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Gusenbauer: government starts work with "firm commitment"

Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer: "It is our aim to reduce unemployment in Austria by 25%, this means that we want to achieve an unemployment rate of below 4%."

The new federal government met for its first Ministerial Council session on 24 January 2007. In the subsequent joint press conference, Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer and Vice-Chancellor Wilhelm Molterer announced a closed-door meeting of the government (2/3 March 2007) still before the EU summit (8/9 March 2007). The talks will focus on growth, employment and the administrative reform.

Gusenbauer explained that the government was starting work with "firm commitment". The government agreement had to be put into practice. At the meeting the government would deliberate about strategies to realise the planned 25% reduction of unemployment within the next four years. This posed a challenge to the Ministries of Infrastructure, Economics, Social Affairs and Finance, said Gusenbauer. The number of jobless young people should be cut by half. The aim of the administrative reform – the second priority of the government's meeting – was to boost efficiency and cut costs. The amounts saved would be spent on education and other important projects for the future.

At the presentation of the government's programme to the Federal Council on 31 January 2007, the Chancellor drew special attention to the government's main concern, i.e. unemployment – a subject that he had already highlighted in the government's declaration to Parliament (16 January 2007). Among the key countermeasures mentioned by Gusenbauer were improvements in education, e.g. guaranteed education/training up to the age of 18, introducing A-level exams in vocational training or reducing the maximum number of pupils in a class to 25. "Investments in research and development of 3% of the gross domestic product were the cornerstone of the growth strategy". We first have to earn the tax reform envisaged for 2010, stated Gusenbauer. ■

Gusenbauer strives for strong cooperation with social partners

"The new federal government will be a strong ally of the social partners, notably the trade unions", stressed Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer at the opening of the federal congress of the

Austrian Federation of Trade Unions (ÖGB) on 22 January 2007. While their role had to be re-defined in the age of globalisation, trade unions were still "a key component of social solidarity", said Gusenbauer. Besides intensified cooperation with the social partners, the Chancellor called for a new, innovative social policy – a driving force in realising the primary objective of reducing unemployment. Gusenbauer highlighted a set of measures for more growth and employment developed by the social partners, for which he thanked them explicitly. He also stated that new responses had to be found for new issues and that the trade unions should become the "avant-garde in social innovation". ■

Minister for Social Affairs Buchinger: give youth a chance

The Council of Ministers approved Egon Blum as the government's official responsible for apprenticeship issues on 31 January 2007. Consequently, the "Blum bonus" programme was extended, under which subsidies for additional apprenticeship places are granted. Thus an important impetus had been given in the area of employment and reduction of youth unemployment, explained Social Minister Erwin Buchinger and Minister for Economics Martin Bartenstein after the Council of Ministers on 31 January 2007. The Blum bonus had proved effective in the past, and this year 100 million euro would be made available for the financial support of companies training apprentices, said Buchinger. The government's joint goal was full employment, unemployment should be cut by at least one quarter by 2010. This would also be the key subjects of the government's meeting on 2/3 March 2007. "We want to be the government giving youth a chance", stressed Buchinger. ■

School project: "A Letter to the Stars" to commemorate NS victims

In 2007 the large-scale school project "A Letter to the Stars" will be launched for the fifth time. Under the motto "ambassadors of remembrance" up to 15,000 pupils will contact Holocaust survivors all over the world and document their lives. For this purpose a database containing 2,500 "last witnesses" will be created. ■

Minister for Social Affairs Buchinger: "We are very pleased about the decline in unemployment over the past few months. The new federal government wants to strengthen this trend and continue it on a long-term basis."

Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer: "Trade unions are an integral part of social solidarity."

Gusenbauer met with Swedish Prime Minister Reinfeldt in Vienna

Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer met with Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt in Vienna on 22 January 2007. They discussed subjects like the EU and bilateral issues. Gusenbauer underlined the fact that the relations between Austria and Sweden had been excellent for several decades, regardless of the parties in power. He was pleased to continue and intensify the successful cooperation with Sweden, said Gusenbauer. The Chancellor also informed his guest about the priorities of the new government programme. In this context, the Swedish head of government described it as a "key concern of both countries to create more jobs in Europe". ■

Federal Chancellor pays first official visits to Berlin and Berne

His first official trips abroad take Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer to Berlin and Berne. Gusenbauer will pay a one-day visit to his German counterpart Angela Merkel on 7 February 2007. Their meeting will focus on the current German EU Council Presidency. It was his intention to stress the importance of this event, stated Gusenbauer in an interview to the daily "Wiener Zeitung" (26 January 2007).

On 12 February 2007 Gusenbauer will go to Berne, where he will hold talks *inter alia* with Federal President and Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey.

As the new Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Finance, Wilhelm Molterer had paid an official visit to Germany already on 26 January 2007. ■

Mexico's Foreign Minister in Vienna

"Between Austria and Mexico there is a tightly woven network of relations on all levels – politically, economically, culturally and among the people", stressed Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik during the official visit of her Mexican counterpart Patricia Espinosa to Vienna on 1 February 2007. Plassnik stated that the Mexican foreign affairs and diplomatic leader Espinosa knew Austria well and was a friend of the country. Both countries were united in their firm commitment to multilateralism at international level. The Austrian Foreign

Minister also highlighted the favourable economic data. In 2006 Austria's exports to Mexico had for the first time surpassed the 250-million-euro threshold.

Before her meeting with Plassnik, Espinosa had been received by Federal President Heinz Fischer. Espinosa had been Mexican ambassador in Vienna from 2002 to 2006. ■

Lebanon: Austria donates 1 million euro for humanitarian projects

A record relief package of 7.6 billion dollars (5.8 billion euro) was adopted at the international Lebanon conference in Paris on 25 January 2007. Austria contributes 1 million euro. The funds were earmarked for projects of the United Nations to improve the situation of Palestinian refugees, explained Foreign Minister Plassnik. ■

Foreign Minister Plassnik attended Afghanistan meeting in Brussels

On 26 January 2007 in Brussels Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik attended a meeting of foreign ministers of the NATO and EU Member States that participate in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. Plassnik stated that the international community was resolved "to support Afghanistan in its efforts to become a stable, secure and democratic country". Austria is currently present in Afghanistan with five liaison officers. ■

Austria welcomes UN resolution against the denial of the Holocaust

Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik welcomed the UN resolution against the denial of the Holocaust adopted on 26 January 2007 as an "outcry against all attempts to deny the horrors of the Shoa". ■

Herbert Bösch chairman of EU Committee on Budgetary Control

On 1 February 2007, the Austrian member of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament Herbert Bösch was elected chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control of the European Parliament. He is the first Austrian to occupy this position. ■

Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer: "Austria and Sweden have been linked through excellent relations for decades."

Foreign Minister Plassnik: "A clear sign of confidence and hope should be sent out from Paris to the people in the Lebanon."

Foreign Minister Plassnik: "The UN resolution against the denial of the Holocaust has been formulated with the firm support of Austria."

Minister of Economics Bartenstein: "Unemployment is declining"

"We have achieved a turnaround, the number of jobless is declining sharply", Minister for Economics and Labour Martin Bartenstein was pleased to inform. Together with Secretary of State Christine Marek and Head of the Public Employment Agency (AMS) Herbert Buchinger, he presented the latest labour market data on 1 February 2007. In January 295,250 persons were registered unemployed in Austria, that is 31,497 or 9.6% less than in the same month in 2006. 57,906 persons were undergoing training, corresponding to a year-on-year increase by almost 4,300. Based on the calculation method of the EU's Statistical Office Eurostat, Austria recorded an unemployment rate of 4.6% in December 2006; this is the fifth lowest unemployment rate in the EU.

According to Bartenstein, this favourable trend was mainly due to the economic growth and active labour market policy. Boasting a growth of 3.2 to 3.3% of the GDP (gross domestic product) in the previous year, Austria's economic conditions were excellent. A growth of 3% was likely also in 2007. Many factors indicated that with a rate of 3.9% full employment could be reached by 2010, stated Bartenstein.

AMS chief Buchinger emphasised that the decline in unemployment in January had been supported by the mild weather conditions, benefiting above all the building industry. The number of unemployed in this sector had declined most significantly by 15.1% or 13,408 persons.

The recent data were an "encouraging development" which would be further strengthened by the government, Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer stated optimistically. ■

WKÖ: Austrian trade relations with Israel are booming

"The bilateral trade relations between Austria and Israel had been on a high level in the past but intensified significantly last year", said the President of the Economic Chamber Austria (WKÖ), Christoph Leitl, at the ceremony staged for the President of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, Uriel Lynn, who

received the Grand Golden Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service to the Republic of Austria. His untiring efforts in promoting the bilateral trade relations made a decisive contribution to the 15% increase of Austrian exports to Israel as well as Israeli exports to Austria in 2006, stressed Leitl.

Austria's most important export goods are machinery, vehicles, IT hardware, industrial equipment, car components, pharmaceutical products, chemicals as well as food. Austria imported mainly communication devices, electrical appliances, measuring and control devices, vegetables and fruit from Israel. Great opportunities could arise from the modernisation and further development of Israel's infrastructure, e.g. road and railway construction, the enlargement of seaports and airports. ■

China is Austria's most important trading partner in Asia

Thanks to its steady economic growth and WTO membership, China has become Austria's most important trading partner in Asia and its second most important business partner in the overseas market (behind the USA), said Minister for Economics Martin Bartenstein after a working meeting with Chinese State Councillor Hua Jianmin in Vienna on 29 January 2007. Among the topics discussed were the bilateral economic relations and China's relations with the EU.

One of the greatest challenges facing China was climate protection, stated Bartenstein. This would offer great opportunities to Austrian companies, above all in the sectors of energy efficiency, environmental technology and hydroelectric power. Together with Minister for the Environment Josef Pröll he would therefore support Austria's participation in the trade fair for environmental protection in Beijing in June. According to Bartenstein, new opportunities would arise to Austrian companies and investors in the context of the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008 and the world expo in Shanghai in 2010. The bilateral trade volume doubled between 2001 and 2005, recently reaching an all-time high of 4.2 billion euro. Austrian exports to China grew by 9% to 1.2 billion euro in 2005. Currently about 220 Austrian enterprises are represented in China; about 50 of them have production sites in China. ■

The number of jobless in Austria dropped by 9.6% in January.

Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer: "I am optimistic that we will manage a turnaround on the labour market."

Austria and China succeeded in doubling their bilateral trade volume to 4.2 billion euro between 2001 and 2005.

The President of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, Uriel Lynn, received the Grand Golden Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service to the Republic of Austria.

Digital Austria: e-government services set example to Europe

In the framework of the ITnT (Information Technology and Telecommunications) fair at Messepalast in Vienna, more than 100 delegates from Central and Eastern Europe as well as Central Asia attended the conference “eGovernment in Austria – networking and cooperation across Borders“.

In her opening statement Heidrun Silhavy, the new Secretary of State for Regional Policy and Administrative Reform (an office within the purview of the Federal Chancellery), underlined the importance of efficiency, customer-orientation and swiftness in guaranteeing legal certainty, which she considered the most important qualities of a modern administration.

Austria’s pioneering role in e-government has set an example to many European states. This was confirmed by the ministers and secretaries of state from the neighbouring countries at a joint press conference. The success was due to the cooperation between the federal government, the Länder, cities, communities and the economy within the Platform “Digital Austria” (Plattform Digitales Österreich), set up within the Federal Chancellery. This programme and several best practices received awards. They make an important contribution to the nationwide offer of governmental services. Secretary of State Silhavy emphasised that e-government was a top priority of the federal government, to which due regard was paid in the entire government programme. In general, the individual citizens of all communities should have access to all forms of e-government.

At the ITnT 2007, the Platform “Digital Austria” presented recent e-government solutions, novel IT standards as well as progressive trends in research.

The digital “Austrian way” started in 2001 by setting up an information and communications technology board for all ministries and creating a staff position in the federal government. In 2003 the “Cooperation Board” of the federal government, the *Länder*, cities, communities and the economic sector was established. In addition, a strategic e-government platform was launched, directly subordinated to the Federal Chancellor. In late 2005 all of these bodies were merged to form the Platform “Digital Austria”.

An e-government strategy must always be open to innovation and its effects on administration and governmental action. It should ensure that all administrative levels are subject to change processes. Last but not least, it must plan ahead and control these processes to create a reliable basis for decision-making. The Platform “Digital Austria” received the “Red Arrow Award“ for its innovative common approach in December 2006. This prize is offered by the “Future Business Austria“, an independent information initiative of the industry to strengthen und further develop Austria’s position as a business location. This platform for opinion-makers from politics, the economy and media gathers annually to explore topics that are vital for Austria’s competitiveness as a location for industry.

The “Austrian way” towards the citizen’s card – a standard format of electronic identity – is winning increasing international renown. Reinhard Posch, university professor and Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the federal government recently received the ID (Identity) Community Award. It was conferred on him at the ID People Awards Ceremony of the ID World Congress. The award is granted in recognition of merits in the area of “eID Security“ (security of electronic identity) at European level.

Austria is the driving force in the discussion of “eID interoperability“ (exchange and cooperation on electronic identities) in many EU Member States.

However, in modern technology the user has to remain the focus of attention. “HELP”, the digital guide through Austria’s administration, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. In late 2006 it was awarded the “Goldene BIENE“ (“Golden Bee”). HELP.gv.at is the first website meeting the most stringent requirements of barrier-free communication. Since 2003 “Aktion Mensch“ and “Stiftung Digitale Chancen“ have awarded “bees” for outstanding barrier-free webpages. Numerous companies, organisations active throughout Austria as well as authorities and ministries participated in this competition.

“Information and communications technologies are constantly changing our lives and work. There should be room for all people in the digital world. The barrier-free access to all authorities is therefore a personal concern of mine”, concluded Silhavy. ■

www.help.gv.at

Philosopher Konrad Paul Liessmann "Scientist of the Year 2006"

The Club of Education and Science Journalists conferred the award "Scientist of the Year 2006" to philosopher Konrad Paul Liessmann on 22 January 2007. The Carinthian aged 53 is a professor at the Faculty of Philosophy of Vienna University. The brilliant stylist has become known to the general public with his books, essays as well as commentaries on historical-philosophical, topical socio-political and ethical issues.

The title is granted in recognition of the activities of researchers who succeed in making their work understandable to a larger audience and thereby enhance the image of Austrian research. Liessmann had not only achieved this with his journalistic work but also as the scientific head of "Philosophicum Lech", a forum for philosophical, cultural and social scientific discussion, which was staged already for the tenth time in 2006.

Recently the scientist had caused a stir with his book "Theorie der Unbildung", in which he postulated that at present there was no binding notion of education. Education could not only be defined as a qualification for the labour market but should encompass the process of "shaping" a personality that had to learn about the world. "Education has a lot to do with developing self-awareness and self-determination, with independence, cultural and artistic knowledge. I am of the opinion that people who are only trained for a specific labour market segment are badly qualified in times of dramatically changing labour markets", stated Liessmann in an interview to the Austrian daily "Wiener Zeitung".

Minister of Education Claudia Schmied congratulated the philosopher, whom she described as an "integral part of intellectuality in Austria". In his congratulatory statement Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer emphasised that as one of Austria's most eminent philosophers Liessmann had achieved that deliberation and reflection were again considered social values, and not only profit maximisation in the markets". Thanks to Liessmann the "ability to accept criticism has been re-valued in public debate. His commitment to a broad basis of argumentation and against the simplification of thought and

action have paved the way for a new quality, also in political discourse".

Recent "scientists of the year" were climate researcher Helga Kromp-Kolb (2005), mathematician Rudolf Taschner (2004) and immunologist Josef Penninger (2003). ■

Mourning for Adolf Frohner

The graphic artist and painter Adolf Frohner died unexpectedly aged 72 on 24 January 2007. The foundation stone for the Frohner Museum had been laid in Krems-Stein only on 19 January 2007. The museum is to be opened still this year. The great strength of the work of the artist born in Groß-Inzersdorf (Lower Austria) in 1934 is probably the result of his autodidactic approach. In 1962 Frohner had co-founded "Vienna Actionism" with Hermann Nitsch and Otto Mühl. He soon split away from this group because he disliked working in front of an audience, which was, however, part and parcel of the concept of Actionism. Nevertheless, Frohner (who had attended the grammar school of the Cistercian monastery in Zwettl) adhered to some principles of Actionism. Women – bound, maltreated – are a recurrent motif in his oeuvre. Their beauty is fascinating but disturbing for it is especially their physical frailty and (mental) wounds that make these women beautiful.

Frohner made his international breakthrough at the Sao Paulo and Venice biennials (1969/70). After his appointment as a professor at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, Frohner won finally recognition in Austria.

In commemoration of the deceased artist, Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer stated that "as a pioneer of Actionism in art and of alternative ways of thinking" Frohner had been among those "initiating the social transformation in intellectual and cultural terms". His provocation has always been coupled with sensuality, which was expressed in broken forms and caused an uproar". Claudia Schmied, the minister responsible for education, art and culture, praised Frohner as "a polarising, provocative personality with a lasting impact on the art and society of our country". Governor of Lower Austria Erwin Pröll paid homage to the deceased, who had always stood out for his "great tolerance and humanitarianism" and had been a loyal to Lower Austria.

Konrad Paul
Liessmann:
Theorie der
Unbildung.
Zsolnay: Vienna
2006
ISBN 3552053824

Former Secretary of State for Art Franz Morak said that the artist had “searched in daring experiments for effects of art transforming society“. ■

Universal artist Gerhard Bronner was the “conscience of Austria”

Cabaret artist, composer and writer Gerhard Bronner from Vienna died aged 84 in a hospital in Vienna on 19 January 2007 after having suffered a stroke some days earlier. He had had a decisive impact on the Vienna’s musical cabaret in the post-war period. On New Year’s Eve he had still performed at Theater Akzent in Vienna, presenting a mix of famous cabaret songs, such as “Der G’schupfte Ferdl“ or “Der Papa wird’s schon richten“ (previously interpreted by Helmut Qualtinger, one of the heavyweights of this genre).

Born in Vienna’s working class district Favoriten in 1922, he had to flee from the Nazis to Palestine in 1938. He returned to Vienna in 1948, worked as an entertainer and pianist in Marietta Bar, which he bought in 1955. It became a springboard for many artistic careers, e.g. of Georg Kreisler, Louise Martini, Peter Alexander and Helmut Qualtinger.

The artist was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art and the Nestroy Ring of the City of Vienna. He recorded more than 60 long-playing records. In addition, he wrote scores of more than 120 TV entertainments and 2,000 radio programmes, e.g. the popular series “Guglhupf“ – created jointly with Peter Wehle – and “Schlager für Fortgeschrittene“. His achievements include the translations of US musicals (“My Fair Lady“, “Alexis Sorbas“ and “Cabaret“) and new versions of classical operettas, such as “The Bat” based on Johann Strauß for Covent Garden Opera in London. In 2004 he published his memoirs “Spiegel vorm Gesicht“. In 2005 he created together with Elfriede Ott “Noch immer – schon wieder“ at Stadttheater in Walfischgasse in Vienna, which became a highlight in Vienna’s tradition of witty cabaret programmes. Ott now delivered a touching speech at his funeral.

Gerhard Bronner was the father of four children, among them Oscar Bronner, the co-founder and editor of the magazine “profil“ and the daily “Der Standard“.

Numerous politicians mourn Bronner. Chancellor Gusenbauer described him as the “artistic conscience of Austria. He was a fierce critic of the dark sides of the Austrian history, of which he had been a victim“. Former Secretary of State for Art Franz Morak considered Bronner the “Prometheus bringing irony into Austria’s reality of the 1950s and 1960s“. His cabaret songs became part of “the repertoire of popular culture“. Minister for Culture Claudia Schmied referred to his death as an “irreplaceable loss“. In their obituaries Vienna’s Mayor Michael Häupl and City Councillor Andreas Mailath-Pokorny explained Gerhard Bronner’s “ambivalent relation“ to Vienna, as it was no longer possible for him to feel at home in this city.

Gerhard Bronner was buried in a tomb of honour of the City of Vienna on 26 January 2007. Among the mourners was Federal President Heinz Fischer, who gave a moving speech. ■

Vienna’s Albertina: Biedermeier – the invention of simplicity

The exhibition “Biedermeier – the invention of simplicity“ running at Albertina until 13 May 2007 presents about 450 objects of art of the period between 1810 and 1830. Paintings, drawings and water colours as well as examples of craftwork and interior decoration illustrate the new ethical ideal that emerged around 1800 at the court and in nobility and was soon conquering the capitals of Central and Northern Europe. The main characteristics of the new style – which was not at all bourgeois and reactionary – are the reduction to basic geometric form, bright colours and the complete absence of surface decoration. The exhibition clearly demonstrates that early Biedermeier – in contrast to the more sentimental later version of the style – marks the beginning of modernism, paving the way for Art Nouveau artists around 1900, e.g. Josef Hoffmann, Koloman Moser and Otto Wagner.

Archduke Charles propagated the new simplicity, which soon spread from Vienna, the venue of the “Vienna Congress“, to Berlin, Copenhagen, Munich and Dresden. After moving to the Albertina Palace in 1820, he commissioned Central Europe’s most radical refurbishment and interior decoration project of the epoch – discarding the pomp of late rococo. ■

Biedermeier – the invention of simplicity:
www.albertina.at

The exhibition was created in cooperation with the Milwaukee Art Museum, the German Historical Museum Berlin and the Musée de Louvre in Paris.

Salzburg is the ideal Mozart, EURO 08 and Olympics city

Salzburg's application to host the Olympic Winter Games 2014 is an application of all of Austria. A major prerequisite had been fulfilled when the federal government assumed a guarantee for Salzburg's candidacy.

Many IOC members have still to be convinced before the final decision will be taken in Guatemala (July 2007). Salzburg's comprehensive high-quality package will not be easily outshone by its rivals Sochi (Russia) or Pyeongchang (South Korea). The Secretariat of Sport has launched a new project. All members of government will act as ambassadors advertising for Salzburg's application as the host city of the Olympic Games. ■

EURO 2008: Europe visits Austria

The countdown for the European Football Championship 2008 in Austria and Switzerland started on 24 January 2007 when the four host cities Vienna, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Klagenfurt signed the Host City Charter. According to President of the Austrian Football Federation (ÖFB) Friedrich Stickler, intensive preparations are underway. Arrangements are made according to plan – from the stadiums and hotels to training centres for the national teams and from the security concept to the ticket distribution system. EURO 2008 is the largest sports event in the history of Austria. It offers Austria a unique chance in sports, culture and tourism to present itself to several billion people around the globe. This will undoubtedly enhance Austria's image. The expected value-added totals about 321 million euro. ■

Bonn: EU Sports Directors' Conference

The conference of the Sports Directors of the European Union took place in Bonn on 1/2 February 2007 in the framework of the German Presidency. Austria was pleased about the fact that also the German EU Presidency attached priority to the subject "sport & economy". The Austrian EU Presidency had put up this project at European level in the first half of 2006, which met with great interest in the

European sports community. The representatives of Portugal have already announced their intention to continue work in this field in the framework of their Presidency.

Other items on the meeting agenda were the great potential of sport to promote social integration as well as the joint European combat against doping. Sports club are to act increasingly as "bridge builders" between different social groups. Anti-doping efforts focused on the revision of the Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). ■

Secretariat of State for Sport and BSO strengthen sport at school

The Secretariat of State for Sport (an organisational unit of the Federal Chancellery) and the Federal Sports Organisation (BSO) decided to intensify their good cooperation. This is the result of talks between Secretary of State for Sport Reinhold Lopatka, BSO President Franz Löschnak, BSO Vice-President Theo Zeh and BSO Secretary-General Walter Pillwein. They also expressed their common concern that it was necessary to strengthen school and nursery sport. The Secretariat of State for Sport and the BSO want to encourage children and young people to do more sport. To this end, closer cooperation with the sports federations and sports clubs is envisaged. ■

Working group on study fees set up

Another common concern of the Federal Chancellery and the BSO is to develop a system granting fee reductions to students doing voluntary work in sports at schools and in educational contexts. A working group headed by professor Norbert Bachl was set up within the Department for Sports Science of Vienna University to develop models for this project. The aim is to offer a basic training programme for students to qualify them for their tasks in sports education. ■

Its excellent image as the city of music and sport makes Salzburg the ideal athletic and cultural venue for the Olympic Games 2014.

European Football Championship: EURO 2008 is the largest sports event in the history of Austria.

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