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The Austrian EU Presidency and Digital Initiatives

1 July to 31 December 2018

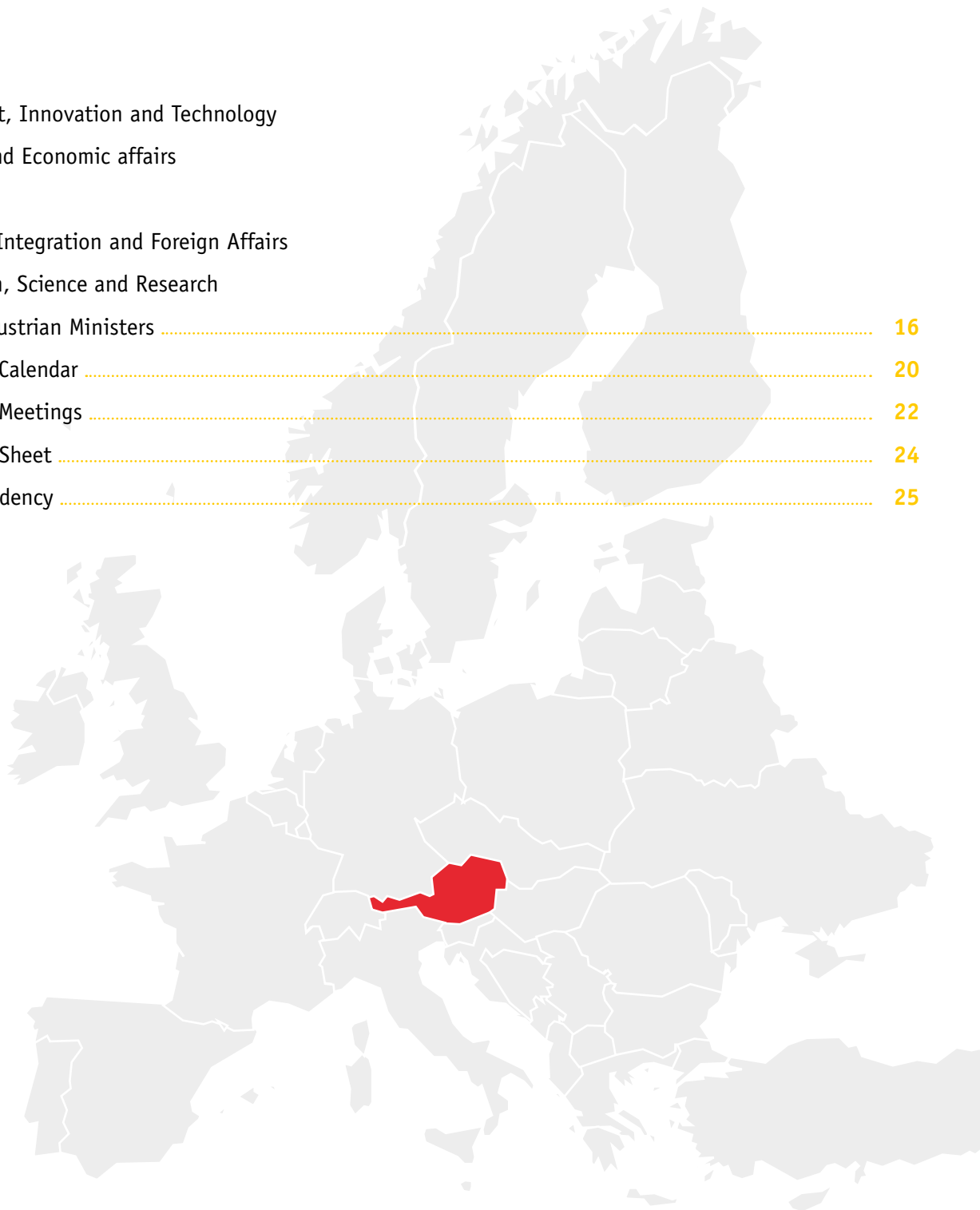
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Priorities of the Austrian Presidency

From July until December 2018 Austria will, for the third time, assume the role of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during a challenging time, both in Europe and beyond. The EU is facing a wide range of challenges including migration, security, Brexit, a new relationship with the United States, tensions with Russia, and questions around the future of the EU itself. Moreover, recent data related incidents have vulnerabilities in the ways big tech address privacy.

The Presidency's efforts will strive to strengthen the EU, help it connect more with its citizens and re-establish trust – its motto being “a Europe that protects.” Austria's approach will be based on further developing the principle of subsidiarity and its priorities will be: i) security and migration; ii) securing prosperity and competitiveness through digitalisation; and iii) stability in the neighbourhood – rapprochement of the Western Balkans/Southeastern Europe.

Next to these priorities, the Austrians will lead the Council through two very decisive issues for the EU. Firstly, a political agreement must be reached with the United Kingdom on its withdrawal agreement from the EU; Austria will focus on safeguarding the unity of the EU-27 and setting the foundations for a successful future relationship. Secondly, negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027 will begin in earnest and the Presidency will seek to ensure budgeted resources lead to efficiency gains and provide clear added value for the EU as a whole. Lastly, the Austrian Presidency takes place shortly ahead of the May 2019 European Parliamentary elections, therefore it is expected to run its Presidency at a high intensity to ensure it finalizes negotiations on as many legislative proposals as possible.

Regarding security migration, the Austrian Presidency aims to build on the ongoing reform of the Common European Asylum System, and re-focus and strengthen the European Border and Coast Guard Agency FRONTEX, so as to guarantee the effective protection of the EU's external borders. In this regard, the Presidency aims to increase cooperation with third countries and provide assistance to those in need of protection when journeying to the EU. Simultaneously, efforts will be made to educate those in third countries on what qualifying requirements are needed in order to be granted asylum so as to discourage attempts at the dangerous journey to Europe. The Austrian Presidency will also promote efficient information exchange between the security authorities of EU Member States as well as the interoperability of the relevant databases.

On prosperity and competitiveness through digitalisation, the Austrian Presidency views it as essential that the EU avoids overregulation and makes progress in the fields of innovation and digitalisation. Completing the Digital Single Market, modernising public administration on a broad scale and renewing industrial policy are the specific policies that could improve framework conditions for digital business models and services in the EU will all be areas where the Austrians will prioritise work. The Presidency will also prioritise the EU's work on the taxation of the digital economy to ensure that profits are taxed in the country where they are generated.

Finally, Austria will also devote substantial efforts to the promotion of strong relationships between the EU and its neighbours. Namely the Western Balkan/South Eastern European states will take centre stage. Driven by economic and security concerns, and building on the work of the Bulgarian Presidency and the European Commission's Enlargement Strategy presented in February 2018, the Austrian Presidency seeks to develop a concrete EU position regarding accession talks.

Key Digital Single Market Initiatives and Legislative Dossiers

The Austrian Presidency will aim to complete negotiations on a number of initiatives outlined under the Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy – in line with the priorities of the current Presidency trio (Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria).

Therefore, the Austrian Presidency is committed to reach an agreement with the European Parliament on the “Cybersecurity Act” before the end of their term.

As for the ePrivacy Regulation, the Presidency will continue discussions between the co-legislators. These discussions are not expected to be easy and it may be difficult to reach an agreement with the European Parliament during the term of the Austrian Presidency.

Regarding consumer protection initiatives, policymakers will continue negotiations on the Digital Content Directives (DCD) and the Sales of Goods Directive (SGD), negotiations are however more advanced on the former. The issue of ‘embedded digital content’ in particular is seemingly the major hurdle due as the Council and the European Parliament have divergent views on which set of rules should apply to «smart goods» (goods with embedded digital content). The Council’s preference and commitment to adapt the SGD to include goods with embedded digital content is expected to shift the Austrian Presidency’s priority from the DCD to the SGD. The objective of the Austrian Presidency is to reach a General Approach agreement on the SGD at the December Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council.

In addition to taking over of existing files from the Bulgarians, the Austrian Presidency will take the lead on several new key initiatives, including a legislative proposal on cross-border access of law enforcement authorities to electronic evidence (e-evidence), an initiative on online platforms, the new deal for consumers’ files, the REFIT initiatives on the PSI Directive and the “.eu” domain name. The Austrian Presidency intends to reach General Approach agreements on these files by the end of their term.

Separately, the Austrian Presidency will take steps towards implementing the 5G Action Plan (broadband and mobile) with an aim to create a ‘Gigabit Society’. The Presidency will also kick-off discussions on the “digital” sectoral legislative proposals under the Multiannual Financial Framework, including the Connecting Europe Facility and the Digital Europe Programme.

Lastly, as part of the review of the eGovernment Action Plan, Austria will aim to accelerate the modernisation of public administrations in EU Member States, including through the provision of eGovernment services.

The key proposals under the Austrian Presidency include:

- > Copyright
- > PSI Directive
- > P2B
- > ePrivacy
- > Cybersecurity
- > E-evidence
- > Consumer Protection

ePrivacy

During the Bulgarian Presidency, limited progress was made on the ePrivacy Regulation in the Council. Therefore, pressure from both the European Parliament and the Commission on the Council is building to speed up proceedings. The Austrian Presidency considers it essential to strike a balance between a high level of privacy protection in electronic communications and enabling the European economy to develop. Work on this dossier will be continued under the Austrians, but discussions between the co-legislators are not expected to be easy and it may be difficult to reach an agreement with the European Parliament during the term of the Austrian Presidency.

Cybersecurity

In September 2017, the European Commission published the long-awaited cybersecurity package, a comprehensive set of measures aimed at strengthening cyber resilience across the EU. The package attempts to address many cybersecurity challenges and offers comprehensive solutions. In terms of legislative measures, the Commission has published a proposal reforming the mandate of the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) and establishing an EU cybersecurity certification framework for ICT products and services (the 'Cybersecurity Act'). In the European Parliament, work is progressing and it is expected to adopt its report on 10 July. The Bulgarian Presidency managed to reach a General Approach agreement during their term. The Austrian Presidency plans to kick-off dialogues with the European Parliament and aims to reach an agreement by December 2018.

E-evidence

In an effort to improve criminal justice in cyberspace across Europe, the European Commission published the so-called e-evidence proposals on 17 April as a part of the Security Union Package. The Bulgarians initiated discussions here in the Council during their Presidency. Subsequently, the Austrian presidency aims to hold an orientation debate in October and reach a General Approach agreement in the December JHA Council. In the European Parliament, the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee has been appointed as the lead committee.

Public Sector Information (PSI) Directive

The Commission published the Third Data Package in April 2018, which included a proposal for a review of the Directive on the re-use of public sector information (PSI). The presented measures will make it easier for businesses and the public sector to access and re-use data originating from different sources, sectors and disciplines in the EU. The Austrian Presidency intends to make rapid progress here and is aiming to reach a General Approach agreement during the 4 December Transport, Telecommunications and Energy (TTE) Council meeting.

Consumer Protection

Published on 11 April, the New Deal for Consumer Package represents the most recent Commission attempt to adjust consumer protection rules to the digital revolution. The package consists of two Directives, one replacing the existing Injunctions Directives and the other is aimed at adapting contractual rights to the digital consumers' needs. Although the Council has already started negotiations, the Austrian Presidency doubts that it would be possible to reach a General Approach agreement during their term. As regards two other key consumer protection files: the Digital Content Directive and the Sales of Goods Directive; the Council is committed to finalize negotiations as soon as possible. The objective of the Austrian Presidency is to reach a general approach on the Sales of Goods Directive at the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council on 6 December 2018 and to reach an agreement with the European Parliament on the Digital Content Directive granting EU consumers new rights when purchasing goods on- and off-line.

Copyright Directive

The Copyright Directive has been the cause of much controversy, specifically regarding the proposal to introduce a neighbouring right for press publishers and the proposal to introduce monitoring and filtering obligations by certain online service providers. However, after nearly two years of difficult negotiations, the Bulgarian Presidency managed to secure a General Approach agreement for the entire proposal. Following the adoption by the European Parliament, the Austrian Presidency will kick off dialogues as of September with the aim to finalise.

'SatCab Regulation'

Negotiations on the SatCab proposal have advanced measurably under the Bulgarian Presidency. During the fourth round of trilogue meetings in the end of June, the European Parliament and Council will aim to reach an agreement on the remaining outstanding issues, in particular the scope of the country-of-origin principle, the retransmission of services and 'direct injection' which was included in the Parliament's final report. The Austrian Presidency will aim to finalise dialogues if the Bulgarian Presidency does not manage in time.

IP Package

In November 2017, the Commission published the Intellectual Property package which aims to create a more efficient and predictable judicial enforcement regime in the EU. The package includes, among others, a communication clarifying interpretative issues that have arisen during the application of the Directive on the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRED) and Memorandum of Understanding on the sale of counterfeit goods via the internet. The proposed measures are monitored closely in 2018 and will lead to an assessment on the need for further steps. The Bulgarian Presidency prepared Council conclusions on the IP package.

Online platforms-to-business

In April 2018, the Commission published a legislative proposal on fairness and transparency in Platform-to-Business relations, aimed at tackling unfair commercial practices such as sudden de-listing, unclear ranking and lack of redress. The proposal is currently being discussed by the European Parliament and the Council respectively. At the May COMPET Council, Ministers appeared supportive of the overall scope and objectives of the proposal, but expressed reservations on the potential risk to over-burden start-ups with administrative requirements and lengthy procedures. The Austrian Presidency is aiming to reach a General Approach agreement at the end of their mandate.

Tackling illegal content online

In March 2018, the Commission published its Recommendation on tackling illegal content online, it sets out guidelines for online platforms to quickly and efficiently remove illegal content from the public domain. The Recommendation is self-regulatory in nature and the Commission will conclude its public consultation at the end of June and evaluate the progress made by online platforms. The Austrian Presidency is not expected to dedicate a specific work stream to these topics.

Fake news

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The European Commission announced in April 2018, by means of a Code of Practice, its measures to tackle disinformation online. By December 2018, the Commission will report on the progress made and examine the need for further action to ensure the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the outlined actions.

FinTech

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The European Commission published its FinTech Action Plan in March 2018, which contained many predominantly non-legislative actions and recommendations on how industry should manage its development. Alongside the Action Plan, the Commission presented the only legislative proposal on crowdfunding and peer-to-peer (P2P) finance. Some of the actions put forward in the FinTech Action Plan include the set-up of an EU FinTech Lab by Q2 2018, the publication of a report on cryptocurrencies by end-2018, the publication of a report with best-practices for regulatory sandboxes by Q1 2019, the organization of public-private workshops to explore the barriers limiting information sharing on cyber threats by Q2 2018 as well as the development of a strategy on distributed ledger technology and blockchain.

Crowdfunding

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Under the Bulgarian Presidency, crowdfunding was not regarded as a priority with only one meeting taking place on the proposal. Similarly, pace in the European Parliament is slow as the rapporteurship was only assigned to Ashely Fox (ECR, UK) in June. In light of this, the Austrian Presidency will certainly make more progress than their predecessors, nevertheless the proposal it is not a priority and will only continue work at a modest pace.

Cross-border payments and currency conversion in the Union

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The Commission European launched a proposal on cross-border payments and currency conversion in the Union on 28 March, as part of the Commission's Consumer Financial Services Action Plan. The proposal's main objective is to allow for all intra-EU cross-border payments in euro outside the euro area to be priced the same as domestic payments in the local official currency. After a swift adoption of the General Approach agreement by the Bulgarian Presidency, the Austrian Presidency may start inter-instructional negotiations by the end of the year, after the Parliament adopts its position.

Digital Taxation

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In March 2018 the European Commission launched two new legislative proposals aimed at ensuring greater fairness of the taxation of the digital economy. The Commission proposed new permanent long-term rules that would allow Member States to tax profits that are generated domestically as well as an interim solution where Member States may set a temporary 3% rate on consolidated annual revenue, or digital services provided in the EU. The Bulgarian Presidency started technical work on the proposals as well as held a political debate on the temporary solution at the informal April ECOFIN. Furthermore, the Commission and France have stated that they are willing to adopt the temporary solution by the end-2018. Nevertheless, despite the Austrian Presidency's commitment to prioritise digital taxation, progress is likely to be limited as a large group of Member States have expressed that they would prefer a global solution led by the OECD.

Austrian Presidency

Digital Single Market Agenda

Digital initiatives planned by the Commission for July – December 2018 (dates indicative)

All the legislative proposals planned under the DSM initiative have been presented by the Commission, however the Commission might issue some non-legislative acts, recommendations, reports.

- > The Commission is collecting evidence on the effectiveness of voluntary measures and will explore possible further measures to improve the effectiveness of combating illegal content online, Q4 2018.
- > The Commission will assess whether to expand the scope of e-evidence proposals to include direct access and real-time interception of electronic evidence, Q3 2018.
- > The Commission will prepare a mandate for negotiations with the US on the e-evidence agreement, Q3 2018.
- > The Council has called on the Commission to establish a coordinated plan on Artificial Intelligence with Member States, Q4 2018.

Organisation of the Austrian Presidency

On 1 July 2018, Austria will take over the role of Council Presidency Chair for the third time. The Presidency is being coordinated by the Federal Chancellery (BKA), currently headed by Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and represented in Brussels by the Permanent Representative to the EU Nikolaus Marschik and in Vienna by Gernot Blümel (Federal Minister within the Federal Chancellery for the EU, Arts, Culture and Media) and Juliane Bogner-Strauß, (Federal Minister within the Federal Chancellery for Women, Families and Youth). The Austrian Presidency will be based in Vienna.

Austria's position in the European Union

Austria intends to increase its visibility in Europe and the world through its upcoming Presidency. It will aim to prevent a split in the EU and to act as a bridge-builder. Accession negotiations with the Western Balkans (one of the important "niches" for Austrian EU activities), the security situation in neighbouring countries and the need for dialogue with Russia will be key issues during the Presidency. Overall, the Austrian Government believes that the EU "should do less but more efficiently" and further apply the principle of subsidiarity in the relationship between the European Union and its Member States.

Attitude toward the EU

Austria's accession to the European Union on 1 January 1995 marked the completion of the process of its integration efforts, which had started long before the submission of its application for EC membership by then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alois Mock, on 17 July 1989. Austria's economy has greatly benefited from its involvement in the growing internal market, since its accession, exports have tripled and 13,000 new jobs have been created every year. In recent years, Euroscepticism has grown markedly in Austria, albeit voters still show little support for leaving the EU – some 23 per cent in end of 2016.

Domestic Political Scene

Austria is a federal parliamentary republic with a head of government – the chancellor – and a head of state – the president. The country consists of nine states (Bundesländer) where both regional and federal governments exercise executive power. The Federal Parliament consists of two chambers: the Lower House (Nationalrat) – directly elected – and the Upper House (Bundesrat) – elected by regional parliaments. During the latest elections held on October 2017, the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) emerged as the largest party in the National Council winning 31.5% of the vote. The Social Democratic Party (SPÖ) finished second with 26.9, finishing slightly ahead of the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ), who received 26%. The leader of the largest party, Sebastian Kurz, became Chancellor and entered into a coalition with the Eurosceptic Freedom Party of Austria, giving the party control of six ministries, including defence, home and foreign affairs.

Austria in the EU

Johannes Hahn is the Austrian Commissioner in the College of Commissioners and holds the European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations portfolio. He has strong links to the Austrian People's Party, having begun his political career in the youth branch of the party where he served as chairman of the Vienna group from 1980 to 1985. Prior to joining the Juncker Commission, he served as Commissioner for Regional Policy under the Barroso Commission, from 2010 to 2014, and as Austrian minister for science and research from 2007 to 2010. The country's 18 seats in the European Parliament are divided between European People's Party (5 MEPs), Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (5 MEPs), Europe of Nations and Freedom Group (4 MEPs), Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (1 MEP), Greens/European Free Alliance (3 MEPs). Some of the more "digitally-oriented" MEPs include: Angelika Mlinar (ALDE), Evelyn Regner (S&D), Paul Rubig (EPP), Josef Weidenholzer (S&D) and Barbara Kappel (ENF).

ANNEX I

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The Minister for Constitutional Affairs, Reforms, Deregulation and Justice is Dr Josef Moser. He is a member of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) and holds the position since 2017. Prior to that, he was the President of the Austrian Court of Auditors from 2004 to 2016. Dr Moser holds a Law degree from the University of Vienna.

The Federal Ministry of Constitutional Affairs, Reforms, Deregulation and Justice ensures the judiciary's independence and the proper administration of justice regarding the population's legal interests. Furthermore, the ministry is in charge of drafting legislative acts in constitutional, civil and criminal law, and focuses on the agendas of reforms and deregulation.

Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology

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The Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology is Norbert Hofer of the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ). In 2016, he was the party's candidate in the election to become the Austrian president, which he narrowly lost. Hofer served as the Third President of the National Council from 2013 to 2017.

The Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology is in charge of railways, transport policy and the postal system as well as responsible for the promotion of scientific research and technological progress.

Ministry of Digital and Economic affairs

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The minister for Digital and Economic Affairs is Margarete Schramböck, who previously was the CEO of Austria's biggest mobile network operator from 2016 to 2017. She is a member of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP).

The goal of the Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs is to enhance the positive development of the Austrian location for business, to actively take advantage of the opportunities offered by the digitalization of business and society, and to strengthen entrepreneurship.

Ministry of Defence

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Website: **www.bundesheer.at**

The Minister for Defence is Mario Kunasek of the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ). Mr Kunasek joined the Austrian army in 1996 and was a Member of the Austrian Parliament from 2008 to 2015.

The Ministry of Defence is responsible for all matters that are related to the military, including the European Defence Agency.

Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

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The Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs is Dr Karin Kneissl. Dr Kneissl, who is an independent politician, has held various positions in the Austrian diplomatic service, including in the cabinet of the foreign minister and in the Austrian embassies in Paris and Madrid. She also worked as a lecturer in the areas of international law, Middle Eastern history and the energy market.

The Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs is responsible for Austria's foreign policy and its relations with international organizations, in particular the European Union.

Ministry of Education, Science and Research

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Website: **www.bmbwf.gv.at**

The Minister for Education, Science and Research is Dr Heinz Faßmann, who is an independent politician. Prior to his position in the government, he was a professor for applied geography, spatial research and regional planning at the University of Vienna and acted as the Vice Principal of the University from 2011 to 2017.

The Ministry for Education, Science and Research is responsible for all matters regarding public education. A key objective is to support structural change by promoting technology, research and innovation.

ANNEX II

CVs of Key Austrian Ministers

Sebastian Kurz

Federal Chancellor

Born 27 August, 1986

Became the youngest head of government in the world, at the age of 31

Fulfilled his military service from 2004 to 2005

Since 2017	Federal Chancellor of Austria
2017	Chairman of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
2014-2017	Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
2013-2014	Federal Minister for European and International Affairs
2013	Elected as Member of Austrian Parliament
2011-2013	State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Interior
2009	Appointed Chairman of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP)
2005	Started studying Law at the University Vienna
1996-2004	Gymnasium Erlgasse, Vienna



Karin Kneissl

Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

Born January 18, 1965

PhD in International Law, École Nationale d'Administration

Studied International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Jordan in Amman and was a Fulbright fellow at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University Bachelor's degree in Law and Oriental Languages, University of Vienna

Since 2017	Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
2011-2015	Board position at Whistleblowing Austria
2004-2010	Member of the Municipal Council of Seibersdorf
1990-1998	Diplomatic Service: International Law Office of the Cabinet of ÖVP Foreign Minister Alois Mock and was posted in Paris and Madrid



Is Vice President of the Austrian Society for Political-Military Studies *STRATEG*.

Works as freelance journalist and independent correspondent for daily newspapers *Die Presse* and *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. Teaches at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and is guest lecturer at the National Defense Academy, the Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt and at universities in Lebanon.

Norbert Hofer

Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology

Born March 2, 1971

Finished secondary school at the HTBLA Eisenstadt with specialisation in aeronautics

Fulfilled his military service from 1990 to 1991

Since 2017	Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology
Since 2005	Federal Party Deputy Chairman of the FPÖ
2013-2017	Third President of the National Council, FPÖ
2006-2017	Member of the National Council, FPÖ
2016	FPÖ Candidate for Austrian presidential elections
2006-2015	Energy and environmental speaker, as well as FPÖ spokesman for the disabled in the National Council
2010-2012	Chairman of the Board of Private Foundation PAF
2008-2012	Vice President of the Austrian Civil Disability Association, Burgenland
1997-2007	Member of the City Council of Eisenstadt



Is also trainer and lecturer at the Freedom Academy and the FPÖ-Bildungsinstitut (since 1996).

Josef Moser

Federal Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Reforms, Deregulation and Justice

Born October 6, 1955

Law degree from University of Vienna

Went to the Military Academy Wiener Neustadt

Since 2018	Federal Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Reforms, Deregulation and Justice
2017-2018	Federal Minister of Justice
2017-2018	Member of the Austrian National Council, ÖVP
2004-2016	President of the Court of Auditors
2004-2005	Member of the Austria Convention



Also works as Honorary Professor at Nanjing Audit University (since 2011).

Margarete Schramböck

Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs

Born 12 May 1970

PhD in social and economic sciences, Vienna University of Economics and Business

Degree in Business Administration, Vienna University of Economics and Business

Since 2018	Federal Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs
2017-2018	Federal Minister of Science, Research and Economics
2016-2017	CEO Telekom Austria
2014-2016	CEO Dimension Data Austria
2008-2011	CEO NextiraOne Germany
2002-2011	CEO NextiraOne Austria
1995-2002	Management functions at Alcatel



Gernot Blümel

Federal Minister for the EU, Arts, Culture and Media

Born 24 October 1981

MBA and Master's Degree in Philosophy, University of Vienna

Since 2018	Federal Minister for the EU, Arts, Culture and Media
2015-2017	Member of City Council, Vienna City Senate
2015-2016	State Secretary General, ÖVP Vienna
2013-2015	Secretary General and spokesperson of the ÖVP
2009-2011	Speaker at the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
2006-2008	Parliamentary assistant & assistant in the office of the Second President of the National Council
June 2011	Cabinet of the Vice Chancellor
2008-2010	Vice President of the Young EPP



Heinz Faßmann

Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research

Born August 13, 1955

Became a Professor in 1991

Studied Geography and Economic and Social History at the University of Vienna

Since 2018	Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research
Since 2000	Professor of Applied Geography, Spatial Research and Regional Planning at the University of Vienna
2017-2018	Federal Minister for Education
2011-2017	Vice Rector at the University of Vienna
1996-2000	Professor for Applied Geography at the Technical University of Munich
1992-1995	Director at the Institute for Urban and Regional Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences
1981-1992	Researcher at the Austrian Academy of sciences



Hartwig Löger

Federal Minister of Finance

Born 15 July 1965

Took courses in International Management at the Vienna University of Economics and specialised in Insurance at the University of St. Gallen

Since 2017	Federal Minister of Finance
2016-2017	Sector representative, banking and insurance division, Austrian Chamber of Commerce
2011-2016	Sector representative, banking and insurance division, Vienna Chamber of Commerce
2014-2018	President of Sportunion Austria (a sports association)



Beate Hartinger-Klein

Federal Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection

Born September 9, 1959

Master's Degree in Social and Economic Sciences from the Karl-Franzens University in Graz
Went to the Business Academy in Graz

Since 2018	Federal Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection
2017-2018	Federal Minister of Health and Women
2017-2018	Federal Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
1999-2002	Member of the National Council, FPÖ



ANNEX III

Provisional Calendar

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Austrian
Presidency
of the
Council of the
European Union

01 July – 31 December 2018
draft calendar

version 23/05/18

JULY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
2 EP Plenary (Strasbourg)	3 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) PSC	4 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) Coreper II Coreper I	5 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) PSC Visit EC (Vienna)	6 Coreper I Visit EC (Vienna)	7	8
9	10 PSC	11 Coreper II Coreper I Coreper Art. 50 (poss.) PSC	12 EUROGROUP Informal JHA (Innsbruck)	13 ECOFIN Coreper I Informal JHA (Innsbruck)	14	15
16 FAC AGRIFISH Informal COMPET (Vienna)	17 GAC Art. 50 (poss.) PSC Informal COMPET Research (Vienna)	18 Coreper II Coreper I	19 Coreper I visit PSC Informal EPSCO (Vienna)	20 Coreper I visit Informal EPSCO (Vienna)	21 Coreper I visit BE National Holiday	22
23	24 ECOFIN Budget (poss.) PSC	25 Coreper II Coreper I Coreper Art. 50	26 Coreper II visit PSC (poss.)	27 Coreper II visit	28 Coreper II visit	29
30	31					

AUGUST

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Assumption	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 PSC (poss.)	28	29 Informal Defence (Vienna)	30 Informal Defence (Vienna) Gymnich (Vienna)	31 PSC (poss.) Gymnich (Vienna)		

SEPTEMBER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3 Informal Youth (Vienna)	4 PSC Conciliation Cte. (poss.)	5 Coreper II Coreper I	6 PSC	7 Coreper I Informal ECOFIN (Vienna)	8 Informal ECOFIN (Vienna)	9
10 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) AGRIFISH (poss.) Informal Health (Vienna)	11 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) PSC Informal Health (Vienna)	12 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) Coreper II Coreper I Coreper Art. 50 PSC PSC visit	13 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) PSC visit Conference on Security and Migration – Promoting Partnership and Resilience (Vienna)	14 Coreper I PSC visit Conference on Security and Migration – Promoting Partnership and Resilience (Vienna) Informal FAC Development (Brussels)	15	16
17 Informal TTE Energy (Linz)	18 GAC GAC Art. 50 PSC Informal TTE Energy (Linz)	19 Coreper II Coreper I	20 PSC Informal Meeting of Heads of State/ Government (Salzburg)	21 Coreper I	22	23 Informal AGRIFISH (Schloss Hof, Lower Austria)
24 Informal AGRIFISH (Schloss Hof, Lower Austria)	25 PSC Informal AGRIFISH (Schloss Hof, Lower Austria)	26 Coreper II Coreper I Coreper Art. 50	27 COMPET PSC	28 COMPET Research	29	30

The Council sessions will be confirmed in the light of provisional agendas for Council meetings during the 2nd semester of 2018

OCTOBER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) EUROGROUP (Luxembourg)	2 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) ECOFIN (Luxembourg) PSC	3 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) Coreper II Coreper I	4 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) PSC	5 Coreper I Informal FAC Trade (Innsbruck)	6	7
8	9 ENVI (Luxembourg) Conciliation Cte. (poss.) PSC	10 Coreper II Coreper I Coreper Art. 50 PSC	11 EPSCO (Luxembourg) JHA (Luxembourg)	12 JHA (Luxembourg) Coreper I Informal Gender Equality (Vienna)	13	14
15 FAC (Luxembourg) AGRIFISH (Luxembourg)	16 Tripartite Social Summit GAC (Luxembourg) GAC Art. 50 (Luxembourg) AGRIFISH (Luxembourg) PSC	17 Coreper I PSC	18 EUROPEAN COUNCIL EUROPEAN COUNCIL Art. 50 ASEM Summit	19 ASEM Summit	20	21
22 EP Plenary (Strasbourg)	23 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) PSC	24 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) Coreper II Coreper I	25 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) PSC	26 AT National Holiday	27	28
29 Informal ENVI/TTE (Graz)	30 PSC Informal ENVI/TTE (Graz)	31 Coreper II Coreper I PSC				

NOVEMBER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1 All Saints' Day	2 All Souls' Day	3	4
5 EUROGROUP	6 ECOFIN PSC	7 Coreper II Coreper I	8 PSC	9 FAC Trade Coreper I	10	11
12 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) GAC	13 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) PSC	14 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) Coreper II Coreper I PSC	15 EP Plenary (Strasbourg)	16 ECOFIN Budget Coreper I	17	18
19 FAC AGRIFISH	20 FAC Defence AGRIFISH Conciliation Cte. (poss.)	21 Coreper II Coreper I PSC (poss.)	22 PSC	23 Coreper I	24	25
26 EYCS FAC Development	27 EYCS PSC	28 EP Plenary (Brussels) Coreper I	29 EP Plenary (Brussels) COMPET Coreper II PSC	30 GAC Cohesion (poss.) COMPET Research Space Coreper I (poss.)		

DECEMBER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3 EUROGROUP TTE Transport	4 ECOFIN TTE Telecom PSC	5 Coreper II Coreper I PSC	6 JHA EPSCO	7 JHA EPSCO Health Coreper I (poss.)	8	9
10 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) FAC	11 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) GAC PSC	12 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) Coreper I PSC	13 EP Plenary (Strasbourg) EUROPEAN COUNCIL	14 EUROPEAN COUNCIL Coreper I	15	16
17 AGRIFISH	18 AGRIFISH PSC Coreper I (poss.)	19 TTE Energy Coreper II	20 ENVI PSC	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26 Christmas Day	27	28	29	30
31						

EU-ASEAN-FM meeting in Brussels at the end of the year (tbc)

ANNEX IV

Key Council Meetings

Informal meetings will take place in Austria. In July meetings will be held in Austria, and in October they will take place in Luxembourg in October. All other meetings will take place in Brussels.

European Council

- > 20 September – (Salzburg) Informal meeting of heads of state or government
- > 18-19 October
- > 13-14 December

Foreign Affairs (FAC) Council

- > 16 July
- > 30-31 August – (Vienna) Informal meeting of foreign affairs ministers
- > 14 September (Development)
- > 5 October – (Innsbruck) Informal meeting of trade ministers
- > 15 October (Luxembourg)
- > 9 November (Trade)
- > 19 November
- > 26 November (Development)
- > 10 December

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy (TTE) Council

- > 29-30 October (Graz) informal transport and environment ministers meeting
- > 3-4 December (Transport and Telecom respectively)

Justice and Home affairs (JHA) Council

- > 12-13 July (Innsbruck) on e-evidence
- > 11-12 October (Luxembourg)
- > 6-7 December

Competitiveness (COMPET) Council

- > 16-17 July (Vienna) informal meeting on AI and Robotics (poss.)
- > 27-28 September
- > 29-30 November

Events in Austria

- > 19 June – Meeting of the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament with the Austrian Federal Government
- > 21-22 June – Informal meeting of EU State Secretaries and Secretaries-General from foreign ministries of EU member states
- > 5-6 July – Informal meeting of the EU Political Directors
- > 5-6 July – Taxation of the digital economy
- > 5-6 July – Visit of the College of Commissioners to Austria
- > 16 July – Finance 5.0 – a challenge for cyber security?
- > 19 September – Digitalisation of Work Conference
- > 26 September – High Level Conference on Digital and eGovernment
- > 8-9 October – Challenging (the) Content – Europe’s cultural, media and creative industries and the digital world
- > 18-19 October – Data Protection in the Area of Justice
- > 29 October – Quantum Flagship Kick-Off Conference
- > 29-31 October – Industrial Technologies 2018 – innovative industries for smart growth (INDTECH 2018)
- > 30 October – The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC): Austria takes the initiative
- > 6-7 November – 9th Meeting of the Network and Information Security (NIS) Cooperation Group
- > 6-8 November – 6th Computer Security Incident Response Teams’ (CSIRTs) Network Meeting
- > 12-14 November – European Big Data Value Forum (EBDVF 2018)
- > 28-29 November – 4th High Level Dialogue on Connected and Automated Driving
- > 3-4 December – Cyber Security Conference
- > 4-6 December – Imagine Digital – Connect Europe (ICT 2018 Vienna)
- > 5-6 December – e-Justice Conference
- > 6-7 December – #EuropeforCulture – Closing Conference of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018

ANNEX V

Country Fact Sheet

Introduction

“Once the center of power for the large Austro-Hungarian Empire, Austria was reduced to a small republic after its defeat in World War I. Following annexation by Nazi Germany in 1938 and subsequent occupation by the victorious Allies in 1945, Austria’s status remained unclear for a decade. A State Treaty signed in 1955 ended the occupation, recognized Austria’s independence, and forbade unification with Germany. A constitutional law that same year declared the country’s «perpetual neutrality» as a condition for Soviet military withdrawal. The Soviet Union’s collapse in 1991 and Austria’s entry into the EU in 1995 have altered the meaning of this neutrality. A prosperous, democratic country, Austria entered the EU Economic and Monetary Union in 1999.”

Geography

Location:	Central Europe, north of Italy and Slovenia
Area:	83,871 sq km
Capital:	Vienna

People

Population:	8,754,413 (July 2017 est.)
Median age:	44 years
Population growth rate:	0.47% (2017 est.)
Religions:	Catholic 73.8% (includes Roman Catholic 73.6%, other Catholic 0.2%), Protestant 4.9%, Muslim 4.2%, Orthodox 2.2%, other 0.8% (includes other Christian), none 12%, unspecified 2% (2001 est.)
Languages:	German (official nationwide) 88.6%, Turkish 2.3%, Serbian 2.2%, Croatian (official in Burgenland) 1.6%, other (includes Slovene, official in South Carinthia, and Hungarian, official in Burgenland) 5.3% (2001 est.).

ANNEX VI

The EU Presidency

The Role of the EU Presidency

The main function of the Presidency of the Council of the EU is to preside over the legislative and political process, ensuring continuity of the EU agenda. The Presidency rotates every six months, and the hosting Member State has two tasks. Firstly, the Presidency is tasked, to plan, organise, and chair meetings in the Council, its preparatory bodies, and in various EU meetings. The Council comprises of Government Ministers, with different representatives in the various formations of the Council. For instance, cyber security and digital affairs are covered by ministers in the TTE Council, copyright and platform regulation are covered by ministers in the COMPET Council. Secondly, the Presidency represents the Council in relations with other EU institutions, for instance in the EP. In this context, it is responsible for promoting initiatives for integration, the smooth functioning of EU institutions, and ensuring consistent European policy.

How the EU Presidency works

The Council of the EU is one of the decision-making institutions of the EU, and assuming the Presidency is an important role. The Presidency presides over all Council configurations, except the Foreign Affairs Council, which is chaired by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The Lisbon Treaty served to reduce the role of the Presidency by officially separating the European Council (Heads of State and Government) from the Council of the European Union (Ministers). The European Council since 1 December 2014, sets the strategic direction of the EU, while the Council of Ministers is the formal legislative body representing Member States. President of the European Council is Donald Tusk (Poland), was re-elected for a second term until 30 November 2019. Another important change introduced in 2007 means that the Presidency programme is now shared by three Member States over an 18-month period to improve consistency and realism in EU policy priorities. The Austrian Presidency is the third of its trio, which includes Estonia (H2 2017) and Bulgaria (H1 2018).

Voting rules

Within qualify majority voting (QMV), a new voting system has been applicable since 1 November 2014. In order for a legislative act to be adopted under the new arrangements, it must have the support of at least 55 % of the EU Member States (i.e. 15 Member States in a Union of 28), representing at least 65% of the population. A blocking minority must represent Member States with at least 35% of the EU population, plus one member, meaning that at least four Council members are required. When the Council acts on its own initiative, the qualified majority shall be defined as at least 72% of the members of the Council, representing Member States comprising of at least 65% of the population of these States.