

ESI's Who's Who in the Austrian Debate on EU Enlargement

Information and contacts

November 2011

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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 a 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 voices included in this manual are certainly among the most influential.

ESI is grateful to the European Union for financially supporting the expansion and update of a smaller Austrian manual from 2006.

Vienna, November 2011

A. MEDIA

This section provides an overview of relevant Austrian media platforms, editors, and journalists with an interest in the Western Balkans, Turkey 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. Today, ATV+*Puls TV* and Servus TV are “terrestrial” rivals to ORF. While ATV+ and Puls TV hardly have the resources to challenge the predominant position of the ORF, they have made a remarkable effort to compete with ORF in terms of live discussions and have received significant public attention.

A different competition comes from cable and satellite: in particular German private channels such as ProSieben, Sat1, RTL and Vox.

1.1. ORF

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.

With regard to news 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.

► 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.



► **Middle East correspondent** Karim El-Gawhary runs the ORF-office in Kairo covering the Arabic region and Iran. El-Gawhary's reports on the uprisings in the Northern African states have shaped the public picture of the current situation in the Middle East. El-Gawhary, who also works as a correspondent for a number of German speaking newspapers such as Die Presse, TAZ (Berlin), was rewarded the "Concordia Preis", one of the most prestigious journalism-distinctions in Austria.

1125 Corniche El-Nil Maspero, Kairo

Fax: 0020/27 73 00 68. karim.el

<http://www.weltreporter.net/index.php?page=korrespondent&id=60&lang=>



Turkey correspondent Christian Schüller

Since April 2011, long time international news correspondent Christian Schüller is the head of the new ORF-office in Istanbul: Batarya Sok. 3

Kilicalipasa Mahallesi

Beyoglu

34430 Istanbul

Christian.schueller@orf.at

► **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 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. Contact Paul Tesarek for ORF TV's program “Wien heute”, the primetime public TV for Viennese.

1.2. ATV

ATV is the largest commercial television station in Austria and was originally the first commercial station to be aired via transmitters after a long time when commercial broadcasts in Austria were only possible via satellite or cable and the national public broadcaster ORF held a monopoly of using the airwaves.

Despite its focus on entertainment, ATV has a few news shows and has also developed some discussion format that should not be underestimated for their role in shaping the public opinion.

ATV-staff can be contacted at Tel +43-1-213 64, the internet web address is www.atv.at All editors and staff can be reached at Firstname.Lastname@atv.at.

► **ATV aktuell:** The short news show on ATV is broadcasted Monday to Friday at 4.24 pm and at 7.20 pm and on weekends at 7.20 Uhr. Anchors for the show are Sylvia Saringer, Jenny Laimer, Benedikt Gmeiner und Meinrad Knapp.

► **"Am Punkt":** The live-discussion on political and economical topics airs every Wednesday at 10:25 pm. Anchor Sylvia Saringer not only asks her own questions but works as a voice for viewers who comment on the show via Email, Video, Facebook oder Twitter. The show can be seen live on the internet at <http://blog.atv.at/ampunkt>

1.3. Puls 4 Austria

The commercial TV-channel is owned by the German [ProSiebenSat.1 Media](http://www.prosieben.com) AG. The company produces its news shows for all the channels broadcasted in Austria: Puls 4, ProSieben Austria and SAT 1, reaching an estimated 1,71 Million Austrian viewers per week.

<http://www.puls4.com/content/austrianews>

PULS 4 TV GmbH & Co KG
Mariahilfer Straße 2

A-1070 Wien
Österreich
Phone + 43 (1) 999 88 - 0

► **Austria News:** During the week, the news show is broadcasted Monday to Friday at at 06:00 am on PULS 4, at 6 pm at ProSieben Austria, at 6.30 pm at Puls 4 and at 8 pm on SAT.1 Österreich. Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays, the show runs at 6 pm on ProSieben Austria, at 8 pm on SAT.1 and at 8.10 pm on PULS 4

Austria News' editor-in-chief is [Jürgen Peindl](#)

► **"Pro und Contra":** The live-talk show with host Manuela Raidl covers controversial issues of political relevance from nuclear power to religion. The show is an offspring of Puls 4's daily discussion format 'Talk of Town' which had received received the reward „Fernsehpreis der Erwachsenenbildung“ in May 2010.

2. Print media: national print media

The Austrian print media scene is strongly dominated by the *Neue Kronenzeitung*, a boulevard daily that has got an – internationally unmatched – national reach of 40 percent. Quality dailies like *Der Standard* or *Die Presse* reach between 4 and 5 percent, but have an important impact on the opinions of the elites.

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

Four serious daily newspapers which are read by an educated audience and opinion leaders. All of them have been providing platforms for debates on EU enlargement. However - up to this day, the debate on Turkey's accession has never been widely disputed like for example in Germany.

► **Der Standard:** The German Sueddeutsche Verlag, which owns the Süddeutsche Zeitung, holds a 49 per cent share of the left-liberal quality newspaper Der Standard. 51 percent of the shares remain with Oscar Bronner, the founder of the newspaper. Der Standard co-operates with the New York Times and once per week publishes an English-language supplement. Since 2007, the paper's former Brussels (and Germany) correspondent, Alexandra Förderl-Schmid, has taken over as editor-in-chief from Gerfried Sperl.

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.

A number of journalists have written commentaries on the EU-enlargement and Turkey's EU-accession in the past.

Hans Rauscher: The very well known columnist has been dealing with Turkey extensively. In the last couple of years he has provided a critical but yet balanced view of Turkey's process of approaching Europe. Rauscher has made a serious effort in understanding the complex political implications of the EU-enlargement and is one of the key figures shaping the debate in Austria: +43 (1) 531-70-402, hans.rauscher@derstandard.at

Gerfried Sperl: The former editor-in-chief and regular commentator has supported Turkey's accession. gerfried.sperl@derstandard.at

Michael Jäger: The person coordinating and logging op-eds, commentaries, and longer feature essays from abroad. michael.jaeger@derstandard.at.

► **DaStandard:** In February 2010, Der Standard launched a new section focussing on migrant and diversity issues: "DaStandard" is run by young journalists with different ethnic background. Turkey and the life of Turkish immigrants in Austria has received thorough coverage.

Olivera Stajić, the responsible section editor, can be reached at redaktion@dastandard.at

► The liberal-conservative **Die Presse** also has a lot of international coverage and provides an editorial platform concerning the EU and Turkey, especially since Michael Fleischhacker, a new, relatively young editor-in-chief who took over in fall 2004. In 2010/2011, Die Presse played a vital role in starting a Turkey-debate in Austria, running a controversial interview with Turkey's ambassador in Vienna, Kadri Ecvet Tezcan. The interview covered a wide array of immigration issues, and Tezcan answered in a very outspoken way, criticising Austrians for "not being interested in other cultures, except on vacation". Die Presse triggered another very emotional discussion when it announced plans of the Austrian Ministry for Education to allow Turkish to be a second foreign language in Austria.

Journalists who covered Turkey and Turkey's EU-accession for Die Presse in the past:

Michael Fleischhacker, editor-in-chief: michael.fleischhacker@diepresse.com

Wolfgang Böhm, the editor on EU affairs: +43 (1) 51414-504, wolfgang.boehm@diepresse.com

Christian Ultsch, section editor of the foreign affairs department: +43 (1) 51414-469),
christian.ultsch@diepresse.com

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).

► **Wiener Zeitung**: The Wiener Zeitung grew from a public administration newspaper into a full-fledged daily newspaper. From 2005 to 2009 it was run by editor-in-chief Andreas Unterberger, an influential Austrian journalist known for his ultra-conservative points of view. In September 2009, Unterberger was replaced by Reinhard Göweil, who had been the section editor for Kurier's business department before. .

Find the Wiener Zeitung at www.wienerzeitung.at, +43 (1) 20699-0, e-mail redaktion@wienerzeitung.at

Journalists who cover EU related topics and Turkey's EU-accession for the Wiener Zeitung:

Reinhard Goeweil, editor-in-chief: +43 (1) 20699-0 reinhard.goeweil@wienerzeitung.at.

Georg Friesenbichler, the section editor of the international news desk: +43 (1) 20699-285
georg.friesenbichler@wienerzeitung.at.

Martyna Czarnowska, staff writer, who had lived in Istanbul for a year: +43 (1) 20699-154
martyna.czarnowska@wienerzeitung.at

Michael Schmölder, staff writer: +43 (1) 20699-621 michael.schmoelzer@wienerzeitung.at

► **Salzburger Nachrichten** (SN): The SN developed from a regional newspaper based in Salzburg into a national daily newspaper with a solid reputation. In July 2006, Manfred Perterer succeeded long time editor-in-chief Ronald Barazon, who had run the SN from 1995 to 2006.

Journalists who cover EU related issues and Turkey's EU-accession for the Salzburger Nachrichten:

Viktor Hermann, the section editor of the international news desk: Tel.: 0662/8373-320

Fax:0662/8373-399, E-Mail: viktor.hermann@salzburg.com

Ronald Barazon, the former editor-in-chief writes commentaries on the EU and EU-enlargement:
redaktion@salzburg.com

Gerald Stoiber, Brussels correspondent, gerald.stoiber@salzburg.com

Manfred Perterer, phone: +43 (662) 8373-301, redact@salzburg.com

Vienna correspondent is Andreas Koller, a prize-winning journalist on domestic politics, phone +43 (1) 53153-0, redwien@salzburg.com).

2.2. *Austrian Boulevard*: Neue Kronenzeitung, Kurier and Österreich

► **Neue Kronenzeitung** Despite losing some ground due to new competitors and the internet, the tabloid newspaper still boasts a daily coverage of 40% of the total population and mobilizes and shapes the Austrian public opinion like no other print media. The populist-right 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 newspaper did not shift its key positions when its publisher Hans Dichand, who had run the "Kronenzeitung" for more than 50 years, died in June 2010 and was succeeded by his son Christoph Dichand.

Kronenzeitung main line + 43 (1) 360 11-0, Internet: <http://www.krone.at>, e-mail: chefredaktion@kronenzeitung.at

Journalists covering Turkey and Turkey's EU-accession for the *Kronenzeitung*:
Kurt Seinitz, editor of the foreign affairs department: kurt.seinitz@kronenzeitung.at
Ernst Trost, columnist: ernst.trost@kronenzeitung.at

► **Kurier** (www.kurier.at) is a widely read, popular daily newspaper. Among the high circulation dailies, it is the most serious one. Since August 2010, it is run by Helmut Brandstätter, a former TV-journalist, who replaced Christoph Kotanko as the newspaper's editor-in-chief.

Key figures are Christoph Kotanko, the former 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 p.frick@0e24.ar Phone: +43 (5) 01101.

2.3. Weeklies

Serious political weekly magazines *Profil* and *Format*; the boulevard political weekly *News*, the alternative weekly magazine *Falter* and the 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 editors-in-chief [Andreas Lampl](http://www.format.at), [Andreas Weber](http://www.format.at) und [Martin Kwauka](http://www.format.at) 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.

Key figures are Peter Pelinka, the new editor-in-chief, and Corinna Milborn, assistant editor-in-chief and TV-host, who 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 or milborn.corinna@news.at

► **Falter** is an urban, 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 has won several journalist rewards for investigative reporting. A good journalist to contact on issues concerning Turkey is Stefan Apfl. See www.falter.at (in German), and contact their journalists at Lastname@falder.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). Contact Stefan Kaltenbrunner, Datum's editor-in-chief at office@datum.at or phone +43 (1) 712 40 17 00

2.4. Business media: *Wirtschaftsblatt and Trend*

► **Wirtschaftsblatt** is a daily business newspaper which has been covering many economic issues related to EU-enlargement. One of the few Austrian publications openly in favour of Turkey's accession, it ran a wide number of articles on Turkey's economical prospects and opportunities for investors. Among the journalists who covered the EU-enlargement and Turkey are staff writers Ingrid Krawarik and Alexander Hahn. Contact *Wirtschaftsblatt* at: + 43 (1) 601 17-0, Fax: +43 (1) 601 17 ext 259, <http://www.wirtschaftsblatt.at>, e-mail redaktion@wirtschaftsblatt.at Firstname.Lastname@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) Contact Sylvia Margret Steinitz at sylvia.margret.steinitz@wienerin.at or +43 (1) 601-17-993

► **Wiener** (monthly, main audience: men). Contact Helfried Bauer, the editor-in-chief, or at wienner@wiener-online.at or phone +43 (1) 601 17 – 232

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.

► **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 Turkey. .

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).

One of the best Austrian reporters covering Turkey is Istanbul based APA-correspondent **Susanne Güsten**, who also writes for a number of German newspapers, can be reached in her office in Istanbul:

Tel +90.212.8892.242, guستن@weltreporter.net OR susanne.guesten@apa.at

<http://www.weltreporter.net/?page=korrespondent&lang=&idStandort=14>

B. 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, Fischer's 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:

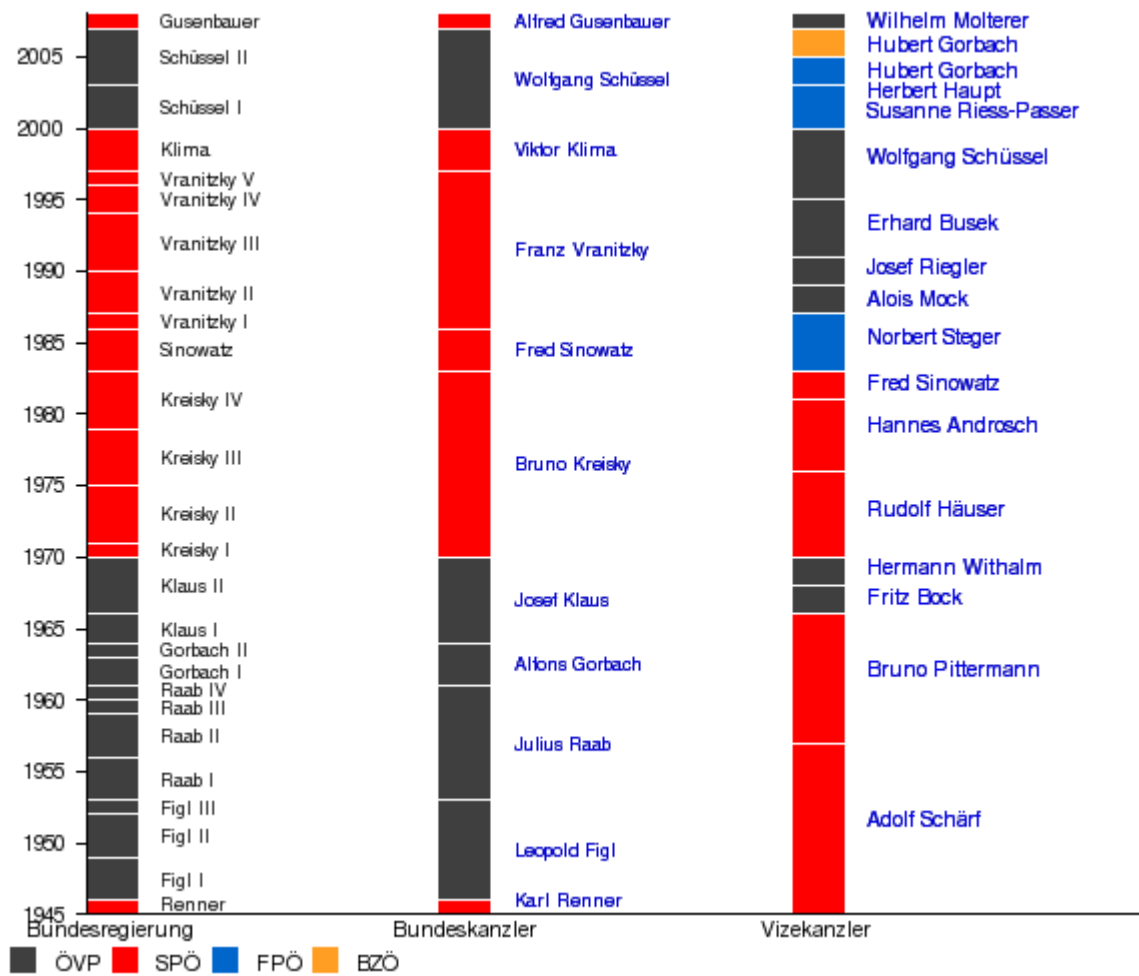
<http://www.hofburg.at/index.php?sid=48&s2id=0&language=en>

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 2 December 2008:

Federal Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Federal Ministers



Werner Faymann (SPO)
Federal Chancellor



Michael Spindelegger (OVP)
Vice Chancellor and Federal
Minister for European and
International Affairs



Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek (SPO)
Federal Minister for Women,
Media and Civil Service



Rudolf Hundstorfer (SPO)
Federal Minister for
Employment, Social Issues and
Consumer Protection



Norbert Darabos (SPO)
Federal Minister of Defence



Reinhold Mitterlehner (OVP)
Federal Minister for
Economics and Labour



Claudia Schmied (SPO)
Federal Minister for Education,
Arts and Culture



Doris Bures (SPO)
Federal Minister for
Transportation, Innovation and
Technology



Maria Fekter (OVP)
Federal Minister for Finance



Alois Stöger (OVP)
Federal Minister of Health



Johanna Mikl-Leitner (OVP)
Federal Minister of Interior



Beatrix Karl (OVP)
Federal Minister of Justice



Karlheinz Töchterle (OVP)
Federal Minister of Science and
Research



Nikolaus Berlakovich (OVP)
Federal Minister for
Agriculture and Environment

State secretaries



Josef Ostermayer (SPO)
State Secretary in the Federal
Chancellery



Sebastian Kurz (OVP)
State Secretary in the Federal
Ministry for the Interior



Wolfgang Waldner (OVP)
State Secretary in the Federal
Ministry for European and
International Affairs



Andreas Schieder (SPO)
State Secretary in the Federal
Ministry of Finance

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

Federal Chancellery

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

Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

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

Federal Ministry of Finance

Federal Minister Maria Fekter
Hintere Zollamtsstraße 2b
1030 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 51433-0
<http://english.bmf.gv.at>

Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Federal Minister Nikolaus Berlakovich
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

Federal Minister Reinhold Mitterlehner
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 Transportation, Innovation and Technology

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

Federal Ministry for Health

Federal Minister Alois Stöger
Radetzkystrasse 2
1030 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 71100-0
www.bmg.gv.at

Federal Ministry of the Interior

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

Federal Ministry of Justice

Federal Minister Beatrix Karl
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 Karlheinz Töchterle
Minoritenplatz 5
1014 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 53120-0
<http://www.bmwf.gv.at/home/>

Federal Ministry of Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

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

State Secretariat in the Federal Chancellery

State Secretary Josef Ostermayer
Ballhausplatz 1
1014 Vienna
Phone: +43 (1) 53115-0

State Secretariat in the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs

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

State Secretariat in the Federal Ministry of Finance

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

State Secretariat in the Federal Ministry for the Interior

State Secretary Sebastian Kurz
 Herrengasse 7
 1010 Vienna
 Phone: +43 (1) 53126-0

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 parliament's 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 28 September 2008. The results led to the following distribution of seats:

Table: Results of parliamentary elections (Nationalrat) held on 28 September 2008

Party	Seats	Share of votes
SPÖ (Socialdemocratic Party)	57	29.3 %
ÖVP (People's Party)	51	26,0 %
FPÖ (Freedom Party)	34	17.5 %
BZÖ	21	10.7 %
Grüne (Green Party)	20	10.4 %
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 Fritz Neugebauer (ÖVP) and the third one is Martin Graf (FPÖ).

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 elections in October 2006, but had to digest the lowest result in its history in the elections 2008. Nevertheless the SPÖ formed a coalition government with the People's Party and appointed the chancellor, .

According to the coalition agreement,, the SPÖ - in addition to the federal chancellor - holds 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:

- Werner Faymann, Federal Chancellor
- Doris Bures, Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology
- Norbert Darabos, Federal Minister of Defence
- Claudia Schmied, Federal Minister for Education, Arts and Culture
- Rudolf Hundstorfer, Federal Minister for Employment, Social Issues and Consumer Protection
- Andreas Schieder, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Finance
- Josef Ostermayer, State Secretary in the Federal Chancellery

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



Foreign Policy and Europe:

[Christine Muttonen](#)

Phone: +43 (1) 40110-3660

E-mail: christine.muttonen@spoe.at

Homepage: http://www.parlament.gv.at/WWER/PAD_08179/



Integration:

[Angela Lueger](#)

Phone: +43 (1) 31316-83603

E-Mail: angela.lueger@parlament.gv.at

Homepage:

http://www.parlament.gv.at/WWER/PAD_22449/index.shtml



Economy:

[Christoph Matznetter](#)

Phone: +43 1/40110-3471

E-mail: christoph.matznetter@spoe.at



Human Rights, Minorities

[Franz Kirchgatterer](#)

Phone: +43 7242/46796-15

Cell: +43 650/4872547,

eMail: franz.kirchgatterer@liwest.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). After losing the October 2006 elections with a narrow margin to the Socialdemocrats, these two parties formed another “grand coalition”. After only two years in power this coalition collapsed, only to be followed by another grand coalition in 2008. The ÖVP had to appoint a new team of ministers after Josef Pröll had to step down as a vice chancellor due to bad health in spring 2011. In October 2011, the team of ÖVP-ministers looked like that:

- Michael Spindelegger, Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of European and International Affairs
- Reinhold Mitterlehner, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour
- Maria Fekter, Federal Minister for Finance
- Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Federal Minister of Interior
- Beatrix Karl, Federal Minister of Justice
- Nikolaus Berlakovic, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
- Karlheinz Töchterle, Federal Minister for Science and Research
- Alois Stöger, Federal Minister for Health
- Sebastian Kurz, State Secretary for Integration in the Federal Ministry of Interior
- Wolfgang Waldner, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Wolfgang Schüssel, the former Chancellor, was replaced as the leader of the People's Party parliamentary group in 2008 by Karlheinz Kopf (karlheinz.kopf@oevpklub.at). When Schüssel retired in September 2011, Reinhold Lopatka succeeded him as the People's Party's Europe rapporteur.

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 Martin Falb, the club director (*Klubdirektor*, martin.falb@oevpklub.at)

In parliament, the ÖVP has 51 seats, including the following rapporteurs on key issues:



Foreign Policy and Europe:

Reinhold Lopatka

E-mail: reinhold.lopatka@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.atHomepage: 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 then 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. However, after the elections in 2008 the Greens fell back to 5th place, achieving 10,43 percent and 20 mandates in the parliament. The leader of the Green Party on a federal level is Eva Glawischnig, who succeeded Alexander Van der Bellen in 2008.

Since the elections 2010 in Vienna, the Greens are junior partner in a coalition with the Social Democrats. Local party leader Maria Vassiliakou (maria.vassilakou@gruene.at) serves as a vice major.

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

*Foreign Policy and development:*

Ulrike Lunacek

E-mail: ulrike.lunacek@gruene.atHomepage: www.dielunacek.at*Peace and Security:*

Peter Pilz

E-mail: pilz@gruene.atHomepage: www.peterpilz.at*Human Rights:*

Brigid Weinzinger

E-mail: brigid.weinzinger@gruene.at*Minorities:*

Wolfgang Zinggl

E-mail: wolfgang.zinggl@gruene.atHomepage: 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).

In 2006, 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. In 2008, the FPÖ managed to attract 17,5 percent of the voters, now holding 34 mandates in the National Council.

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, back then 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. At the national elections in 2008, the BZÖ achieved 10,7 percent, now holding 17 mandates in the National Council of the Austrian parliament.

Despite taking up a more liberal course after Jörg Haider's death in 2008, the BZÖ, like the Freedom Party, is EU-critical, anti-enlargement and has strong xenophobic tendencies. Visit the alliance's webpage (only in German) at: www.bzoe.at.

5. 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: oe@oe.ac.at

Chair: Janine Wulz (GRAS), president, Angelika Gruber (VSSStÖ), 2nd president, Martin Schott, to be contacted under janine.wulz@oe.ac.at, angelika.gruber@oe.ac.at and martin.schott@oe.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

C. 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 organised 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 organisation 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 and Turkey is Michael Löwy, the head of the international relations department, m.loewy@iv-net.at. The secretary general of the IV is Mag. Christoph Neumayer, IV's Vice secretary general is Mr. Peter Koren. IV's. 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 organisation 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 organisation than the IV. It organises public events and panel discussions, also with foreign politicians and thinkers. The organisation has traditionally been very close to the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) and has been an influential player in the "social partnership" (*Sozialpartnerschaft*), the corporatist organisation 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 and Turkey. Traditionally it has adopted an enlargement friendly point of view and has highlighted the opportunities of prospering markets in the Eastern markets and in Turkey. Due to the way Austrian corporatism is organised, 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 organising 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.

The WKO publishes articles about Turkey's economical development on its website, it organises panel discussions on chances for Austrian companies in Turkey, and it helps Turkish investors to succeed in Austria. In February, it published a handbook for investors in Austria in Turkish and English. Contact Elisabeth Zehetner, the director of the "Gründerservice Österreich" (Business Start-Up Service): phone +43 (0)5 90 900 3018

Other interesting contacts:

- Manuela Kaltenegger-Görgü, [WKO-centre in Ankara](#), Eskisehir Yolu 6, Floor 13, Office 1906520 Söğütözü Ankara, Phone: +90 312 219 21 41, Fax:+90 312 219 21 45
- Mag. Marco Garcia, WKO-centre [in Istanbul](#), Büyükdere Caddesi 100-102 Maya Akar Center B Blok Floor 14 Office 51 TR-34394 Esentepe - Istanbul, Phone:+90 212 211 14 76

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

The Austrian trade union organisation (www.oegb.at) was founded in 1945. The ÖGB is the strongest organisation 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 (SPÖ). The ÖGB acts as an umbrella organisation of 16 sub-organisations grouped by industries except from one sub-organisation 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.

A good person to contact concerning international issues is Harald Voitl who has helped supporting the work of a union for the international company UPS in Turkey: harald.voitl@vida.at, Phone +43 (0)664-6145704

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 organised 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 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, globalisation and corporate responsibilities. They have representations 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.
- The person to contact in Vienna is Mag Elisabeth Beer, head of the department for international and EU-affairs: elisabeth.beer@akwien.at, +43 (1) 50165-2464,
- Another good person to talk to is Dr. Uli Schönbauer who runs AK's own think tank Gesellschaftliches Diskussionsforum (GEDIFO): Phone +43 (0) 1/501652240, ulrich.schoenbauer@akwien.at

1.5. Austrian Business Agency (ABA)

The Austrian Business Agency (<http://www.aba.gv.at/DE/ABA-Invest+in+Austria.aspx>) 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. Wilfried Gunka is the contact person for Turkey; he can be reached at Phone +43 (0)1 588 58-54, Fax: +43 (0)1 586 86 59, or w.gunka@aba.gv.at

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 emphasised 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 organise 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.

- The OIIP's main SEE specialist is Henriette Riegler: henriette.riegler@oiip.ac.at
- Paul Luif, another OIIP researcher, has been working on EU enlargement from a historical perspective. Find the OIIP at www.oiip.at; Operngasse 20B, 1010 Vienna, phone +43 (1) 581116-0.
- Senior Fellow [Prof. Dr John Bunzl has done research on the Middle East and Islamophobia. Contact him at](#) Phone +43 (0)1 581 11 06 - 22 or jbunzl@oiip.at
- Probably the best person to contact is [Dr. Cengiz Günay, a Senior Fellow who](#) has been focusing on Turkey, Turkey's EU-accession talks and the relations of Turkey and the EU. Contact him at Phone +43 (0)1 581 11 06 - 16 or cengiz.gunay@oiip.ac.at

► The **IDM – Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe** (Institut für den Donaauraum und Mitteleuropa) was founded in 1953. Its current president is Dr. Erhard Busek, who had been a member of Austria's government from 1991 to 1995 for the conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP). 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 and Turkey. Its website (www.wiiw.ac.at in English) offers a vast amount of reports and data. Contact Vlado Gligorov (phone +43 (1) 5336610-23, gligorov@wiiw.ac.at), Josef Pöschl for Turkey (phone +43 (1) 5336610-37, poeschl@wiiw.ac.at) or Gabor Hunya (phone +43 (1) 5336610-22, hunya@wiiw.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.

For Turkey:

- **Contact sociology professor** Dr. Sabine Strasser at sabine.strasser@univie.ac.at or Phone +43 (0)-1-4277-495 16

- Political scientist Mag. Dr. Ilker Atac at ilker.atac@univie.ac.at or Phone +43-(0)1-4277-49446

► **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 maintains 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.

► **The Institute for Human Sciences (IWM)** is an independent institute for advanced study in the humanities and social sciences. Since its foundation in 1982, it has promoted intellectual exchange between East and West, between academia and society, and between a variety of disciplines and schools of thought. Contact Ivan Krastev, permanent fellow at the IWM and Chair of the Board of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia at iwm@iwm.at or Phone +43-1-313-58-0. IWM's very helpful PR-person is Sven Hartwig, who can be reached at Phone +43-1-31358-208 or E-Mail: hartwig@iwm.at

► The **Democracy Centre Vienna** (Demokratiezentrum Wien) is an academic non-profit organisation, dealing with basic questions of political culture and of the political system of Austria in the European context. The Demokratiezentrum is sponsored by the City of Vienna, the ministry of science and the ministry for education. In December 2009, the Democracy Centre published a report on the Debate of Turkey's EU-accession in Austria (http://www.demokratiezentrum.org/fileadmin/media/pdf/endbericht_tuerkei_web.pdf). Contact Elisabeth Röhrlich, author of the report, at Phone +43 / 1 / 512 37 37 or office@demokratiezentrum.org. Ms. Gertraud Diendorfer, Executive Director of the Democracy Centre, can be reached at diendorfer@demokratiezentrum.org or Phone: +43/ (0) 1-512 37 37-11

► 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 organisations (*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 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 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 Europeanisation 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 Organisation 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 organisations

Alexander Pollak is the spokesperson of *SOS Mitmensch* (www.sosmitmensch.at/). He can be contacted at Phone +43 (664) 512 09 25.

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.