

News from Austria

No. 04/08

HOME AFFAIRS | EUROPE

Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer: EU Reform Treaty strengthens social rights

EUROPE | INTERNATIONAL

UN conference: "Vienna Forum" against human trafficking

ECONOMY

Chancellor Gusenbauer supports voestalpine in climate protection

CULTURE | MEDIA | SCIENCE

Vienna: sculpture "For the Child" unveiled by Minister Faymann

SPORTS POLICY

"Fit for Austria" forms alliance with business

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Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer: EU Reform Treaty strengthens social rights

The EU Reform Treaty strengthens fundamental rights protection in the European Union, Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer said with conviction in the Parliamentary Constitutional Committee on 6 February 2008. He expects that the Charter of Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Reform Treaty will provide for higher standards, especially with regard to social rights, than the European Human Rights Convention (Editor's note: in Austria the ECHR has the status of a constitutional act).

According to Gusenbauer, the inclusion of fundamental rights into the EU Treaty guaranteed a "high degree of maturity of the political union" as this was an aspect going far beyond the original economic objectives of the European Communities.

The EU Reform Treaty will be ratified in Austria on 9 April 2008 at the earliest. ■

Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer: "get to the root of inflation"

It was a top priority "to get to the root" of the inflation problem, stressed Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer after the Council of Ministers on 6 February 2008. Together with the competent ministers, proposals to curb inflation would be prepared in the next weeks. Austria would also actively champion an anti-inflationary policy with the EU and the European Central Bank (ECB), explained the Chancellor. These initiatives would, however, show only medium-term results. Therefore the weakest groups in society had to be helped immediately. Anti-inflationary measures are discussed in the areas of housing, energy, food and fees having a "particularly adverse" effect on lone parents, the recipients of social assistance and minimum pensions or large families, said Gusenbauer. ■

Bures: genital mutilation is a severe human rights violation

"Female genital mutilation is an expression of the traditional discrimination against women and also one of the most cruel forms of violence against women, which has to be combated

internationally", stated Minister for Women's Affairs Doris Bures on the International Day against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) on 6 February 2008. Based on estimates, annually about 135 million women were affected. Neither cultural nor religious or health-related pretexts were acceptable to justify FGM. Its only purpose was to control women, to restrict their freedom and it constituted a severe human rights violation, said Bures. She also explained that the practice of FGM was deeply rooted in the societies and traditions of many countries in Africa and the Middle East.

The public had to be made aware of this injustice. In 2007 the Ministry of Women's Affairs had made available almost 280,000 euros for 14 projects and associations offering for example legal advice as well as medical support to FGM victims and female migrants.

In Austria the practice of female genital mutilation is treated as bodily assault in the law. It can usually be prosecuted as bodily assault with intent and severe lasting effects. Not only the doctors (both female and male) but also parents subjecting their daughters to the practice of FGM are held responsible. ■

2007: 50% decline in naturalisation

The number of foreign nationals naturalised dropped by almost 50% last year. These data of the Austrian Statistical Office (Statistik Austria), were presented to the public on 13 February 2008. While in 2006 26,259 persons had been granted the Austrian citizenship, it were only 14,041 in 2007, i.e. minus 46.5%. The cause is the more stringent nationality law under which in March 2006 the waiting period for naturalisation had been extended, in particular for "privileged groups" (refugees, EU citizens, spouses). It is noteworthy that a large group (35.6%) among those naturalised has been born in Austria. ■

New President of Federal Council

Helmut Kritzinger (79), born in South Tyrol, became President of the Federal Council (second chamber of the Austrian Parliament) on 14 February 2008. The representative of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) has been a member the Federal Council since 2002. He is married and has five children. ■

Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer: "The incorporation of fundamental rights into the EU Treaty illustrates the high degree of maturity of the political union."

Minister for Women's Affairs Bures: "Female genital mutilation is one of the most cruel forms of violence against women, which has to be combated internationally."

UN conference: "Vienna Forum" against human trafficking

In Vienna the so far largest UN conference on trafficking in human beings was held from 13 to 15 February 2008. The "Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking" analysed the causes and consequences of human trafficking and deliberated on possible counter-strategies. In the high-calibre event staged at Austria Center in Vienna 1,200 delegates from 100 countries participated, representing governments, NGOs, the business sector and art.

Statements were presented for example by Speaker of Parliament Barbara Prammer, Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, Egypt's first lady Suzanne Mubarak, Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Oskar prize winner Emma Thompson and pop singer Ricky Martin.

There was a general agreement on the main causes for human trafficking: poverty, lack of education, discrimination, armed conflicts and hopelessness.

Worldwide an estimated 2.7 million people were victims of human trafficking, 80% of them were women and children, stressed the Austrian Foreign Minister. Plassnik referred to a "new alliance" committed to the combat against trafficking in human beings, which she described as one of "the most severe violations of human rights".

Suzanne Mubarak, a professional sociologist, also launched an appeal to focus more on the victims. The combat against trafficking in human beings posed an enormous challenge. "It is the task of every state to assume its responsibility", stated Mubarak.

Speaker of Parliament Prammer warned against criminalising the victims and witnesses of trafficking in human beings. She called for improved legal provisions to protect the victims from deportation and to offer them reparation programmes.

Experts expect that the problem will aggravate despite all the measures taken. One of the main goals of the United Nations, politicians and human rights activists is to sensitise the public. US pop singer Ricky Martin, who set up a foundation against human trafficking, presented 1.5 million signatures urging action against human trafficking from all five continents. ■

President Fischer supports Austrian participation in the Chad mission

Federal President Heinz Fischer emphatically defended the participation of the Austrian Federal Army in the EU's humanitarian mission in Chad. Even a neutral country should not shut its eyes to misery beyond its own borders, underlined Fischer in an interview with representatives of several print media on 9 February 2008.

Austria should not deny its support to the UN in its efforts towards stabilisation, securing peace and humanitarian aid, stated, said Fischer.

"I support the Austrian Federal Army in this European mission on request of the United Nations and thank our soldiers for their voluntary participation", said the Austrian head of state. Even if it was impossible to guarantee security and although there had been injured and even dead in individual cases, ten thousands of Austrian soldiers had supported peace-keeping missions along instable borders and helped in saving many refugees and lives, underlined the Commander in Chief of the Federal Army.

Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer currently does not see any reason why the participation of Austrian soldiers in the Chad mission should be stopped. "There is a UN mandate as well as a resolution of the EU, it is an exclusively humanitarian action to protect between 400,000 and 500,000 refugees", explained the Federal Chancellor after the session of the National Security Council in Vienna on 7 February 2008. At the same time Gusenbauer emphasised however that continued participation would depend on whether EUFOR could guarantee absolute neutrality. ■

Kosovo autonomy: Austria in favour of wide consensus

With regard to the Declaration of Independence of Kosovo on 17 February 2008, Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik stated that nobody had supported a peaceful solution between Belgrade and Priština more strongly than Austria. Now "maximum unity" within the EU had to be achieved concerning the question of the official recognition of Kosovo. Austria and the other EU Member States were striving to act "as friends of Belgrade and Priština". ■

Suzanne Mubarak: "The combat against human trafficking is an enormous challenge. Human trafficking could undermine the safety and security of nations. Therefore they have to assume responsibility."

Speaker of Parliament Prammer: "In the context of human trafficking one also has to tackle questions of migration, human rights, gender aspects, civil freedoms, the security of the state and development aid."

Foreign Minister Plassnik: "As far as the question of the recognition of an independent Kosovo is concerned, the EU Member States work on achieving maximum unity and are striving to act as the friends of Belgrade and Priština."

Chancellor Gusenbauer supports voestalpine in climate protection

Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer promised voestalpine full support in the debate on climate protection. This pledge was made by the head of government during a visit to the plant in Linz on 8 February 2008.

The meeting with voestalpine Managing Board led by CEO Wolfgang Eder focussed mainly on the competitive situation of the steel group. The plant in Linz was the “cleanest steelworks in the world“, registering the lowest output of CO₂ emissions per ton of steel produced. Therefore, it would be unacceptable that the site was forced to close for reasons of climate protection and that steel production was relocated to China, where the CO₂ emissions per ton of steel were double the amount. It is especially the best that have to become a standard for all the others, said Gusenbauer.

Thus the Federal Chancellor supported a proposal of voest boss Eder, who had recently contributed a benchmark concept to the climate protection discussion, which provided rules for the individual industrial sectors, e.g. the steel, paper or cement industry. The company of each sector with the lowest emissions should be exempted from taxes, while climate offenders should be sanctioned.

Gusenbauer underlined that he lent his full support to voestalpine and its CEO Eder. This proposal would be given absolute priority in the negotiations in Brussels to ensure the survival of a highly developed industry. The Federal Chancellor praised the highly favourable development of the voestalpine group. ■

EU demands zero deficit in Austria

In view of the its positive economic situation, Austria should intensify its efforts to achieve the zero deficit planned for 2010 already in 2008 or next year at the latest. This was the conclusion of an assessment of Austria’s euro stability programme by the European Commission presented on 13 February 2008. The Brussels-based institution had examined the stability and convergence programmes of a total of 16 EU Member States.

According to the EU Commission’s assessment, “Austria’s macroeconomic and budgetary

position is amongst the soundest in the EU in both the short- and long-term“.

For 2007 the Ministry of Finance reported a preliminary minus of 0.7% of the gross domestic product (GDP) to Brussels. As Minister of Finance Wilhelm Molterer informed, the official final result could be even better than expected. However, as the European Commission had been notified by Vienna of an estimated deficit of 0.7% for this year, it recommended Austria to aim for more ambitious targets in budget consolidation. At present it is not clear whether Austria will achieve the zero deficit still in 2008 or next year. According to Molterer, the budget planned for 2008 is based on an economic growth of 2.4%. The forecasts in March would show if this assumption was realistic, stated the Minister of Finance.

At their meeting in Brussels on 12 February 2008 the EU ministers of finance reaffirmed their goal of achieving a balanced budget by 2010, which had been agreed on in April 2007. ■

Vienna is fifth richest EU region

Vienna ranges fifth in a ranking of the richest regions in the European Union. As the EU-wide comparison by the EU’s statistical office Eurostat of 12 February 2008 shows, the federal capital of Austria successfully defended its position of last year. Based on the latest available data of 2005, the per-capita regional gross domestic product (GDP) reaches 178% of the EU average – based on purchasing power. Richer regions are only London (303%), Luxembourg (264%), Brussels (241%) and Hamburg (202%). 42 EU regions registered a per-capita GDP exceeding the 125% threshold; the 15 poorest regions are to be found in Bulgaria, Poland and Romania. In Austria Salzburg (143%), Vorarlberg (135%) and Tyrol (133%) rank behind Vienna. The only Austrian region below the EU average was Burgenland (slightly below 89%). ■

EURO 2008: 1 million hotel nights

Austria expects 600,000 football tourists and 1 million additional hotel nights in June during EURO 2008. According to the Economic Chamber Austria (WKO), the value-added is likely to grow by 200 million euros. ■

Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer: “The plant in Linz is said to be the cleanest steelworks of the world.“

“It is especially the best that have to become a standard for all the others.“

Vienna: sculpture "For the Child" unveiled by Minister Faymann

Between 1938 and 1939, still before the outbreak of World War II., about 10,000 predominantly Jewish children from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland were rescued from NS persecution within nine months. The so-called "children's transports" were a rescue campaign, in which many organisations and individuals participated. (Early) Christians, Quakers and Jews formed an alliance to save these children, who other than the remaining family members survived. The children departed from Vienna's western railway station for the Netherlands, then boarded a ferry to Britain. Finally they arrived at London Liverpool Station. One of the most important organisers of the campaign was Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld. The charismatic young man managed on his own to bring several thousands of refugees to England and to provide his charges not only with safety but also with a home, training and jobs. He assumed personal liability for the children to obtain entry permits from the British government.

Sculptor Flor Kent born in Venezuela and working in London dedicated her work "For the Child" to the children saved and their rescuers. It will be displayed in the entrance hall of Vienna's western railway station as from 14 March 2008. The bronze sculpture represents a boy sitting on a suitcase, which has exactly the size of the only piece of luggage the children were allowed to take with them.

The model for the sculpture was Sam Morris, the great-grandson of one of the children saved through a children's transport in 1938. Together with his great-grandmother Sara Schreiber, he will be present at the unveiling of the sculpture by Minister of Transport Werner Faymann on 14 March 2008. ■

15 years of Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights

The year 2008 is marked by human rights anniversaries around the world. The 2008 festivities will include 60 years of the General Declaration of Human Rights and the 15th anniversary of the UN Human Rights Conference, held in Vienna in 1993 under the

motto "All Human Rights for All!".

In Austria the 15th anniversary of the foundation of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights (BIM) is of great importance. "The Institute and its staff members do a great job. The Institute recognises the grievances of the present and wants to redress them in the future with the aid of scientific analyses", said Minister for Science Johannes Hahn in his congratulatory message. The BIM was founded in 1992 by human rights experts Felix Ermacora, Manfred Nowak and Hannes Tretter. It was officially opened in February 1993. Since that date Austria's largest research institute specialised in human rights at (inter)national level has worked on women's rights, anti-discrimination measures, children's rights, human trafficking, torture, etc. The BIM has set new standards in realising projects in the context of the collapse of former Yugoslavia, above all by studies on "ethnic cleansing" or the fate of missed persons.

Since 2002 the BIM has played an active role in the EU enlargement process by engaging in "twinning" projects. Under the leadership of Hannes Tretter, these projects provide support to candidate countries or new EU Member States in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

In the near future the interdisciplinary research platform "Human Rights in the European Context" will start its activities on the human rights development in Europe. Ten university departments and five faculties of the University of Vienna will participate in the project coordinated by the BIM. "By founding the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna in 2007, new vistas were opened up for Vienna's role as a research location. As a new centre of human rights discourse and policy, Vienna could develop into an 'EU capital of human rights' and resume its historic role as an interface between Eastern and Western Europe. The research platform plans to address and co-shape the challenges of this development", Manfred Nowak described the plans. Minister for Science Hahn explained that the foundation of the platform was "another initiative of the BIM worth supporting so as to show how racism and xenophobia, the discrimination of women – that is still common in many parts of Europe – but also poverty prevailing in many countries of this world could be reduced on a sustainable basis. ■

"For the Child": the exhibition of the sculpture is based on an initiative of Milli Segal and Flor Kent and was supported by ÖBB-Holding AG and the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT).

Vienna: New ÖNB Literary Museum in former office of Franz Grillparzer

The “Writers Museum“ holds a magnetic attraction not only for the Irish but also for many foreign visitors of Dublin interested in literature. According to plans of the Austrian National Library (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek/ÖNB), Vienna will soon have a literary museum. It is to be accommodated on the premises of the Court Chamber Archives (Hofkammerarchiv) that are under monumental protection. From 1832 to 1856 they were the workplace of the greatest Austrian writers, Franz Grillparzer, the then director of the Archives. This innovative museum will present Austrian literature after “Josephinism” (era of reform policy under Joseph II.) through showcases, screens and exhibits. The museum concept was developed by the head of the Klagenfurt-based Robert Musil Institute, Klaus Amann, literary critic Evelyne Polt-Heinzl, Director-General of the Austrian State Archives Lorenz Mikoletzky, writer and historian Doron Rabinovici and the head of the Department for German Language and Literature Studies of Vienna University and of the ÖNB Literary Archives, Wendelin Schmidt-Dengler. The exhibition surface will cover three floors, one of it will be reserved for temporary exhibitions, the fourth floor could accommodate the administration. “The building has to be renovated completely and will be remodelled for its new functions”, explained Manfred Matzka, Director-General of the Federal Chancellery’s Administration. The renovation will still start in 2008. ÖNB Director Johanna Rachinger considered an opening in 2011 “ideal“. But before that the necessary funding had to be ensured. The ÖNB informed Minister of Culture Claudia Schmied of the necessary budgetary resources: a one-time investment of 2.2 million euro for establishing the museum and annually 850,000 euros for operations. Based on the concept, Austrian literature will be brought to life in 25 sections. The visitors will be taken through various rooms in chronological order. Multi-media technology will be used especially in the modern literature section. The museum catalogues would also make important contributions to scientific documentation, said Schmidt-Dengler. Franz Grillparzer’s office, which has been completely preserved, would

constitute the centre of the museum. Of course, it would remain unchanged. Moreover, the purpose of the museum was not to display “only manuscripts” but to make visible the work of writing itself as well as the role of writers in society, the work of publishing houses and “naturally the written text itself“.

Arnold Schönberg Center celebrates 10th anniversary

In 1997 the Schönberg heirs decided to transfer Arnold Schönberg’s entire estate from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles to the city of birth of the composer. Ten years ago, in March 1998, the Arnold Schönberg Center was opened in Schwarzenbergplatz in Vienna after the so-called “Bel Etage” (main storey) of Palais Fanto had been revamped for the new foundation. On a surface of 1,300 m² the Arnold Schönberg Center houses archives in state-of-the-art high-security rooms, a library including media archives, an exhibition area with a reconstruction of Schönberg’s study, a multi-purpose hall for an audience of 200 persons as well as seminar rooms for Vienna’s University of Music.

On 16 February 2008 the Centre celebrated its 10th anniversary with a gala concert with the Chamber Ensemble of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Kent Nagano and with soloists Janina Baechle and Klaus Florian Vogt. The programme included Schönberg’s Chamber Symphony op. 9 and Gustav Mahler’s “Song of the Earth“ in the version of Schönberg and Rainer Riehn.

The Centre shows the multimedia exhibition “Arnold Schönberg – Who am I“ up to 22 August 2008. Its aim is to provide insight into the composer’s life and work and to turn the spotlight on the manifold activities of the Centre during the past ten years. The Center offers comprehensive archives, which are accessible to researchers, composers, musicians and the general public. The collection comprises about 20,000 pages of music and text manuscripts, 3,500 historical photos, personal documents, diaries and calendars, concert programmes and Schönberg’s entire library with printed music, books and sound recordings. The show was opened by Nuria Schoenberg Nono, the daughter of the composer and widow of Luigi Nono.

www.onb.ac.at

www.schoenberg.at

President Fischer received Austrian Youth Red Cross delegation

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of its foundation, Federal President Heinz Fischer, patron of the Red Cross, received a delegation of the Austrian Youth Red Cross on 12 February 2008. The Federal President wished the responsible representatives a lot of energy for their future work and thanked all volunteers for their great commitment. Jazz fan Fischer was highly pleased by a short presentation of the big band of the Music Secondary School Edelschrott (Styria) swinging and rocking the halls of the Presidential Residence at the former imperial palace Hofburg. "In the early years of the Youth Red Cross one had to fight hunger and rickets, today we combat eating disorders, over-exposure to media stimuli and a loss of values", stated Heinz Gruber, Federal Chairman of the Austrian Youth Red Cross. In view of President Fischer's forthcoming Africa trip, the Youth Red Cross asked him to take along a project: "Water is life – water for 6,000 children in Africa". ■

Minister Schmied wants to familiarise Austrian youth with domestic film-making

"I make a clear commitment to the Austrian film. In the framework of its art promotion scheme, the Ministry of Culture contributes to the success of the film industry and increased its funding for 2007 and 2008 by 33%. The budget of the Austrian Film Institute was stepped up by 30% from 9.6 million euros (2006) to 12.5 million euros (2008), the budget for innovative film-making doubled between 2007 and 2008 from 1 million to 2 million euros. The budget for educational films had almost tripled in 2007 to 600,000 euros. Thanks to these funds the production of internationally successful films has become possible, e.g. Stefan Ruzowitzky's 'The Counterfeiters' and Götz Spielmann's 'Revanche', which received its world premiere at the Berlinale Film Festival. The total number of films funded directly by the Chancellery's Department of Art increased in 2007 by about 66% to 63 films", stated Minister of Culture Claudia Schmied. To improve the situation of the Austrian film sustainably, the support of – especially the young – audience had to be

ensured. Schmied wants to provide fresh impetus with a special programme to raise public awareness of the Austrian film endowed with up to 1 million euros. The concept is developed by the Austrian Film Institute: "We need the interested public of tomorrow. These additional resources will mainly be invested to kindle enthusiasm among young people and audience groups previously hardly reached by familiarising them with Austrian films, by cooperation with film festivals and repertory cinemas as well as by targeted information campaigns". In general, Schmied pleads for a "new financing concept for the film industry". As an approach to a solution she proposed that the income from the audience fees of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) should be earmarked for Austrian film-making. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Finance were challenged "to develop innovative concepts to make investments in this important branch of the 'creative industry' more attractive". ■

Grammy for arrangement of Joe Zawinul "In A Silent Way"

The album "In A Silent Way" of Miles Davis was a worldwide jazz sensation in 1969. The composition was by Joe Zawinul (1932-2007), who had been born in Vienna. On the recording he performed as a keyboarder with his colleagues Chick Corea and Herbie Hancock. Five months after his death, Zawinul is on the list of the Grammy winners. The award for the "Best Instrumental Arrangement" went to Vince Mendoza for his big band version of "In A Silent Way", which can be found on Zawinul's last album "Brown Street" (2006). It was recorded in his jazz club in Vienna called "Birdland" like the Zawinul composition dedicated to Charlie "Bird" Parker and the former New York jazz club of the same name. ■

Leopold Museum: Albin Egger-Lienz

To mark the anniversary of the 140th birthday of Albin Egger-Lienz (1868-1926), the Leopold Museum Vienna presents the largest exhibition devoted to the artist from Eastern Tyrol (ending on 29 May 2008). The 180 works on show include portraits, landscapes, war scenes and "thought images" about life, death and hope. ■

www.jugendrotkreuz.at

www.birdland.at

www.leopoldmuseum.org

“Fit for Austria“ forms alliance with business

The project “Fit for Austria“, the largest fitness campaign of the Republic of Austria, is a success story. 30 mobile “Fit for Austria“ coordinators ensure that Austrians do more exercise on 365 days a year. They support about 14,000 clubs pursuing a common goal: to motivate more people to engage in sports activities. At the Loipersdorf spa the new Citroën vehicle fleet was handed over to the 30 “Fit for Austria“ coordinators – Citroën is the official car partner of the fitness initiative. By promoting an efficient use of funding, this type of alliance with the business sector safeguards the financial success of the campaign. Up to 31 December 2010 the coordinators will demonstrate their mobility. The countrywide sports initiative of the Federal Chancellery, Secretariat of State for Sport, sets new standards for the sports activities of the Austrians. It is implemented in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Sports Organisation and the sports federations ASKÖ, ASVÖ and SPORTUNION. Since the launch of the “Fit for Austria“ campaign, more than 3,000 sports programmes of Austrian sports associations have been awarded the quality seal for health-oriented exercise programmes. ■

Bowling association under the red-white-red flag

Ludwig Kocsis (50) from Burgenland was elected President of the World Ninepin Bowling Association (WNBA). This is an important Austrian success at the level of international associations. Ludwig Kocsis, President of the Austrian Bowling Association, will transfer the WNBA headquarters to Vienna. For this purpose the Secretariat of State for Sport makes available 10,000 euros. Besides the International Biathlon Union, the International Taekwondo Federation, the European representation of the Paralympic Committee and the European Handball Federation, the WNBA will become the fifth international association headquartered in Austria. Thanks to the new chairmanship of the WNBA, it will be possible to host more international bowling events in Austria. The World Cup Club Teams will for example be staged in the Federal Performance Centre Ritzing

from 30 September to 4 October 2008. 20 nations with 28 teams are expected to participate in this international large-scale event with almost 400 athletes. The organisation of a World Championship Individual is being considered for 2010. ■

Hockey team heading for Beijing

The national hockey team is Austria’s only team that has still a real chance of qualifying for the Olympic Summer Games in Beijing. To achieve this goal, the team will go to Chile in March to participate in the decisive qualification tournament. Austria will compete with Chile, England, India, Mexico and Russia for participating in the Olympics. From the athletic perspective, prospects are bright after winning bronze in the European Indoor Hockey Championships. But the financial burden for the amateur team is considerable, which it has to cover partly from its own pocket. To fill its coffers, the Hockey Association organised a large charity event titled “Olympic Hockey Hopes“. Via Top Sport Austria the Secretariat of State for Sport supports the national team competing under the red-white-red flag with an additional 56,000 euros. ■

Ski Jumping World Cup victory for Austrian Thomas Morgenstern

Thomas Morgenstern clinched the World Cup title six competitions before the end of season. After Andreas Goldberger in 1996, the 21-year-old Carinthian was the first athlete to win the Crystal Globe for Austria with a fifth-place finish in the ski jumping event in Willingen (Germany). With the lead in the overall World Cup standings, Morgenstern achieved his most important goal of the season and his second major success after the Olympic victory in large hill ski jumping in 2006. ■

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