

News from Austria

No. 09/08

HOME AFFAIRS

Energy and climate master plan are to lead to a trend reversal

EUROPE | INTERNATIONAL

UN chief Ban Ki-moon in Vienna

ECONOMY

Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer calls for stronger global financial organisation

CULTURE | MEDIA | SCIENCE

Kreisky-Preis: Gusenbauer pays homage to historian Montefiore

SPORTS POLICY

Government starts largest health campaign of the Second Republic

Our service to our readers: quicker and even more up-to-date information by e-mail. Now available free of charge:

www.bundeskanzleramt.at/aktuell

Energy and climate master plan are to lead to a trend reversal

Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer intends to prepare a long-term energy and climate protection master plan for the period up to 2020 still during the current year. This was announced by him at the second climate protection summit of the federal government in Vienna on 17 April 2008. Taking action as a consequence of the failed climate strategy, he stated: "In Austria the trend reversal failed. Emissions and energy trends continue to develop in the wrong direction", Gusenbauer admitted. Minister for the Environment Josef Pröll was also "disillusioned" about the failure in implementing the climate strategy adopted last year.

In response to the social partners' call for long-term planning, an energy and climate master plan for the period up to 2020 was agreed on at the climate protection summit. The basic principle was a "top-down approach" with all ideas being guided by the objective", the Chancellor explained. Therefore the Climate Protection Act would define the framework, which will "take shape for the first time" in this master plan.

The long-term master plan would be drawn up as soon as the EU standards for burden sharing were adopted in the context of the objectives for renewable energies.

In general the government wants to move away from the principle of voluntariness and impose binding obligations on the Länder. Gusenbauer referred to a "burden sharing" for the climate goals of the Länder (e.g. the CO₂ reduction quotas), which should be defined very clearly in the planned Climate Protection Act.

According to the head of government, besides burden sharing between the Länder, the Act could enshrine the Kyoto targets and EU standards up to 2020 as well as concrete reduction goals for individual emission sources (room heat, transport, energy, industry and agriculture). In addition, the Federal Chancellor called for a significant increase of the eco-electricity quota and announced that a master plan for water power would be issued in May. ■

Tax reform: premiere for Committee of the federal government

The new Tax Reform Committee of the federal

government became active on 21 April 2008. An agreement was reached to maintain individual taxation and to ensure stronger support to families. With this decision the so far controversial positions of the coalition partners – Social Democratic Party (SPÖ) and Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) – were reconciled.

The ÖVP is now pleading for reducing the tax burden on families by increasing tax deductions and tax exemptions as well as making childcare expenses deductible from tax, while the SPÖ wants to support low-income families and to reduce the tax burden on them, e.g. by increasing family allowance. The Social Democrats argue that low-income families pay less or no taxes and would therefore not benefit from tax deductions or tax exemptions. Tax bonuses would have to be granted as negative taxes.

According to Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer, the 2010 Tax Reform is to result in a total tax relief of about 3 billion euros. Lower incomes (up to 1,350 euros) will profit from a reduced contribution to unemployment insurance. This measure has been advanced to 1 July 2008. Details on the key elements of the tax reform – average income earners and families – are to be clarified by the Tax Reform Committee by October. Five priorities have been defined: tax rate reform, tax cuts for families with children, safeguards for Austria as a business location/corporate taxation, simplified tax law and employee participation. ■

Same-sex partnership: Minister of Justice presented bill

On 24 April 2008 Minister of Justice Maria Berger presented her bill for a same-sex registered partnership. Based on this proposal, homosexuals could register their partnership formally. This would grant their relationship – at least under civil law – a status similar to marriage, with all rights (e.g. transfer of tenancy rights, equal rights in inheritance matters and common name) as well as obligations (mutual maintenance, support and faithfulness). The adoption of children would remain forbidden. Berger submitted the bill for review.

No agreement has been reached with the coalition partner. The ÖVP also rejects the discrimination of same-sex civil unions but calls for a clear delimitation from marriage. ■

Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer: "As far as climate protection is concerned, we have to turn around now. Still during the current year we will therefore prepare a long-term energy and climate master plan for the period up to 2020."

"The Climate Protection Act applicable throughout Austria is to provide the framework, which will take shape for the first time in the master plan."

UN chief Ban Ki-moon in Vienna

Together with Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik and Vienna's Mayor Michael Häupl, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon inaugurated a new conference building on the UN premises in Vienna ("UNO City") on 25 April 2008 during his several-day visit to Austria. Ban expressed his thanks to Austria for the new conference facilities.

Following a meeting with President Heinz Fischer, the UN chief referred to a "generous gift", which would support important talks. "I appreciate the strong partnership between the UN and the Austrian government", Ban said. Other issues discussed were Kosovo, the Middle East crisis as well as the conflict between the Tibetan people and China against the background of the Olympic Games in Beijing. Ban Ki-moon expressed his great concern about increasing food prices which had led to a "global crisis" and called for "immediate measures". Austria's support was also required. At the same time he praised Austria's commitment to peace-keeping and humanitarian UN missions.

Ban Ki-moon was optimistic about Austria's candidacy for one of the ten non-permanent seats on the UN Security Council for the period 2009/10.

Ban also participated in a working meeting of the foreign ministers of the Regional Partnership (Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland). ■

Eight presidents at meeting in Graz

Following an invitation by Federal President Heinz Fischer, the presidents of Germany, Italy, Latvia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal and Finland will gather for an informal multilateral summit in Graz (Styria) on 29/30 April 2008. The subjects discussed will include Europe's perspectives based on the EU Reform Treaty of Lisbon as well as European foreign and security policy issues. ■

Foreign Minister Plassnik pays official visit to Turkey

During her two-day official visit to Turkey, Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik met with President Abdullah Gül, Prime Minister Tayyip

Erdogan and her Turkish counterpart Ali Babacan in Ankara on 21 April 2008. Different opinions continued to be held on Turkey's possible accession to the EU, while there was consensus on foreign policy issues and the fight against terrorism.

Plassnik pled for a partnership between the EU and Turkey as close as possible, while Foreign Minister Babacan insisted on Turkey's full EU membership. Both sides underlined, however, that close cooperation was required in the combat against terrorism.

The Foreign Minister held talks with Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I and Grand Mufti of Istanbul Mustafa Cagrici in Istanbul on 22 April 2008. The meeting with Bartholomew was a "signal". Religious freedom formed part of the European system of values as well as of EU accession talks, Plassnik told reporters.

Plassnik also visited the Austrian school and the Austrian hospital in Istanbul. ■

Austrian diplomacy focusing on Middle East crisis

The spotlight was turned on the crisis in the Middle East in Vienna on 16 April 2008. Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik received Secretary-General of the Arab League Amr Moussa as well as the cofounder of the Geneva Middle East Initiative, Israel's former Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, for individual talks. Plassnik appealed to make 2008 a "year of results".

Moussa, who also met with President Heinz Fischer and Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer, was sceptical about a peace solution (main issue: Israel's settlement policy). Beilin stressed that a dialogue with all Palestinian forces, including Hamas, was a prerequisite for a peaceful solution. ■

Federal Council passes EU Reform Treaty

On 24 April 2008 – two weeks after the National Council (first chamber of Parliament) – the Federal Council (second chamber) approved the EU Reform Treaty. Now only the signature of President Heinz Fischer is missing to make ratification legally effective. The date has not yet been announced. ■

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: "I highly appreciate the strong partnership between the UN and the Austrian government."

Gusenbauer calls for stronger global financial organisation

The euro group has to show a more uniform approach to be able to formulate and assert common interests in international organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer demanded in his opening statement at the Economics Conference of the Austrian National Bank (Oesterreichische Nationalbank / OeNB) on 28 April 2008. The lack of unanimity weakened the euro's external image as an international currency driven by the economic power of currently 15 countries.

Gusenbauer had caused a stir at international level at the "Progressive Governance Summit" in London already some weeks ago with this proposal, which he reaffirmed in Vienna in view of the continuing financial crisis. The key element of his initiative is the demand to create a global financial organisation as a counterweight to the global financial system. Similarly to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), this institution should be vested with binding instruments under international law. Its tasks would consist in formulating international standards for governing and supervising the financial markets and in monitoring their implementation. No new organisation had to be founded. It would also be possible to reorganise existing institutions for this purpose. Gusenbauer also suggested that an international credit register should be set up within this institution. Ultimately the aim was "to prevent that countries competing for financial assets are forced to increasingly relax – or even lift – financial markets regulations to the detriment of the general public and the taxpayer, as this is the case with hedge funds", Gusenbauer said.

The regulatory arbitrage of the past years and decades (especially concerning regulation outside the banking sector) also formed part of the present problem. All elements of the financial market had to fall under the scope of the appropriate regulation, especially since equal opportunities in competition had to be ensured. "To regulate only banks, while the credit risk is transferred to deregulated hedge funds or is assessed by rating agencies not subject to any regulations is negligence, Gusenbauer criticised. At least now the bitter truth was known that the

rewards of a liberalised capital market and a global financial system can only be reaped to the full extent when minimum regulatory standards with the corresponding sanctions are in place in all the countries.

The Federal Chancellor also explained the Austrian plea for introducing a tax on financial transactions to finance the EU budget. A minimum tax rate of 0.01% would already entail a substantial tax yield without having adverse effects on the efficiency of allocations of the financial markets. "Those earning their money by economic activity, both employees and entrepreneurs, find it difficult to understand the special tax status of quick money", Gusenbauer emphasised.

The Federal Chancellor identified further need for action with regard to the Union's social dimension, economic policy coordination and exchange rate policy.

In his statement Gusenbauer strongly advocated that Slovakia should be admitted to the euro-zone in 2009. This would be decided by the European Commission and the European Central Bank (ECB) in the near future. The euro-zone should not be a "closed society, no exclusive club", Gusenbauer said. He described the currency union and the euro as a worldwide recognised success story. However, not only the further integration but also the enlargement of the Union were indispensable. ■

Record current-account surplus

Austria's trade sector had made a major contribution to last year's strong economic growth. With a current-account surplus of 8.8 billion euros or 3.2% of the gross domestic product (GDP), a new record result was achieved in 2007. Compared to 2006, this corresponds to an increase by 2.5 billion euros. In 2006 the current-account surplus totalled 6.3 billion euros or 2.4% of the GDP. Austria's external sector has recorded surpluses since 2002. This was confirmed by OeNB Governor Klaus Liebscher at the presentation of the 2007 balance of payments on 21 April 2007. With a ratio of goods imports to exports of 42%, Austria's foreign trade interdependence reached an all-time high. The income from services trade alone amounted to 12.3 billion euros. ■

Federal Chancellor Gusenbauer: "We need a considerably stronger international financial architecture. Sooner or later we have to create a global financial organisation having legally binding powers for the global financial system."

The text of the Federal Chancellor's statement can be downloaded from: www.austria.gv.at

Austria has recorded a current-account surplus since 2002. In 2007 it amounted to 8.8 billion euros or 3.2% of the GDP.

Kreisky Prize: Gusenbauer pays homage to historian Montefiore

On 14 April 2008, British historian and expert for Russia Simon Sebag Montefiore was awarded the 2007 Bruno Kreisky Prize for the Political Book. Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer stated in his prize presentation speech at the award ceremony at "Vienna Museum Karlsplatz" that Montefiore's book made a significant contribution to the general understanding of Stalin's personal development and that this continued to be a topical issue. Montefiore said that nobody before him had addressed the subject and that he wanted to tell history as it had been, not only in a simple and understandable way but also as a warning. The two "Prizes of Acknowledgment" went to Ditha Brickwell for her Europe-critical study "Die Akte Europa. Eine Utopie geht verloren" as well as to Henriette Mandl, editor of the book "Maximilian und Emilie Reich. Zweier Zeugen Mund". Chancellor Gusenbauer, President of the Renner Institute, stated appreciatively that "all of the three prize winners guaranteed highly topical and inspiring reading material". This year the Kreisky Prize had been granted once more for works that "combined quality, thematic diversity and topicality in an excellent way". To confer the prize on Mandl had not only been a literary but also a political decision. The self-critical confrontation with the Holocaust and National Socialism had to continue in Austria and Europe, the Federal Chancellor added. Henriette Mandl explained in her thank-you statement that she dedicated the prize to her parents. With her work she had accomplished "making her parents heard as they had not been heard in 1938". Ditha Brickwell also thanked for the prize, which "enjoyed an extremely good reputation". Furthermore, she referred to the "secrete message" of the book. Austria was making a very special net contribution to the EU – for with its "intellectual heritage" the country made a decisive contribution to the "soul of Europe". ■

National Library: Late Antique Libraries in Egyptian monasteries

The Papyrus Museum of the Austrian National Library (ONB) in Vienna presents a fine

selection of manuscripts from monasteries of Old Egypt (exhibition ending on 14 November 2008). The sumptuous libraries of baroque monasteries, such as the library at the Monastery of Melk (Lower Austria), look back on a long tradition. Monks had books at their disposal already in the first monastery of the Christian world founded in Upper Egypt in 325 AD. In accordance with the monastic rules, every member of the monastic community had to learn reading and writing. The exhibition explores many questions, e.g. how these libraries of early Christianity worked, which books they stored, who produced the manuscripts and, last but not least, who was allowed to use these books. The papyri show very clearly that people outside the monasteries could lend books just like the residents. The monasteries developed into cultural centres, even far from the big cities. The highlight of the exhibition is the library of the so-called White Monastery in Upper Egypt. Abbot Shenouda, a charismatic man who is said to have lived for more than 100 years and who was a friend of Archbishop Cyril of Alexandria, headed this monastery from 385 to 465 AD. It were mainly his manuscripts that were preserved in this library.

The ONB accommodates large parts of the library of the White Monastery which was discovered at the end of the 18th century and whose inventory is spread over many collections all over the world. The show at the ONB is the first to give insight into the treasures of this unique monastic library. ■

New exhibition on EURO 2008

The world of football is waiting feverishly for EURO 2008 to be held in Austria and Switzerland from 7 to 29 June 2008.

The exhibition "Helden – Heilige – Himmelsstürmer" ("Heroes – Saints – Ascending Kickers") opens already on 21 May 2008. About 140 exhibits are to illustrate the links between football and religion. Fan trophies such as shirts and scarves are juxtaposed to icons and relics.

Vienna Museum Karlsplatz presents until 3 August 2008 the fascinating show "Wo die Wuchtel fliegt – Legendäre Orte des Wiener Fußballs" ("Where the Ball Flies. Legendary Venues of Viennese Football"). As the concept developed by culture scholars such as Roman

www.onb.at

www.dommu-seum.at

www.wienmu-seum.at

Horak, Heidi Thaler, David Forster and Georg Spitaler, illustrates, football strengthened local identities, created urban myths and became the arena for political conflicts also in Vienna. The exhibition gives deep insights into a today practically unknown socio-historical dimension of the federal capital, showing football as an important part of the city's history. ■

Crossing Europe: Gusenbauer calls for more film funding

At the opening of the European film festival "Crossing Europe" in Linz on 22 April 2008, Federal Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer pledged to improve official support for the film industry in Austria. Manager Christine Dollhofer stressed the "very strong foundation" of the festival in Linz and growing international awareness. At the festival ending on 27 April 2008 a total of 150 feature films and documentaries from 32 countries were shown and about 100 film directors attended the event.

Very often Europe was perceived only as a huge market, Gusenbauer explained. However, Crossing Europe turned the spotlight on different cultures and identities. The Foreign Language Film Oscar for Stefan Ružowitzky's "Die Fälscher" ("The Counterfeiters") could be seen as a starting point for a new era of the Austrian film, also in financial terms.

Upper Austria wanted to become the permanent home of the festival, Governor and Cultural Officer Josef Pühringer stressed. The festival went beyond all geographical, social and cultural borders and its focus was on "ruptures, the borders in our heads and studies of local milieus".

Crossing Europe presented films, such as "La graine et le mulet" ("Seed and the Mule") by Moroccan Abdellatif Kechiche, who lives in France. It tells the story of the discharged 60-year-old ship-yard worker, who wants to open an Arab restaurant on a boat and is faced with obstacles by the French bureaucracy. The festival audience was also impressed by the film "Once" by Irish film director John Carney, which describes the encounter between a street musician from Dublin – played by "Frames" singer Glen Hansard – and a Czech immigrant (Marketa Irglova). ■

www.crossingEurope.at

The Fund was initiated in 1953 to mark the 80th birthday of President Theodor Körner by the Chamber of Labour (AK) and the Federation of Trade Unions (ÖGB). To date it has supported more than 3,000 researchers and artists.

Austrian science fiction author Ernst Vlček died

Austrian science fiction author Ernst Vlček, who also wrote under the pseudonym Paul Wolf, died aged 67 in Brunn am Gebirge (Lower Austria). Born in Vienna in 1941, he was trained in a commercial occupation, in which he was active for many years. He was enthusiastic about science fiction novels, wrote short stories and drew illustrations already in his youth. In the late 1960s, Vlček became one of the most popular science fiction authors of the German-speaking countries. Numerous novels were published, among them his first Perry Rhodan paperbacks or the horror series "Dämonenkiller" ("Demon Killers"), which was considered the best in this genre in the 1970s. He also wrote for the fantasy series "Dragon" and then contributed to the series "Mythor", which to date is one of the most extensive fantasy eposes in German language.

Ernst Vlček created bizarre peoples like the machine-like Cantaro, the freakish human-like Ennox and the exotic spider tribe Arcoana. Unusual observations and creative language made the stories fascinating. Privately, the author captivated with his warm-heartedness and humour. ■

Theodor Körner Prize awarded

On 24 April 2008, 59 young researchers and artists were awarded the prizes of the Theodor Körner Fund initiated by the Chamber of Labour (AK) and the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions (ÖGB). The prizes were presented by AK President Herbert Tumpel at Vienna University. In addition, four special prizes were awarded by the City of Vienna. Among the prize-winning projects are a research paper about basic principles for new therapies for butterfly children (suffering from epidermolysis bullosa), an analysis of the effects of monetary and fiscal policies on unemployment, a paper on the creative potential of people with a "borderline personality", an analysis of contemporary German song texts from 1970 to the present as well as a study on the Viennese violinist Alma Rosé, killed in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944. ■

School reform: Schmied and Hahn demonstrate unity

In the press conference before the Council of Ministers on 23 April 2008 Minister of Education Claudia Schmied and Minister of Science Johannes Hahn stressed their general agreement regarding the reform of the A-levels exam as well as cross-institutional teacher training. Hahn also informed that Austria had become a member of ESO (European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere). The Minister explained that joining ESO, the most important astronomical organisation, had been of great importance for basic research in Austria.

Hahn explained with regard to the cross-institutional teacher training system that a “careful discussion” was required which would be started now. He described coordination between universities and the higher pedagogical training institutions (“Pädagogische Hochschulen”) as crucial. Education in the different disciplines could be provided at the universities, while the pedagogical skills could be acquired at the higher pedagogical training institutions. Schmied said that the opening of the latter was the right moment for discussing this subject. She stated that the definition of uniform employment provisions was an objective. As far as the plans of the Minister of Education to effect a sweeping reform of the A-levels exam were concerned, the Minister of Science welcomed the commitment to uniform standards. But he rejected speculation that this could limit access to universities. Uniform standards should not be used for introducing rankings. ■

State Prize for Scientific Journalism went to Robert Buchacher

Robert Buchacher, who headed the scientific news desk of the magazine “profil” for many years, receives the 2006/07 State Prize for Scientific Journalism. The “Prize Promoting Young Journalists” goes to Veronika Schmidt of the daily “Die Presse“. This was announced by the Ministry of Science, which awards the prizes every second year on the basis of a jury selection. Minister of Science Johannes Hahn will present the prizes on 16 June 2008.

Robert Buchacher, born in Klagenfurt

(Carinthia) in 1943, studied journalism and art history at the University of Vienna. Buchacher has worked for the Vienna-based weekly “profil“ since 1974, in the first ten years as a home affairs editor, then he joined the team for society/reportage, interrupted by a sabbatical in the USA. Since 1997 he has been head of the science section. Among the numerous awards won by the journalist are the Prize of the Austrian Medical Chamber for Medical Journalism (1996) and the Cardinal Innitzer Prize for Scientific Journalism (2004).

Veronika Schmidt, born in Salzburg in 1977, studied biology at the University of Vienna, where she completed her doctoral studies “with outstanding mention“. While studies in Brazil for her thesis submitted for her diploma degree and dissertation would have opened up opportunities of an academic career in Latin America, Schmidt opted in favour of journalism. Since 2006 she has been writing for “Die Presse“, especially about the work of Austrian researchers. ■

Vienna: internationally highest fellowships to five researchers

In commemoration of the Austrian logician and mathematician Kurt Gödel (1906-1978), the Vienna-based Kurt Gödel Society awarded for the first time the fellowships to five international researchers, which are offered jointly with the US-American John Templeton Foundation. According to their own information, this is the “world’s highest prize money ever awarded to logicians“. Each fellowship amounts to about 100,000 euros. The researchers were selected by an international jury headed by logician Harvey Friedman (Ohio State University). Among its members was experimental physician Anton Zeilinger (Vienna University). The decision was based on assessing a scientific article, a research project and the curriculum vitae of the individual applicants. In the category “pre-doctoral fellow“ Pavel Hrubes from Prague (Czech Academy of Sciences) and Spaniard David Fernandez (Stanford University) were selected. The winners in the category “post-doctoral” were Russian Andrey Bovykin (University of Bristol) and Canadian Peter Koellner (Harvard University). Frenchman Thierry Coquand, professor at the Computing Science Department of Goteborg University, became “senior fellow“. ■

<http://kgs.logic.at/godel-fellowship/index.php?colloquium>

Government starts largest health campaign of the Second Republic

With the campaign “More movement for children – better opportunities for young top athletes” adopted in the Council of Ministers on 16 April 2008, the federal government launched the largest health campaign of the Second Republic. A total of 2.4 million euros will be invested in promoting sport and physical exercise in nurseries and primary schools as well as in improving the situation of young talents in Austrian competitive sports. The “Alliance between School and Sports Club” (“Kooperation Schule und Sportverein”) will support health-related measures, while the aim of the Federal Network for Youth Competitive Sports (“Bundesnetzwerk Nachwuchs-Leistungssport“) is to optimise the promotion of young talents. The programme comprising intensified cooperation models of schools with extracurricular sports organisations and sports clubs as well as the sport-specific (further)training of teachers of primary schools and nurseries is to start at the beginning of the school year 2008/2009. A comprehensive concept is developed in cooperation with the Ministries of Education and Health as well as institutions such as the Federal Sports Organisation and the Federation of Social Insurance Institutions under lead of the Secretariat of State for Sport (set up within the Federal Chancellery). A budget of about 1.9 million euros has been allocated to the campaign. This is the first time that an overall concept has been developed to improve the opportunities of young top athletes. The concept will improve the framework for youth competitive sports and its implementation will be financed by the Federal Chancellery with 500,000 euros annually. ■

“Fit for Austria“ Forum 2008 also targeted at children

The motto of the 2008 “Fit for Austria“ Forum was “Kinder gesund bewegen“ (“Moving children, healthy children”). All forum participants agreed that it was necessary to target programmes at children as young as possible. Currently no less than 28 percent of the kids suffer from obesity and overweight. 50 percent

of our youngsters move less than an hour a day. This does not only have adverse effects on their health and quality of life but also makes it difficult for the Austrian sports clubs to find new talents. To activate children, all stakeholders – “Fit for Austria“ coordinators, schools, families, sports clubs and policy-makers – have to join forces.

The political level is called upon to create an adequate framework. With regard to physical education at primary schools, it was necessary to depart from the principle of class teachers and replace them by specialist subject teachers. The sports club should not concentrate only on elite sport but also on mass sport. ■

Girls' Day: increase women's share in men-dominated sports

In Austrian sport there is a great need to catch up in terms of equal opportunities, especially as far as organisational structures, sports officials and allegedly typical men sports are concerned. In the framework of the Girls' Day 2008, a total of 13 ministries and federal institutions offered 25 programmes for girls with a view to inform them about a wider spectrum of occupations beyond traditional role models. The Sports Department in the Federal Chancellery focused on sports professions and the opportunities they opened up. In the framework of “Womensport Goes School“ (WoGoS) projects, coaches and top athletes were invited, who offered workshops, exercise stations and show training to the girls. This allowed the girls to obtain firsthand information about the tasks, problems and opportunities of elite athletes and coaches.

The Secretariat of State for Sport in the Federal Chancellery provides targeted support for the search of talents, education and training of women in men-dominated sports like football, cycling or ice hockey. So far 500,000 euros have been made available to the WoGoS project, in which professional sports associations, clubs, schools and Vienna University cooperate. ■

www.fitfueroesterreich.at

Girls' Day 2008 at federal institutions:
www.frauen.bka.gv.at/site/5574/default.aspx

Womensport Goes School:
www.wogos.org/de

IMPRINT

Owner (publisher) and producer: Federal Chancellery, Federal Press Service, A-1014 Vienna, Ballhausplatz 1.
Editor: Dr. Franz Putz, tel. ++43/1/53115-2579, fax ++43/1/53115-4274, e-mail: franz.putz@bka.gv.at.
Dispatch: Division VII/2, Ms. Irene Bucher, tel. ++43/1/53115-2958, fax ++43/1/53115-2880, e-mail: irene.bucher@bka.gv.at.
Website: <http://www.bundeskanzleramt.at>. Excerpts from this text may be reprinted. Published by the Federal Press Service – Vienna.