine Zeitung** (Styria and Carinthia), www.kleinezeitung.at. Contact Michael Jungwirth, their editor in Vienna, phone: +43 (1) 5121618-56, michael.jungwirth@kleinezeitung.at; His articles are collected at <http://www.kleinezeitung.at/allgemein/meinekleine/michaeljungwirth>.

► **Vorarlberger Nachrichten** (Vorarlberg), www.vol.at. Contact Kurt Horwitz, their correspondent in Vienna, phone: +43 (1) 31778340.

► **Tiroler Tageszeitung** (Tyrol), www.tt.com. Contact Floo Weissmann (foreign affairs department, global issues, Florian.Weissmann@tt.com), Wolfram Krabichler (weekend section, Wolfram.Krabichler@tt.com), or Irene Rapp (feature stories and travel, Irene.Rapp@tt.com). Phone +43 (5) 0403-0.

► **Salzburger Nachrichten** (Salzburg), www.salzburg.com. Contact their editor-in-chief, Manfred Perterer (phone: +43 (662) 8373-301, redact@salzburg.com). He was the paper's Brussels correspondent until 2006. The Vienna correspondent is Andreas Koller, a prize-winning journalist on domestic politics (phone +43 (1) 53153-0, redwien@salzburg.com).

► **Oberösterreichische Nachrichten** (Oberösterreich/Upper Austria), www.ooen.at. Contact Annette Gantner, who works on EU and domestic affairs and is based in Vienna, a.gantner@nachrichten.at.

4. The Austrian Press Agency (APA)

► The **Austrian Press Agency** (www.apa.com) is Austria's newswire and thus crucial for any media story from South Eastern Europe. The editor-in-chief, Michael Lang, can be reached at +43 (1) 360 60-1000 or by e-mail on chefredaktion@apa.at. Ambros Kindel is the chief of the foreign politics department (+43 (1) 360 60-1400, aussenpolitik@apa.at). The economy department is lead by Stefan Proksch (+43 (1) 360 60-1500, wirtschaft@apa.at).

B. BUSINESS, CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACADEMIA

1. Business

Austria's so-called "social partners" (*Sozialpartner*) are key pillars of the country's political economy. This corporate system brought social peace and made a contribution to one of the most developed welfare states in the world. Socialist governments used the huge sector of state-owned industries as a Keynesian tool to secure high employment. While the corporate system has changed a lot in recent years the key institutions still remain highly influential and have traditionally forged consensus with the state via the platform of the social partnership (*Sozialpartnerschaft*). This policy-making institution has never been part of the Austrian constitution and included economic interest groups organized to represent employers, employees, or agriculture. During the past 15 years, both social mobility and European and international developments have brought change: Austria has opened up economically, politically, and socially. External economic actors are best advised to contact the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and their foreign trade offices.

1.1. *The Vereinigung Österreichischer Industrieller – Federation of Austrian Industry*

Austria's big industry is grouped in the **Federation of Austrian Industry** (www.voei.at) or *Industriellenvereinigung* (IV). In contrast to the WKÖ or the ÖGB (see below), the IV is less interested in the quantity of members for effective lobbying, but rather, in their financial power.

The IV's positions on Austria's external relations and foreign investment priorities are a strong influence in political decision-making, also because the IV is the only corporatist organization which openly, and legally, finances political parties. Membership is voluntary. Either firms or individuals can become members. Contact the IV at iv.office@iv-net.at. The contact person for South Eastern Europe is Michael Löwy, m.loewy@iv-net.at. The main person on the OMV (an IV member) is Mr. Peter Koren, Vice President of the IV. The IV spokesperson is Mr. Draschtak, Tl. +43 (1) 7113 523-05. The IV has approximately 2,000 members. These are Austria's large enterprises including the Austrian mineral oil firm OMV, which has become involved in FDI in SEE.

1.2. *The Wirtschaftskammer Österreich (WKÖ) – Chamber of Commerce*

The **Wirtschaftskammer Österreich** (www.wko.at) is the compulsory lobbying and representative organization for small and medium enterprises in Austria. It has, just like the Chamber of Labour and the Chamber of Agriculture, its existence enshrined in the Austrian constitution and its legal status is semi-public. The WKO has large offices in Austria's provinces and is a much more public organization than the IV. It organizes public events and panel discussions, also with foreign politicians and thinkers. The organization has traditionally been very close to the Austrian People's Party and has been an influential player in the "social partnership" (*Sozialpartnerschaft*), the corporatist organization of capital and labour interests. Today, 53% of the WKO's members are one-person enterprises.

The international trade section of Austria's Chamber of Commerce promotes Austrian economic relations with and exports to South Eastern Europe. Due to the way Austrian corporatism is organized, membership at the chamber of economics is compulsory for any entrepreneur. Therefore, the chamber's South Eastern Europe desk is Austria's key hub for SMEs interested in the SEE market. The Vienna office has also been organizing a steady flow of public information sessions, panel discussions, and events on SEE. The director of the EU-coordination department, Christian Mandl, is keen to include civil society actors and academics in those events. Christian Mandl is also a vice-president at the Austrian Society for European Politics and active promoting EU topics through direct dialogue.

Contact Christian Mandl at christian.mandl@wko.at, phone + 43 (5) 90900-4316, mobile +43(664) 817 90 34, Außenwirtschaft Österreich (AWO), Wirtschaftskammer Österreich, Wiedner

Hauptstraße 63, 1045 Wien. See also <http://www.austriantrade.at/> to get relevant data for each SEE country.

1.3. *Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund (ÖGB) – Association of Labour Unions*

The Austrian trade union organization (www.oegb.at) was founded in 1945. The ÖGB is the strongest organization representing labour interests in the social partnership. Formally, it is not connected to a single party. In reality, it is close to the Social Democrats. The ÖGB acts as an umbrella organization of 16 sub-organizations grouped by industries except from one sub-organization which groups all private employees (“Gewerkschaft für Privatangestellte”, GPA). The ÖGB differs from other European trade unions due to the absence of competition between unions.

1.4. *Arbeiterkammern – Chambers of Labour*

The Austrian Chambers of Labour (*Arbeiterkammer*, AK, www.arbeiterkammer.at) were founded in 1921 in order to act as counterparts to the chamber of commerce (which had since 1848 been organized into different chambers of trade). Every Austrian employee is automatically a member of the Chamber of Labour branch in his/her province (*Land*). Altogether, those nine Chambers of Labour represent 3 million Austrian workers. The AK’s representation is elected democratically every 5 years.

The Chambers of Labour employ a staff of qualified experts who act as a think-tank for employees’ interests, conducting studies on a wide range of relevant issues. These experts closely co-operate with the other Austrian Social Partners in conducting and publishing joint studies on social and economic issues. The results of these studies are important in Austria’s political discourse. The Chambers of labour organise public events and panel discussions and publish position papers on EU enlargement, globalization and corporate responsibilities. They have their own office in Brussels. The person to contact in Brussels is Frank Ey (phone: +32 (2) 230 62 54, frank.ey@akeu.at). Contact the press office of the national AK office in Austria at: Bundesarbeiterkammer (BAK), Prinz Eugen Strasse 20-22, 1040 Wien, Austria. Phone +43 (1) 50165-2565, akpresse@akwien.at.

1.5. *Austrian Business Agency (ABA)*

The Austrian Business Agency (www.aba.gv.at/en/pages/) is a government-operated consulting firm, one of international investor’s prime contacts in Austria. The Agency offers know-how, services and advice ranging from issues of market opportunities to tax concerns (free of charge). Contact Birgit Braunwieser, the Director for Central and Eastern Europe at the ABA, at b.braunwieser@aba.gv.at, or at +43 (1) 588 58 62.

2. International discussion fora

► The annual ***European Forum Alpbach*** (since 1945) under the presidency of Erhard Busek, a liberal and internationally minded former People Party’s vice chancellor of Austria, takes place every August (sometimes lasting into the early days of September) in the Tyrolean village of Alpbach. It is the small Austrian version of the annual World Economic Forum in Davos: an influential discussion platform for international politicians, scientists, students, researchers, and guests. Apart from its architecture and natural science platforms, its political section has always emphasized European integration and discussed Europe’s role in the world. The 2005 theme of the forum was “Europe – Strength and Weakness”. For information and contacts, see <http://www.alpbach.org/index.php?id=267> (in English).

► The annual ***Philosophicum Lech*** (since 1997), under the scientific and conceptual leadership of Konrad Paul Liessmann, a professor of philosophy at the University of Vienna, focuses on cultural,

philosophic, ethic, and religious questions, and is a favoured meeting place for the conservative Austrian elite. Most speakers come from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The convention's language is German. The 2005 *Philosophicum* focuses on questions of human values. For information and contacts, see www.philosophicum.com (in German).

► The annual *Europa Forum Wachau – Dialogues on the Future of Europe*, is the Austrian People Party's own international platform for discussing visions for Europe. The forum usually features guests from foreign governments. For information see the Forums website www.europaforum.at. Erwin Pröll, the People Party's governor of Lower Austria hosts this annual convention.

► The annual *Salzburger Hochschulwochen* (since 1931), <http://www.salzburger-hochschulwochen.at/> (in German) are a discussion platform for theological thinkers and practitioners. Austria's Catholic Church has traditionally been open towards enlargement and has had an emphasis on and tradition of inter-religious dialogue.

► In late spring 2006, several industrialists, bankers, and businesspeople started a platform called **Tellerrand** (www.tellerrand.at) which aimed to remind Austrians of the positive effects of EU enlargement, and wanted to work against "widespread anti-enlargement populism." This platform rallied various prominent Austrians. It focused primarily on the benefits of enlargement in Central Europe. Unfortunately, however, it does not appear to be active at the moment.

3. Research institutes and academics

When Austria's research institutes and NGOs organize panels or invite speakers to discuss issues related to South Eastern Europe or EU enlargement, events tend to be concentrated in Vienna (rather than in other parts of Austria) and receive limited attention from the Austrian media. The following institutions and individuals are potential partners for panel discussions, conferences or debates.

► **OIIP – The Austrian Institute for International Affairs** (Österreichisches Institut für Internationale Politik). This is Austria's main publicly funded foreign policy think tank which has six analysts. The OIIP's main SEE specialist, Henriette Riegler, is currently on leave (in Croatia). Paul Luif, another OIIP researcher, has been working on EU enlargement from a historical perspective. Find the OIIP at www.oaip.at; Operngasse 20B, 1010 Vienna, phone +43 (1) 581116- 0.

► The **IDM – Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe** (Institut für den Donaauraum und Mitteleuropa) was founded in 1953. Its current president is Erhard Busek. In addition to academic publications, the institute publishes an info-letter (6 times per year). The institute also has a network of "correspondents" covering Eastern and South Eastern Europe. Besides publications and the organisation of round tables and presentations, the IDM also offers – together with the University of Vienna – a master degree in interdisciplinary Balkan studies. Find out more at <http://www.idm.at/en/home/>. Contact: Institut für den Donaauraum und Mitteleuropa, Hahngasse 6/1/24, 1090 Wien, Austria. Phone +43 (1) 319 72 58, E-Mail idm@idm.at.

► **ÖGfE – The Austrian Society for European Politics** (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik, in German). A venerable, active platform run mostly by senior Austrian pro-European experts to foster non-governmental knowledge, research, and public outreach on Austria in the EU, attitudes towards enlargement, and domestic factors shaping European policies. They also provide empirical work on Austrian EU-attitudes and views on enlargement, and cooperate with the Paul Lazarsfeld-Gesellschaft für Sozialforschung (see below).

For years, expert teams have conducted surveys on Europe and the EU, enlargement, business dynamics, and xenophobia in Austria and in new or aspiring member states. The ÖGfE includes actors – academics, economic experts, and former Austrian and Central European diplomats who often held international posts – who helped Austria arrive politically and mentally in the EU. Contact their general secretary Gerhard H. Bauer, europa@euro-info.net, or board member

Ambassador Wolfgang Wolte, europa@euro-info.net; also Franz Birk, a polling expert. Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik, + 43 (1) 5334999; see also the society's webpage at: www.euro-info.net.

► The **Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies** conducts a lot of economic research on South Eastern Europe. Its website (www.wiiv.ac.at in English) offers a vast amount of reports and data. Contact Vlado Gligorov (phone +43 (1) 5336610-23, gligorov@wiiv.ac.at), Josef Pöschl (phone +43 (1) 5336610-37, poeschl@wiiv.ac.at) or Gabor Hunya (phone +43 (1) 5336610-22, hunya@wiiv.ac.at).

► At the **Institute for Political Science** at the University of Vienna (<http://politikwissenschaft.univie.ac.at/>) you find Saskia Stachowitsch (stachos9@univie.ac.at), a Serbia specialist, and Hrvoje Paic, a Croatia expert. Two current research projects of the institute focus on the Western Balkans: "Transformations- und Demokratisierungsprozesse am Balkan im Spannungsfeld von Nationalstaatsbildung und Europäisierung, led by Professor Dieter Segert (dieter.segert@univie.ac.at) and Vedran Dzihic (vedran.dzihic@univie.ac.at). The other research project is entitled "Europäisierung von Bosnien-Herzegowina, Kroatien und Serbien. Interne Voraussetzungen und Folgen eines EU-Beitritts" and is led by Prof. Helmut Kramer (helmut.kramer@univie.ac.at). Both Vedran Dzihic and Hrvoje Paic work on this project.

► **Paul Lazarsfeld-Gesellschaft für Sozialforschung**: After the collapse of the Soviet Empire in Central and Eastern Europe the society's research was refocused to analyse economic and political change in Central and Eastern Europe. Beginning in 1991, the PLG conducted five waves of representative sample surveys in 11 post-Communist countries ("New Democracies-Barometer I-V"). Other relevant studies of the PLG include works on the following subjects: "Xenophobia", "Influences of Integration of Immigrants on the Austrian Labour Market" and "Expectations and Attitudes towards EU in Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia". See: http://www.plg.at/english/index_e.htm (in German and English).

► At the **Institut für Höhere Studien** (www.ihs.ac.at in English) Florian Trauner works on enlargement strategies of the EU towards the Western Balkans, focusing in particular on justice and home affairs (migration, asylum, visa regime, border control management). Contact him at florian.trauner@ihs.ac.at.

► **The Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue**. Affiliated with the social democratic party and named after Austria's chancellor from 1970 to 1983, the Bruno Kreisky forum still entertains contacts to international thinkers and policymakers. The Kreisky Forum's events usually take place in the Bruno Kreisky villa in the 19th district. The secretary general, Gertraud Auer Borea d'Olmo, is open to good ideas. She can be reached at kreiskyforum@kreisky.org, or at +43 (1) 318 8260. Visit the forum's webpage at: www.kreisky.org/kreiskyforum.

► **Österreichisches Institut für Konfliktforschung** (*Austrian Institute on Conflict Research*) and Anton Pelinka (www.ikf.ac.at – in English). The institute's scientific director is Anton Pelinka, Austria's most prominent political scientist with numerous stays at U.S. universities, an open-minded and well-connected person (pelinkaa@ceu.hu). The institute has an ongoing project on the study of prejudices, and maintains a huge database on studies on xenophobia, racism, migration, and identity.

► At the **National Defence Academy** you find Predrag Jurekovic who has published a lot on South Eastern Europe. You can contact him at: predrag.jurekovic@bmlv.gv.at. The English-language version of the academy's web page can be accessed at: <http://www.bundesheer.at/organisation/beitraege/lvak/eindex.shtml>.

► **Paneuropa Bewegung Österreich** (www.paneuropa.at), a venerable institution involved in the debate in Austria is the Paneurope Movement. Contact their Secretary General: Rainhard Kloucek, Generalsekretär, Paneuropabewegung Österreich, Prinz Eugen Straße 18/14, 1040 Wien,

kloucek@paneuropa.or.at, phone +43 (1) 5051593, fax +43 (1) 5052356 15, mobile +43 (676) 4060955.

► **Karin Sohler**, sohler@euro.centre.org co-authored a huge volume on Vienna's migrant organizations (*Migrantenorganisationen in der Großstadt – Entstehung, Strukturen und Aktivitäten am Beispiel Wien*, Campus: Frankfurt/New York 2004). Find her at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna (www.euro.centre.org).

► **Bernhard Perchinig**, **Rainer Bauböck**, and **Barbara Herzog-Punzenberger**, at the Austrian Academy of Science (www.oeaw.ac.at) are well-respected researchers on issues of migration, citizenship, and integration of foreigners in Austria. Contact them at +43 (1) 51581-0 or mail to Firstname.Lastname@oeaw.ac.at

► **Eva Kreisky** is the dean of the institute of political science at the University of Vienna and a respected voice in Austrian public debates. For information, publications, research, and contacts, see www.evakreisky.at

► **Oliver Rathkolb** is a professor of contemporary history and initiator on EU debates in Austria, and the author of many books, including “Die paradoxe Republik” (“The paradox republic”), on Austria's development after WWII. Rathkolb is the Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute on European History and Public Spheres in Vienna, at Hegelgasse 6/5, 1010 Vienna. Contact him at oliver.rathkolb@ehp.lbg.ac.at, or at +43 (1) 513 40 68-0.

► **Gerhard Fink** is the Jean Monnet Professor at the *European Institute* of the *Wirtschaftsuniversität Vienna*. He is an economist focusing on socio-economic and collective dynamics of transition and Europeanization and has published extensively on EU enlargement. Contact him at +43 (1) 31336-4137, gerhard.fink@wu-wien.ac.at.

► **Heinrich Neisser** is the Jean Monnet Professor for *Politics of European Integration* at the institute of political science of the *University of Innsbruck*. Contact him at heinrich.neisser@uibk.ac.at or at +43 (512) 507-7949.

► **Andrea Riemer** is a professor for international relations and the dean of the International University Vienna. She has also worked on South Eastern Europe. Contact her at acadean@iuvienna.edu.

► For other relevant institutes, experts, and relevant studies and surveys, check also the *Diplomatic Academy* (www.diplak.ac.at), the *Austrian Institute of Economic Research* (www.wifo.at in English. Check especially for the work of Gudrun Biffl, on migration and integration), the Vienna office of the *International Organization for Migration* (www.iomvienna.at in English), and, for qualitative, empirical surveys and possible public opinion projects, the *Sozialwissenschaftliche Studiengesellschaft* (swsrs@aon.at, Peter Hajek, opinion polls).

4. Human rights organizations

Philipp Sonderegger is the chairman of *SOS Mitmensch* (www.sosmitmensch.at/), who has written on enlargement and integration-related issues. He can be contacted at phs@sosmitmensch.at.

Also, engage *Amnesty International Austria* (www.amnesty.at – their outspoken director is Heinz Patzelt); the *Liga für Menschenrechte* (www.liga.or.at), which publishes a monthly magazine; the *Verein Menschenrechte* (<http://verein-menschenrechte.at>) and the influential *Menschenrechtsbeirat* (www.menschenrechtsbeirat.at) founded by the ministry of interior in 1999.

5. Books on Austria

5.1. Books in English language

Gunter Bischof, Anton Pelinka and Michael Gehler, *Austrian Foreign Policy in Historical Context, Contemporary Austrian Studies*, Transaction Publishers, 2005.

Gunter Bischof, Anton Pelinka and Michael Gehler, *Austria in the European Union*, Contemporary Austrian Studies, Transaction Publishers, 2002.

Gunter Bischof, Anton Pelinka and Ruth Wodak (eds.), *Neutrality in Austria*, Contemporary Austrian Studies, Transaction Publishers, 2001.

Anton Pelinka, *Austria: Out of the Shadow of the Past*, Westview Press, 1997.

Ruth Wodak and Anton Pelinka (eds.), *The Haider Phenomenon*, Transaction Publishers, 2002.

Kurt Richard Luther and Peter G. J. Pulzer, *Austria 1945-1995: Fifty Years of the Second Republic*, Association for the Study of German Politics, Ashgate, 1998.

5.2. Books in German language

Franz Fischler and Christian Ortner, *Europa – der Staat, den keiner will*, Ecowin, 2006.

Michael Gehler (ed.), *Österreichs Außenpolitik der Zweiten Republik. Von der alliierten Besatzung bis zum Europa des 21. Jahrhunderts*, Österreichischer Studienverlag, 2005.

Martin Lugmayr, *Österreich und die EU-Osterweiterung. Maximale Chancen – maximale Risiken*, Reihe Politikwissenschaft XXXI, Europäische Hochschulschriften, Vol. 447, Peter Lang, 2002.

Anton Pelinka, *Vom Glanz und Elend der Parteien. Struktur- und Funktionswandel des österreichischen Parteiensystems*, Österreichischer Studienverlag, 2005.

Oliver Rathkolb, *Die paradoxe Republik. Österreich 1945 bis 2005*, Zsolnay Verlag, 2005.

C. POLITICS

This section gives an overview of the major governmental institutions and relevant political players in government, parliament and the political parties.

1. The Austrian President



On 8 July 2004 the current Austrian President, Heinz Fischer, was sworn in before the Federal Assembly. Fischer was born on 9 October 1938 in Graz. In 1961 he was the top social democratic candidate for the student union elections. In the same year he completed his studies of law.

In 1964 he was co-opted into the Federal Party Board of the Austrian Socialist Party (SPÖ, later renamed Social Democratic Party), and in 1971 he was elected to the National Assembly and became one of the SPÖ's vice chairmen. From 1983 to 1987 he was federal Minister of Science and Research, before returning to parliament as chairman of the SPÖ parliamentary group. Between 1990 and 2002 he served as president of the National Council, before being nominated as a presidential candidate on 3 January 2004. He was elected with 52.39 percent of the votes on 25 April 2004 (his opponent was Benita Ferrero-Waldner, now European commissioner for external relations).

While the Austrian president is directly elected his powers are weaker than the powers of a president in a classical presidential system. While he appoints the federal chancellor and – at his or her suggestion – the members of the federal government, the federal president, in principle, commits himself to abide by the proposals made by the federal government. In principle, the federal president has the power to issue provisional law-amending ordinances (emergency decrees), serves as commander-in-chief of the Austrian armed forces and has the right to dissolve the National Assembly. However, these powers have been rarely used. Thomas Klestil, Fischers predecessor, went further than most when the People's Party (ÖVP) under Wolfgang Schüssel wanted to form a national government with the Haider-dominated FPÖ: Klestil insisted on a statement of democratic principles from the new ÖVP/FPÖ coalition. He also refused to accept two proposed cabinet-level FPÖ ministers because of statements that had made that he decided were inappropriate for ministers in a democratic government.

See the webpage of the Federal President at:

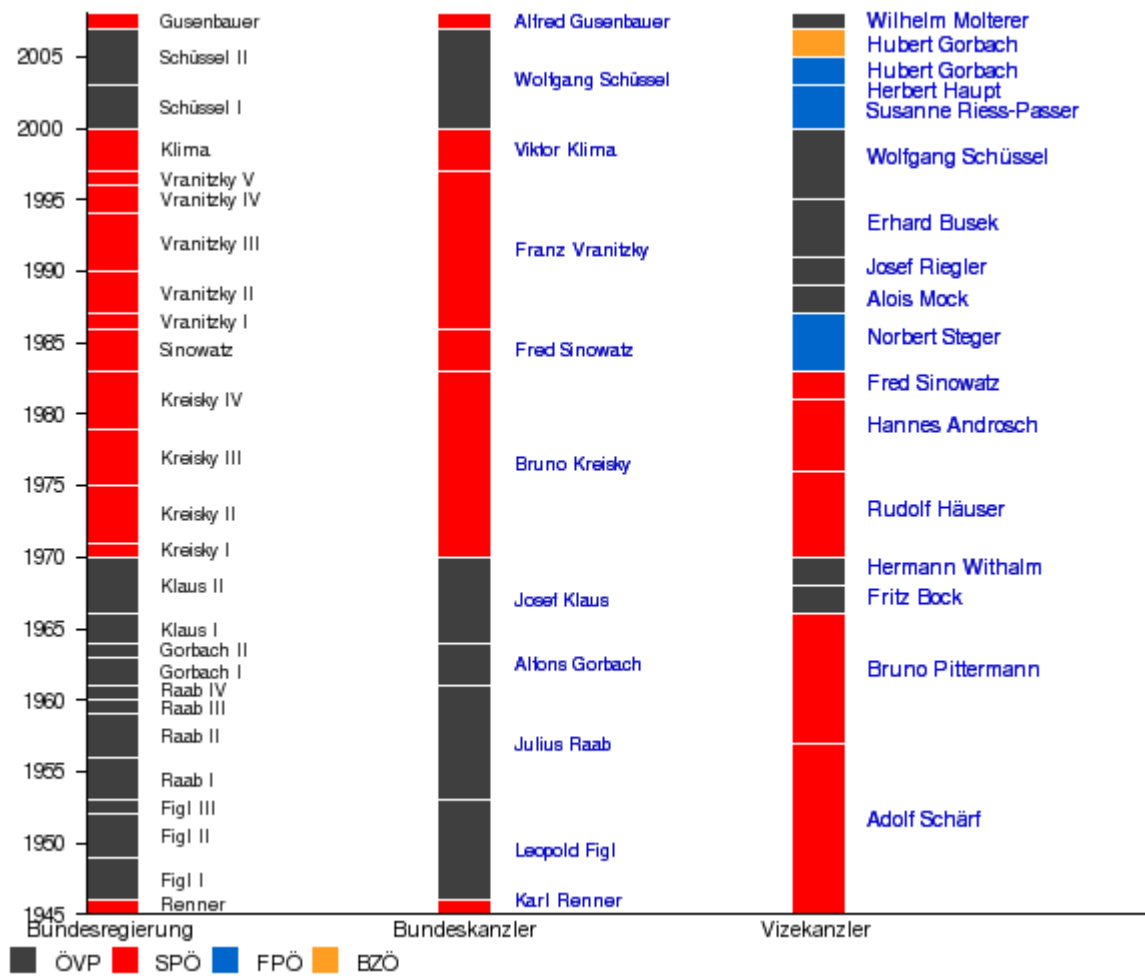
<http://www.hofburg.at/index.php?sid=48&s2id=0&language=en>

2. Government

The governments of Austria after World War II were dominated by the Socialdemocratic Party (until 1991 called “socialist party”) and the conservative People's Party.

From the post-war years until the 1980s, these two parties together had more than two thirds of the votes. During the past 20 years the Austrian political scene got more diversified, with the emergence of the Green Party in the 1980s and the rise of the Freedom Party (FPÖ) under Jörg Haider.

Graph: Austria's governments after WWII



The current government, a “grand coalition” between the Socialdemocrats and the People’s Party, was sworn in on 11 January 2007:

Federal Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Federal Ministers



Alfred Gusenbauer
Federal Chancellor



Wilhelm Molterer
Vice Chancellor and Federal
Minister of Finance



Doris Bures
Federal Minister for Women,
Media and Civil Service



Josef Pröll
Federal Minister for
Agriculture, Forestry,
Environment and Water
Management



Norbert Darabos
Federal Minister of Defence



Martin Bartenstein
Federal Minister for
Economics and Labour



Claudia Schmied
Federal Minister for Education,
Arts and Culture



Ursula Plassnik
Federal Minister for European
and International Affairs



Werner Faymann
Federal Minister for
Transport, Innovation and
Technology



Andrea Kdolsky
Federal Minister of Health,
Family and Youth



Günther Platter
Federal Minister of Interior



Maria Berger
Federal Minister of Justice



Johannes Hahn
Federal Minister of Science and
Research



Erwin Buchinger
Federal Minister of Social
Affairs and Consumer
Protection

State secretaries



Reinhold Lopatka
State Secretary in the Federal
Chancellery



Heidrun Silhavy
State Secretary in the Federal
Chancellery



Christine Marek
State Secretary in the Federal
Ministry for Economics and
Labour



Hans Winkler
State Secretary in the Federal
Ministry for European and
International Affairs



Christoph Matznetter
State Secretary in the Federal
Ministry of Finance



Christa Kranzl
State Secretary in the Federal
Ministry for Transport,
Innovation and Technology

Here is a list of all ministries and state secretariats, with respective contact details:

Federal Chancellery

Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer
Ballhausplatz 2
1014 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 53115-0
www.austria.gv.at

Federal Ministry of Finance

Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister Wilhelm Molterer
Hintere Zollamtsstraße 2b
1030 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 51433-0
<http://english.bmf.gv.at>

Federal Minister for Women, Media and Civil Service

(located in the federal chancellery, no separate ministry)
Federal Minister Doris Bures
Ballhausplatz 2
1014 Wien
Phone: +43 (1) 51433-0

Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Federal Minister Josef Pröll
Stubenring 1
1010 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 71100-0
www.bmlfuw.gv.at/en

Federal Ministry for Defence

Federal Minister Norbert Darabos
Roßauer Lände 1
1090 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 5200-0
www.bmlv.gv.at/english/index.shtml

Federal Ministry for Economics and Labour

Federal Minister Martin Bartenstein
Stubenring 1
1010 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 71100-0
www.bmwa.gv.at/EN/

Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture

Federal Minister Claudia Schmied
Minoritenplatz 5
1014 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 53120-0
<http://www.bmukk.gv.at/enfr/index.xml>

Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

Federal Minister Ursula Plassnik
Minoritenplatz 8
1014 Vienna
Phone: +43 (5) 01150-0
http://www.bmeia.gv.at/view.php3?r_id=1&LNG=en&version=

Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology

Federal Minister Werner Faymann
Radetzkystrasse 2
1030 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 71162-0
www.bmvit.gv.at/en/index.html

Federal Ministry for Health, Family and Youth

Federal Minister Andrea Kdolsky
Radetzkystrasse 2
1030 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 71100-0
www.bmgfj.gv.at

Federal Ministry of the Interior

Federal Minister Günther Platter
Herrengasse 7
1010 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 53126-0
www.bmi.gv.at

Federal Ministry of Justice

Federal Minister Maria Berger
Museumstrasse 7
1070 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 52152-0
<http://www.justiz.gv.at/EN/justiz/index.php?nav=14>

Federal Ministry of Science and Research

Federal Minister Johannes Hahn
Minoritenplatz 5
1014 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 53120-0
<http://www.bmwf.gv.at/submenue/english/>

Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

Federal Minister Erwin Buchinger
Stubenring 1
1010 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 71100-0
<http://www.bmsk.gv.at/cms/siteEN/>

State Secretariat in the Federal Chancellery

State Secretary Reinhold Lopatka
Ballhausplatz 1
1014 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 53115-0

State Secretariat in the Federal Chancellery

State Secretary Heidrun Silhavy
Ballhausplatz 1
1014 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 53115-0

State Secretariat in the Federal Ministry for Economics and Labour

State Secretary Christine Marek
Stubenring 1
1010 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 71100-0

State Secretariat in the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

State Secretary Hans Winkler
Minoritenplatz 8
1014 Vienna
Phone: +43 (5) 01150-0

State Secretariat in the Federal Ministry of Finance

State Secretary Christoph Matznetter
Hintere Zollamtsstrasse 2b
1030 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 51433-0

State Secretariat in the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology

State Secretary Christa Kranzl
Stubenring 1
1010 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 71100-0

3. Parliament and political parties

The Austrian parliament is composed of two chambers: the National Council (*Nationalrat*) with 183 members directly elected in national elections for a four year mandate; and the Federal Council (*Bundesrat*) with 62 members which are elected by the parliaments of Austria's nine federal states (*Bundesländer*). The latter's terms of office are based on the legislative periods of their respective parliaments. Visit the parliaments website at:

http://www.parlinkom.gv.at/portal/page?_pageid=607,78626&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL.

The National Council is by far the more important chamber. While the Federal council can veto most resolutions passed by the National Council, in which case the resolutions go back to the National Council to be dealt with again, the National Council can override the Federal Council's veto by activating a constitutional element called "Beharrungsbeschluss". The Federal Council can only prevent a bill from being passed if the respective bill would alter the competences of the federal states.

The last elections for the National Council took place on 1 October 2006. The results led to the following distribution of seats:

Table: Results of parliamentary elections (Nationalrat) held on 1 October 2006

Party	Seats	Share of votes
SPÖ (Socialdemocratic Party)	68	35.34 %
ÖVP (People's Party)	66	34.33 %
Grüne (Green Party)	21	11.05 %
FPÖ (Freedom Party)	21	11.04 %
BZÖ	7	4.11 %
Total	183	

The National council has three presidents, usually distributed by the three strongest parties. Currently, the first president of the National Council (parliament speaker) is Barbara Prammer (SPÖ), the second president is Michael Spindelegger (ÖVP) and the third one is Eva Glawischnig-Piesczek (Green Party).

3.1. Social Democratic Party – Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs (SPÖ)



Together with the People's Party (ÖVP), the Socialdemocratic Party (www.spoe.at) has dominated Austrian politics since World War II. After nearly seven years in opposition, the Socialdemocratic Party emerged victorious in the last elections in October 2006 and formed a coalition government with the People's Party (which scored only slightly less than the SPÖ).

Tough coalition negotiations led to a government where the SPÖ would hold the position of federal Chancellor, six minister posts and three state secretaries (whereas the ÖVP took the positions of vice-chancellor, at the same time finance minister, six additional ministers and three state secretaries). The SPÖ has the following positions in the current government:

- Alfred Gusenbauer, Federal Chancellor
- Doris Bures, Federal Minister for Women, Media and Civil Service
- Norbert Darabos, Federal Minister of Defence
- Claudia Schmied, Federal Minister for Education, Arts and Culture
- Werner Faymann, Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology
- Maria Berger, Federal Minister of Justice
- Erwin Buchinger, Federal Minister of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
- Heidrun Silhavy, State Secretary in the Federal Chancellery
- Christoph Matznetter, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Finance
- Christa Kranzl, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology

In Parliament the rapporteurs on the following issues are interesting and important for issues related to the Western Balkans.



Foreign Policy:

Andreas Schieder

Phone: +43 (1) 53427-280

E-mail: andreas.schieder@parlament.gv.at

or andreas.schieder@spoe.at

Homepage: www.schieder.spoe.at

*Europe:*

Elisabeth Grossmann,

Phone: +43 (3142) 24070

E-Mail: elisabeth.grossmann@westnet.at

Homepage: <http://www.elisabeth-grossmann.at>

*Security:*

Rudolf Parnigoni

Phone: +43 (2852) 52365

E-mail: Rudolf_Parnigoni@aknoe.at or

rudolf.parnigoni@parlament.gv.at

*Human Rights and minorities:*

Marianne Hagenhofer

E-mail: marianne.hagenhofer@spoe.at

3.2. Austrian People's Party – Österreichische Volkspartei (ÖVP)



The Austrian People's Party (www.oevp.at) has been continuously in power (as junior or senior partner in a coalition government) since 1987. After two “grand coalition” governments (as the coalitions between the two major parties are called) as junior

partner, the ÖVP led two governments (in coalition with the Freedom Party, and since April 2005 onwards, together with both the Freedom Party and its offshoot BZÖ – the wing of the party that Jörg Haider still controls).

After losing the October 2006 elections with a narrow margin to the Socialdemocrats, these two parties formed another “grand coalition” in which the ÖVP holds the following positions:

- Wilhelm Molterer, Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Finance
- Martin Bartenstein, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour
- Ursula Plassnik, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs (formerly: Foreign Affairs)
- Günther Platter, Federal Minister of the Interior
- Josef Pröll, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
- Johannes Hahn, Federal Minister for Science and Research
- Andrea Kdolsky, Federal Minister for Health, Family and Youth Affairs
- Reinhold Lopatka, State Secretary for Sport in the Federal Chancellery
- Christine Marek, State Secretary for Labour in the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labour
- Hans Winkler, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Wolfgang Schüssel, the former Chancellor, is still leader of the People's Party parliamentary group, while Wilhelm Molterer, the Vice Chancellor, is the federal party chairman.

Two further key functions in the party are held by Hannes Missethon who is the General Secretary (*Generalsekretär*, +43 (1) 401 26-321, hannes.missethon@oevp.at) and by Michaela Mojzis, the General Manager (*Bundesgeschäftsführerin*, +43 (1) 401 26-340, michaela.mojzis@oevp.at)

In parliament, the ÖVP has 66 seats, including the following rapporteurs on key issues:



Foreign Policy and Europe:

Wolfgang Schüssel

E-mail: wolfgang.schuessel@oevp.at

Homepage: <http://www.oevp.at/oevp/klub/index.aspx?pageid=2321>



Security:

Hannes Missethon

E-mail: hannes.missethon@oevp.at

and



Günter Kößl

E-mail: guenter.koessler@oevp.at

Homepage: www.koessler.at



Human Rights:

Wolfgang Großruck

E-mail: wolfgang.grossruck@oevp.at



Minorities:

Silvia Fuhrmann

E-mail: silvia.fuhrmann@oevp.at

3.3. “Die Grünen” (Green Party)

The Green Party (www.gruene.at – also in English and “vas jezik”) was founded in 1986, when the conservative “United Greens of Austria” (Vereinte Grüne Österreichs – VGÖ) merged with the more progressive “Alternative List Austria” (Alternative Liste Österreich – ALÖ), both founded in 1982. Since 1993 the official name of the party is “The Greens – The Green Alternative (Greens)” [Die Grünen – Die Grüne Alternative (Grüne)].

Since 1986 the Greens are represented in the parliament. They could improve their results considerably both in 2002 when they came close to 10 percent of the vote (9.47%) and then in 2006,

when they achieved their best ever result with 11.05 percent, leaving for the first time – if only for a tiny margin – the Freedom party.

While the Greens could win power in several instances on the local level, they never participated in government at the national level. For ten years the party is headed by Alexander Van der Bellen, an economist.

Some of their contacts in parliament on SEE-related topics are listed below.



Foreign Policy and development:
Ulrike Lunacek
E-mail: ulrike.lunacek@gruene.at
Homepage: www.dielunacek.at



Peace and Security:
Peter Pilz
E-mail: pilz@gruene.at
Homepage: www.peterpilz.at



Human Rights:
Brigid Weinzingler
E-mail: brigid.weinzingler@gruene.at



Minorities:
Wolfgang Zinggl
E-mail: wolfgang.zinggl@gruene.at
Homepage: www.wolfgangzinggl.at

Their “Europe co-ordinator” is Peter Steyrer, to be contacted at: peter.steyrer@gruene.at, phone: +43 (1) 40 110-6704.

3.4. *Die Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs (FPÖ)*

The party of Jörg Haider made international news when at the national elections on 3 October 1999 it scored 26.91 percent of the vote and came in second, 415 votes ahead of the People’s Party, which for the first time in its history was not among the two strongest parties.

Eventually People’s Party leader Wolfgang Schüssel abandoned coalition negotiations with the Socialdemocrats to form a government with Haider’s Freedom Party. This met strong criticism both from parts of the Austrian population as well as internationally. Israel withdrew its ambassador and the EU member states restricted contact to the Austrian government to the working level.

Eventually, Schüssel’s ÖVP would emerge strengthened from this experience, while the freedom party’s representation imploded to 10.01 percent. The People’s party which had come third after the Freedom Party in the preceding elections could in 2002 attract more than 4 times as many votes as the Freedom Party and become, for the first time since 1970, Austria’s political number one.

After unsuccessful negotiations with the SPÖ and the Greens, Schüssel's ÖVP continued its coalition government with a heavily weakened Freedom Party. The latter split in spring 2005, with Haider and most government members founding a new party, the BZÖ (see below).

The new party leader of the Freedom Party, HC Strache, managed to attract 11.03% of the vote, more than in the previous elections and clearly defeating his BZÖ rivals.

The party operates on an anti-EU, anti-enlargement platform. Many of its messages are hostile to emigrants and minorities.

Visit their website at www.fpoe.at (only in German) or contact the head of the party, Heinz-Christian Strache, at: phone +43 (1) 512 3535-0, hcstrache@fpoe.at, www.hcstrache.at. In parliament, their foreign policy and human rights person is Wendelin Mölzer, phone +43 (1) 40 110-7012, wendelin.moelzer@fpoe.at.

3.5. Bündnis Zukunft Österreich (BZÖ)

This splinter party of the Freedom Party was formed by Jörg Haider after strong fights inside the party in April 2005. Haider, still governor of the Austrian federal state of Carinthia, did not contest the national elections in 2006, but the party's main candidate was Peter Westenthaler (peter.westenthaler@parlament.gv.at). The "Alliance Future Austria" (Bündnis Zukunft Österreich) just passed the threshold and now has 7 MPs. Like the Freedom Party, it is EU-critical, anti-enlargement and has strong xenophobic tendencies. Visit the alliance's webpage (only in German) at: www.bzoe.at.

4. Party affiliated organisations

► Similar to the German political parties, all Austrian political parties run their own endowments and affiliated cultural organizations. These are engaged – beside other activities – in exchange and co-operation activities with politically similarly oriented parties abroad, they organise seminars, content debates, panel discussions, sometimes fact-finding missions to South Eastern Europe and other activities. The green party's endowment, for example, has repeatedly organised visits to SEE for its parliamentarians and other party staff.

The endowment of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP): www.modernpolitics.at

The endowment of the social democrats (SPÖ): www.renner-institut.at

The endowment of the opposition Greens: <http://www.gruene.at/bildungswerkstatt/>

(The two right-wing opposition parties do not run such kinds of endowments.)

► Young people's platforms are usually to be found in the orbit of their educational institutions. Both at school and university level, representations are democratically elected and – in the case of universities – are to be understood as mirror "governments" of the national political system. These representations and their political factions serve as recruitment sources for Austria's political landscape and they are interested to be engaged on a more international level, e.g. via fact-finding missions, exchange opportunities, or symposia in SEE.

For the (democratically elected) national university student representation contact the *Bundesvertretung der Österreichischen HochschülerInnenschaft*

Taubstummengasse 7-9, 4. Stock

1040 Wien, Austria

Phone: +43 (1) 310 88 80-0

E-mail: oeht@oeht.ac.at

Chair: Hartwig Brandl (FLÖ), Lisa Schindler (VSStÖ) und Verena Czaby (GRAS), to be contacted under hartwig.brandl@oeh.ac.at, lisa.schindler@oeh.ac.at and verena.czaby@oeh.ac.at.

The main fractions are:

► GRAS – Grüne & Alternative StudentInnen (*affiliated with the Green party*)

Lindengasse 40
1070 Wien, Austria
Phone: +43 (1) 52125-215
E-Mail: gras@gras.at

► Verband sozialistischer StudentInnen Österreichs („Socialist students“, *affiliated with the social democrats, SPÖ*)

Amtshausgasse 4
1050 Wien, Austria
Phone: +43 (1) 526 89 86
E-mail: vsstoe@vsstoe.at

► Aktionsgemeinschaft (*affiliated with the People's party – ÖVP*)

Piaristengasse 16/6
1080 Wien, Austria
Phone: +43 (1) 402 25 66