

# News from Austria

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## SPÖ-ÖVP coalition government led by Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer

On 11 January the new federal government was sworn in by Federal President Heinz Fischer. It consists of Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer (SPÖ), 13 ministers as well as six secretaries of state. The Social Democrats (SPÖ) and the People's Party (ÖVP) have equal numbers of federal ministers and secretaries of state. Following the swearing-in ceremony, the new federal government gathered for an informal session of the Council of Ministers at the Federal Chancellery. After the traditional group photo, outgoing Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel handed over his office to his successor.

The distribution of tasks in the government is defined in the Federal Ministries Act, which is amended as usual at the beginning of a new legislative period. The Amendment will be adopted in the next plenary session of the first chamber of Parliament (Nationalrat) on 30 January 2007.

The Ministry for Social Affairs led by Erwin Buchinger (SPÖ) will remain in charge of consumer protection, which was transferred to it from the Ministry of Justice in 2003. The organisational unit for men's affairs is not governed by the Federal Ministries Act. Former Minister for Social Affairs Herbert Haupt (Freedom Party) had established it within the Ministry for Social Affairs in 2001, where it will remain. The Act does not specify the tasks of the six secretaries of state, but defines those of the Federal Chancellor and the ministers. A major change of the "ministerial responsibilities" – as they are referred to in the Act – is the division of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture into a Ministry of Education, Art and Culture (Minister Claudia Schmied, SPÖ) and a Ministry of Science and Research (Johannes Hahn, ÖVP). Hahn will be responsible for university research as well as scientific foundations and funds. The responsibility for art will be transferred from the Chancellery – previously within the remit of Secretary of State for Art and Media Franz Morak – to Schmied.

Extramural research, recently hotly debated, including the Science Fund (FWF), remains with the Ministry of Infrastructure headed by Werner Faymanns (SPÖ).

Women's affairs will come within the purview of

the Federal Chancellery, where Minister Doris Bures (SPÖ) will be in charge of them. Previously they formed part of the Federal Ministry of Health (Andrea Kdolsky, ÖVP), which will now deal with youth and family. Under the previous coalition government of the ÖVP and the Austrian Freedom Party/Alliance for the Future of Austria these areas had been managed by the Ministry for Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection, which in the future will be re-named "Federal Ministry for Social Affairs" (Erwin Buchinger, SPÖ).

The motion for the amendment also provides for changing the name of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to "Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs", as proposed by Minister Ursula Plassnik (ÖVP). ■

## Gusenbauer: Austria supports German Presidency

Incoming Austrian Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer has pledged his support to Germany – currently holding the EU Presidency – in the Constitution issue. "Any impetus is welcomed" in the process towards a Constitution, he stated after talks with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier in the Chancellery in Vienna on 18 January 2007. Progress in this matter was a top priority confirmed Steinmeier. The EU Constitution was necessary as the EU had become larger.

Foreign Minister Plassnik had previously promised "full support" to her German counterpart in Berlin. She endorsed the German objective to develop a "clear schedule" for the Constitution by the end of July. ■

## Dresdner EU conference: Berger and Platter represent Austria

The first meeting of ministers of the interior and justice under the new German EU Presidency was held in Dresden. Austria was represented by incoming Minister of Justice Maria Berger and Minister of the Interior Günther Platter. Among the items on Berger's agenda were judicial cooperation regarding family and inheritance law and "e-justice". Platter described that over 3,000 identifications were successfully made within only one month due to the Prüm Agreement giving free access to DNA and fingerprints. ■

The division of powers of the new federal government is laid down in the Amendment to the Federal Ministries Act. The new names of the ministries and secretariats of state can be found on the Federal Chancellery's homepage. For the government's agenda and declaration are also see: [www.bundeskanzleramt.at](http://www.bundeskanzleramt.at)

## Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik in Slovenia and Serbia

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik met her Slovene counterpart Dimitri Rupel in Brdo on 15 January 2007. She congratulated the neighbouring country on its changeover to the euro, which would provide additional stimuli to the Slovene economy. "As a Carinthian, I am highly pleased about the fact that the European common currency is now the legal tender on both sides of the Karawanken mountains", said Plassnik. With Rupel she also discussed the conflict over the bilingual topographical signposts in Carinthia. She reaffirmed the decisiveness of the new Austrian government to solve this question no later than in summer of this year. Plassnik and Rupel also discussed future European perspectives. Plassnik: "We agree with Slovenia that Serbia should be supported on its path to Europe". The Foreign Minister explained this also to leading Serbian politicians, such as President Boris Tadic, Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica und Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic in Belgrade on 17 January 2007. Austria would "help Serbia in integrating into the EU". But full cooperation with the UN War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague continued to be a prerequisite.

The Minister then went on to Novi Sad, the capital of the autonomous region Vojvodina, where she finalised an Eastern European cooperation project for the development of the Vojvodina region with the regional authorities. ■

## Wolfgang Petritsch receives "European Human Rights Prize"

Austria's incumbent ambassador to the UN in Geneva Wolfgang Petritsch, who – like Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik – was born in Carinthia, will receive the "European Human Rights Prize" of the "Pro Europa" Foundation in Strasbourg on 23 February 2007. The reasons for granting him the prize were the "outstanding achievements of the top diplomat and crisis manager as the High Representative of the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1999 to 2002 as well as his commitment to a total ban on landmines". As the President of the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-free World, Petritsch played a leading role in drafting the first global action programme for the elimination of this type of

weapons from 2003 to 2005. Among the former prize winners are former Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, former Hungarian President Arpad Göncz, former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, as well as the founder of "Médicins Sans Frontières" ("Doctors Without Borders"), Bernard Kouchner.

The European cultural foundation "Pro Europa" is headquartered in Basle and is under the permanent aegis of the Presidents of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. Prince Henrik of Denmark is the President of the Committee of Patrons. In an interview with the daily "Kurier" Petritsch recently commented on the Kosovo issue. Being a main player in the South Serbian province, the EU had "to advocate a sustainable solution", "division would be the worst of all solutions as it would copy the ethnic logic of the war in Yugoslavia", said Petritsch. He considered an "EU-administered limited independence for some years" likely for the Kosovo in the near future and stated that the UN administration of the Kosovo would be taken over by the EU in 2007. "In Priština nothing will happen against the will of the EU. Brussels must also convince Belgrade that regional cooperation will promote the country's accession aspirations". In the context of the new Austrian government, Petritsch thinks that "now there is a chance to set up an "Austrian Fund for the Future" for the youth of the region to support the Europeanisation of our neighbours". ■

## Lesotho's Foreign Minister in Vienna

On 15 January 2007 Secretary of State Hans Winkler received Lesotho's Foreign Minister Monyane Moleleki for a working meeting focusing on the relations of the EU with Lesotho in the framework of the European Development Cooperation, the bilateral relations between Austria and Lesotho as well as Austria's candidacy for the UN Security Council. Lesotho is currently chairing the Southern African Development Community (SADC), an organisation dedicated to the economic integration in southern Africa. It is conducting negotiations with the EU on new trade terms that are compatible with the WTO. ■

## High-tech cooperation: China Austria Technology Park in Vienna

By establishing the China Austria Technology Park (CATP), Vienna will receive a new high-tech research hub, in which Austrian companies as well as enterprises from other European countries and China will cooperate. The technology estate covering a surface of 40,000 m<sup>2</sup> and consisting of three building complexes will be built in the 22<sup>nd</sup> district of Vienna (Donaustadt). Two thirds of the total investment expenditure of about 80 million euro are borne by Chinese industrial companies.

The project is unique in Europe. Due to the planned combination of inter-company cooperation, research and the development of postgraduate training for Chinese and Austrian companies and their employees, the concept of this technology park is considerably more comprehensive than that of comparable projects in Great Britain or Hungary. The decisive agreements for building the China Austria Technology Park in Vienna were negotiated and signed in the Chinese Ministry for Science and Technology in Beijing in late November 2006 by a high-ranking Viennese delegation – led by Vice Mayor and Financial City Councillor Sepp Rieder and President of the Economic Chamber Brigitte Jank as well as with representatives of the Vienna Business Agency (Wiener Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds/WWFF). The latter is the contact for all Vienna-based companies and company founders as well as international investors with regard to all company development processes. By finalising the agreements, a major obstacle in the negotiations was overcome which had been initiated already in 2004 together with the Austrian Ministry of Infrastructure. Since then the WWFF has acted as the general coordinator of the project.

In April 2006 in Vienna the agreement to found the managing company for the CATP was signed by the WWFF and a Chinese investment group formed by two state-owned companies, which has been supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology. Now the foundation of a common construction company was agreed on in China, which is in charge of the concrete individual construction stages. The first joint cooperation activities will be dedicated to the planning of the buildings by Austrian-Chinese

architects' teams.

Thanks to the CATP, Vienna will be able to improve its image as an attractive technology location and to promote its role as an international economic centre. Austrian companies will be given the opportunity to access locally one of the largest and most dynamic markets of the world. China has developed from an agricultural country into the world's fourth largest economic power, after the USA, Japan and Germany.

In 2006 exports from Vienna to China totalled about 200 million euro. But the WWFF expects that a growing number of Chinese companies will be interested in establishing sites in Austria as a result of cooperation in the CATP. In the past five years eleven Chinese companies were founded in Vienna. Above all Chinese companies of the IT, automotive and environmental technology sectors are expected to move to the CATP. The Technology Park will also be attractive for international companies planning to cooperate with Chinese enterprises. China is mainly interested in Austrian high-tech companies in the environmental sector. ■

Bartenstein and Marek: the goal is full employment by 2010

Minister for Economics and Labour Martin Bartenstein and Secretary of State Christine Marek declared their common goal "to achieve full employment in Austria by 2010" at a press conference held in Vienna on 17 January 2007. The basis were a strong economic growth, booming exports and a record budget for an active labour market policy. The Austrian National Bank (OeNB) forecasted a growth of 3.4% of the gross domestic product (GDP) both for the fourth quarter 2006 and the first quarter 2007. Bartenstein wants to introduce the "Flexicurity" principle into the economic and labour market policy on a wide basis. The general aim was to combine flexibility with maximum security. Marek stressed that she wanted to focus mainly on youth employment, the reconciliation of family and work lives, equal opportunities for women on the labour market as well as a new codification of the labour law. Other priorities were to increase the employment rate of women and to further close the income gap. ■

Vienna Business Agency (Wiener Wirtschaftsförderungsfonds): [www.wwff.gv.at](http://www.wwff.gv.at)

The services of the Vienna Business Agency (WWFF) cover counselling and financing, networks, real estate development and the establishment of company seats in Vienna. With its numerous activities, the WWFF aims at modernising the business location Vienna as well as at enhancing the innovative power and competitiveness of the Viennese economy.

## Vienna Urania: symposium on "art looting and restitution"

At the symposium "Art Looting and Restitution" experts discussed the practice and future of art restitution at Urania in Vienna on 18 January 2007. It is hardly foreseeable when research on the provenance (history of ownership) of works of art and restitution will be concluded, stated restitution researcher and co-organiser Michael Wladika. Among the subjects discussed was provenance research at the Museum of Applied Arts (MAK), where the provenance of 420 objects of art or 20% of the acquisitions of the NS period was still not determined. According to Monika Mayer, provenance researcher at Österreichische Galerie, currently the status of about 600 paintings and sculptures is still unclear. Hannah Lessing presented the art database of the National Fund for the Victims of National Socialism, which was launched in October 2006 and contains about 8,000 objects of art. One half comes from federal museums and the second half from museums of the City of Vienna. Walter Hellmich, chairman of the Vienna Restitution Commission, gave an overview of the activities in Vienna and illustrated the dimension of the work undertaken: 40,000 objects of the municipal library as well as 24,300 acquisitions by museums had to be classified as "dubious" just based on the date of acquisition. The next meeting of the Restitution Commission will take place on 28 February 2007. ■

## Austria's political elite mourns for journalist Helmut Voska

Co-founder and long-term editor-in-chief of "profil" Helmut Voska died aged 64 after a long and serious illness in Vienna on 17 January 2007. Voska, who started his career with the press service of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), became press advisor of the Chairman of the ÖVP Parliamentary Faction Hermann Withalm and later of Minister of Finance Stefan Koren. He ended his journalistic career as the head of the press service of the Economic Chamber Austria. He gave up his job as the editor-in-chief of the news magazine "profil" (which he had joined in 1979) in the wake of a strike in 1991 against Peter Rabl holding two offices as the editor of "profil" and managing

director of the parent company ZVB. Famed as a precise, tough but fair interviewer, Voska was highly appreciated also by the legendary Social Democratic Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Deeply moved by the death of the excellent journalist, Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer explained: "Helmut Voska was more than just a reporter of daily events or a political commentator. He was an Austrian media pioneer, whose opinion was esteemed across the party spectrum. His ideology never blinded him to developments. His only exaggeration was the continuous search for the truth. His daily work has long ago become the journalistic heritage of our country. This tradition has to be upheld, especially in media policy".

Managing Federal Party Chairman of the ÖVP, Vice Chancellor Wilhelm Molterer was deeply affected by the death of the "loyal companion of many ÖVP politicians: "We express our sympathy to his family in this difficult time".

Former Federal Chancellor and ÖVP Party Chairman Wolfgang Schüssel stated: "As the head of the press department of the Economic Chamber Austria he made a significant contribution to consolidate the success and reputation of the social partnership". ■

## Salzburg's "Viva! Mozart" in Seoul

Salzburg's Mozart Year exhibition "Viva! Mozart" will be shown at the Fine Art Museum of the Sejong Center of Seoul (South Korea) from 16 June to mid-September 2007. During a visit to Salzburg, the delegation of the Korean company GF-Exhibitions had been so enthusiastic about it that they wanted to take the complete show to Seoul, informed Erich Marx, Director of the Carolino Augusteum Museum in Salzburg. All conservation, security and legal issues were agreed on in talks of several weeks and the approvals of the most important owners of the loans such as the International Foundation Mozarteum or the Institut für Spielforschung (Institute of Research into Games) of the Mozarteum University were obtained. ■

## Ruth Beckermann's documentary "Zorro's Bar Mitzva" – a hit

Viennese documentary filmmaker Ruth Beckermann earned a doctorate at the University

[www.kunstrestitution.at](http://www.kunstrestitution.at)

[http://blogs.salzburg.com/mozart2006/2006/12/mozart\\_fr\\_korea.html](http://blogs.salzburg.com/mozart2006/2006/12/mozart_fr_korea.html)

of Vienna in 1977 after studying journalism and art history. Together with Josef Aichholzer and Franz Grafl, with whom she had realised the compilation film "Arena Besetzt" she founded the film distributing company "filmladen" in 1978, where she was active for seven years. In this period her early films and books were created. Beckermann's splendid documentaries include "East of War", "A Fleeting Passage to the Orient", "Return to Vienna" and "Paper Bridge".

Her latest masterly work is the documentary "Zorro's Bar Mitzva", which has been a box office hit in Vienna since mid-December. Beckermann accompanied four 12-year-olds of Jewish origin during their preparations for the bar mitzva, the Jewish initiation ritual into the world of grown-ups. The sensitive and humorous film does not only show the difficulties of young people in growing up and maturing but also those the parents have with their offspring. Moreover, the documentary gives insight into the vibrant Jewish culture and tradition in Vienna. ■

#### Erwin Wurm hits the MUMOK

In a permanent exchange of questions and answers about what is sculpture and how it is constituted, Erwin Wurm born in Bruck an der Mur (Styria) in 1954 has worked on a multifaceted body of work for more than 25 years. It can be interpreted as a long-term study on the definition of sculpture. According to Wurm, who is one of Austria's most successful artists, actions, written or drawn instructions or even ideas can become sculptures. The large-scale retrospective with the subtitle "Keep a Cool Head" presents the first major exhibition of his comprehensive oeuvre encompassing all media and reference systems at MUMOK (ending on 11 February 2007).

The artist created the spectacular installation "House Attack" on the front of the museum specifically for MUMOK. An up-side-down family home as the symbol of every-day routines, privacy but also the petty bourgeois hits the front of the museum – the institutionalised temple of the muses – like a bomb. With its visual presence and the ambiguous metaphor "House Attack" exemplifies the recent development of the artist's work.

With 400 works this is the so far most

comprehensive show of his oeuvre. Erwin Wurm presents the wide spectrum of his authorised works created after 1990 on three levels of MUMOK. The focus is on the voluminous sculptures of the "Fat Series", recent works such as "Truck" (2005), "Telekinetically bent VW-Van" and "The Artist who swallowed the world" (both 2006) as well as numerous sculptures displayed for the first time. Erwin Wurm's works of art often treat basic, banal necessities and routines of life as well as perverted forms which may be expressed in physical deformation. He addresses for example the slimming fad and obesity, fashion, publicity and consumerism, with the family home and car being the main fetishes. Moreover, his thoughts on philosophy, politics and the art business take on material form.

The fugitive and changeable are constant factors in Erwin Wurm's reflections on sculpture, which he depicts in surprising variations of every-day situations and absurd transformations of bodies and objects. His ideas postulated in texts, drawings, videos and photos, float between actionism, performances and sculptures. He invented a new type of sculpture, i.e. "One Minute Sculptures" (1997). Ritualised human actions are transfigured or deconstructed for a moment and sometimes in a hardly noticeable way, creating psychographs of complex subject-object relations. By resorting to exaggeration, paradox and the grotesque, he creates situations that are irritating, provoke astonishment or amusement.

The Erwin Wurm presentation has been organised in cooperation with Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, the St. Gallen Art Museum and the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon. ■

#### Vienna's Albertina: Baselitz Remix

The Albertina in Vienna presents an exhibition, in which the German painter Georg Baselitz (aged 68) confronts his own legendary early works of the 1960s and 1970s, including the pictures of his "Heroes". The show can be visited until 24 April 2007.

The furious, vigorous works of his early career are juxtaposed to the more recent, serene, sometimes self-ironic "remix" in brighter colours. A prominent predecessor of Baselitz engaging in such a recapitulation process of his

Erwin Wurm: Keep a Cool Head.  
Museum of Modern Art  
Ludwig Foundation  
Vienna.  
MUMOK,  
Museumsplatz 1,  
1070 Vienna,  
levels 6, 7, 8;  
until 11th February  
[www.mumok.at](http://www.mumok.at)

[www.albertina.at](http://www.albertina.at)

own paintings was the Norwegian Edvard Munch. About 30 large-size paintings are displayed together with 60 pertinent works on paper, which are put before the public for the first time.

With the exhibition "Baselitz Remix", the Rheingold Collection transfers its entire Baselitz collection to Albertina as a permanent loan: 58 water colours and seven paintings. Thus the existing Baselitz collection of Albertina is supplemented with numerous works on paper. The works of the German artist are an important focus of the Albertina's collection and are to be incorporated into the planned permanent exhibition of modernism after 1960 in autumn 2007. ■

Elke Krystufek dissects the MAK and generates a new group of works

With the exhibition "Liquid Logic. The Height of Knowledge and the Speed of Thought", Elke Krystufek has explored the MAK as intensively as no other female artist before her. For several months Krystufek did research on the history of the museum and its traditional tasks in a close dialogue with the curators. The artist developed a dialectical, complex but still logically structured exhibition in a continuous process. "Liquid Logic" tries to open up new vistas for the survival and transience in art, collection strategies and the role of women in the art business. To this end different artistic means of expression are used that are obviously in contrast to rigid scientific analyses and that are tightly interwoven with themes such as religion, femininity, value and myths. Together with the curators, Krystufek selected a number of objects from the museum's collection, which were integrated into the exhibition. Selection criteria were the subject areas brain, religion, vagina and marriage. Inspired by these themes but also the systematic organisation of the collection, Krystufek developed new objects, pieces of furniture, pictures and photos, which are arranged into groups together with the objects of the collection. In the film "Dr. Love on Easter Island" about Dutch artist Bas Jan Ader, who disappeared in a sailing boat in 1975, she explores the border regions of reason and religion.

Born in Vienna in 1970, Elke Krystufek created an internationally acclaimed work in the past 16 years. She taught at the Academy of Visual Arts in Vienna and was a guest professor at the Karlsruhe State Academy of Visual Arts in 2005/06. ■

Antiquaria Prize for research on Austrian National Library

The team of authors of the exhibition catalogue about looted books of the NS period "Geraubte Bücher. Die Österreichische Nationalbibliothek stellt sich ihrer NS-Vergangenheit" receives the "Antiquaria Prize" of the Antiquity Fair Ludwigsburg (Germany) on 25 January 2007 for its research on the NS past of the Austrian National Library. The authors around editors Murray Hall, Christina Köstner and Margot Werner looked into the unlawful acquisition policy of the library during the NS period and the history of restitution from the after-war period to the provenance research of the present. ■

Diagonale Film Festival 07 in Graz

Diagonale – the festival of the Austrian film – offers an opportunity to get immersed in present-day filmmaking in Austria for one week and to explore the current status of the Austrian film. Contemporary forms of filmmaking and presentation can be experienced in great intensity. Diagonale 07 will be celebrated in Graz from 19 to 25 March 2007. It is managed by the Diagonale team led by Birgit Flos (artistic director) and Oliver Testor (managing director). This year the festival is opened in the Helmut List Hall with the film "42plus" by Sabine Derflinger, who also wrote the script together with Mogens Rukov. The film portrays a woman in a well-to-do family situation. Nevertheless, it is difficult for her to come to terms with her life, her unfulfilled longing for love, the delicate balance between the security of her home and her love for freedom. ■

Visitor boom at the Freud Museum in the Freud Year

Registering a total number of 81,000 visitors in 2006, the Sigmund Freud Museum achieved a plus by 34 percent compared to 2005. ■

[www.antiquaria-preis.de](http://www.antiquaria-preis.de)

Austrian National Library:  
[www.onb.ac.at](http://www.onb.ac.at)

Elke Krystufek:  
Liquid Logic  
MAK,  
Weiskirchner-  
straße 3, 1010  
Vienna. Running  
until 1 April 2007.  
A German-English  
catalogue has  
been published to  
accompany the  
exhibition.  
[www.mak.at](http://www.mak.at)

[www.diagonale.at](http://www.diagonale.at)

[www.freud-museum.at](http://www.freud-museum.at)

## Sports tasks handed over: Reinhold Lopatka new Secretary of State

After having been sworn in on 11 January 2007, Reinhold Lopatka officially took over the Secretariat of State for Sport (in the Chancellery) on 17 January 2007. The 46-year-old Styrian contributes ten years of experience in sport, having been active as the spokesman for sport of the Regional Parliament of Styria. What's more, as a passionate marathon runner he has turned his hobby into his profession. On assuming office, Lopatka stressed the importance of sport – being a “cross-sectional matter” – for all spheres of life as well as its function as a “health, job and social engine”, a fact that is also highlighted in the government's agenda. Special attention is therefore paid to the “Fit for Austria” campaign initiated by the Chancellery and the Federal Sports Organisation (BSO), which will be continued and intensified. The sports activities of the population of currently 40% are to be boosted. ■

## Sports subsidies to be secured at a high level

Sport was provided with an excellent financial basis by amending the Federal Sports Promotion Act in the past legislative period. Therefore the new government can start off at a high level of financial resources. Now the minimum level of subsidies is to be increased from 40 to 55 million euro. Efforts have to be intensified at European level to maintain the gambling monopoly of the state so as to ensure planning and financing. To this end, strong partners like Germany, France or Italy are needed, where sports financing is also very dependent on the gambling monopoly.

The government's agenda contains other objectives in sports policy for the current legislative period. Top-level sport beats the advertising drum for Austria, boosts its image, is an economic factor, a model to the youth and the driving force behind mass sport. The federal sports promotion schemes (Top Sport Austria, Sporthilfe) have to be optimised. Besides top-level sport, sport at schools and nurseries has to be promoted. The work of the numerous officials working on an honorary basis in sports clubs has to be made even more visible in the future. It strengthens social cohesion and should be given

more public recognition, notably in the field of disabled sports. ■

## Mega sporting events invigorate Austrian economy

The funds committed have to be made available from the budget 2007/2008 for the mega sporting events in Austria. Especially the European Football Championship 2008 has to receive the full support of different spheres, groups and ministries. According to a study of the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), the EURO 2008 will have value-added effects in Austria of more than 380 million euro, with tourism reaping no less than 220 million euro. The application of Salzburg for hosting the Olympic Games 2014, which would also bring the Paralympic Winter Games to Austria, has to receive full financial support until the decision is taken in Guatemala in July 2007. ■

## EU Sports Directors' Meeting in Bonn

On 1 and 2 February 2007 the EU Sports Directors' Meeting will be held in Bonn in the framework of the German EU Council Presidency. The conference will focus on the subjects “sports & economy“, “sport as a factor of integration“, “anti-doping“ as well as the “EU White Paper on Sport” planned by the European Commission. Another aim of this meeting is to prepare the issues to be addressed at the informal meeting of EU sports ministers, which will take place in Stuttgart on 12 and 13 March 2007. ■

## Snowboard world championship: Austrians excelling

At the FIS Snowboard World Championship in Arosa the Austrians excelled. Secretary of State for Sport Lopatka congratulated world champion Heidi Neururer (gold), Marion Kreiner (silver) and Doresia Krings (bronze). ■

Regarding the great importance of sport in Austria as a “cross-sectional matter” of society (health, social affairs, economy, tourism, education, integration, etc.) see also the government's agenda pp. 153 [www.bundeskanzleramt.at](http://www.bundeskanzleramt.at)

### IMPRESSUM

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