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HOME AFFAIRS**Federal government agreed on budget**

The governing parties – Social Democrats (SPÖ) and People’s Party (ÖVP) – reached a consensus on the budget for 2011 at their closed-door meeting at the thermal spa resort Loipersdorf (Styria) on 22/23 October 2010. Hence, the tax and austerity packages as well as the fundamentals of the budget plan for the period up to 2014 have also been agreed on. The measures laid down include increases of the mineral oil tax (extra income of 417 million euros in 2011) and of the tobacco tax (100 million euro), the introduction of a bank tax (500 million euro), an airline ticket tax (60 million euro), a capital gains tax on shares (30 million euro), the abolishment of blocking periods for speculation in shares and higher taxes on foundations (50 million euro). Moreover, rules governing the pension benefits of defined groups of workers and invalidity pensions are to be tightened. Cuts on pensions, family allowances (savings in 2011: about 254 million euro) and long-term care allowances have been planned. On the other hand, investments will be made in the thermal rehabilitation of buildings (100 million euro). More funds will also be allocated to universities (80 million euro) and schools (80 million euro). A 100-million-euro budget has been earmarked for increasing the research premium from 8% to 10%. The Structural Fund of the Health Insurance Institutions will receive a 40-million-euro budget. 400 million euro annually will be made available for prioritised programmes.

Presenting the budget figures after the meeting, Chancellor Werner Faymann and Minister of Finance Josef Pröll expressed their satisfaction and highlighted the constructive talks. “This budget guarantees a stable course and is socially balanced”, said Faymann. We even managed to decrease the budget deficit more significantly than forecast only recently. Two thirds of the extra income could be attributed to the sphere of banks and financial assets but not to mass taxes paid by the households, emphasised Faymann. Pröll also drew attention to “fair burden-sharing”. This new budget marked the beginning of the way out of the “debt trap”. According to Faymann, in 2011 tax receipts would total about 1.2 billion euro – minus compensation payments to commuters, hauliers and borrowers. They are expected to rise to 2.2 billion euro by 2014. He underlined that the budget deficit would decrease continuously from 3.2% in 2011 to 2.2% in 2014. Expendi-

ture would be cut by 1.6 billion euro in 2011 and by 3.3 billion euro in 2014.

National Holiday on 26 October

In his statement on the Austrian National Holiday on 26 October, Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann also commented the current debate on compulsory military service and the Federal Army. The tasks and organisation of the Federal Army would have to be “redefined in the next months”. An open discussion was needed – taking into account experiences and models of other European countries that had opted for a professional army, Faymann demanded at the Council of Ministers’ traditional special session on the National Holiday, which was held for the first time in the framework of a swearing-in ceremony of almost 1,200 recruits at Vienna’s Heldenplatz.

One should not dodge the question how military national defence could be realised in a united Europe in the future, stated Faymann. Disaster relief, peace missions and national defence should, however, be taken into account. He praised the achievements of the Federal Army as an internationally active peace troop. The Chancellor also pledged his commitment to Austria’s neutrality. He paid tribute to the NS resistance fighters and victims’ associations participating for the first time in the celebrations at Heldenplatz, transformed on this day into a showcase for the Federal Army.

Regional elections of Vienna: SPÖ started coalition talks with the Greens

The SPÖ and the Greens started talks on a possible government cooperation in Vienna on 27 October 2010. According to Mayor Michael Häupl (SPÖ), the new municipal government should be formed by mid-November.

Franz Voves reappointed as Governor

On 21 October 2010, Franz Voves (SPÖ) has been reappointed Governor at the first session of Styria’s regional government with the votes of SPÖ, ÖVP and the Freedom Party (FPÖ). He described the coalition with the ÖVP as a “reform partnership”.

Red-White-Red Card for Immigrants

On 18 October 2010, the social partners presented the Red-White-Red Card for “demand-oriented” immigration, enshrined in the government programme of SPÖ and ÖVP. The qualifications and skills of potential immigrants will be identified on the basis of a credit system. Immigration of key labour force is to become more transparent and easier to control.

EUROPE INTERNATIONAL**Federal Chancellor Faymann at EU summit in Brussels**

To be better equipped to deal with possible new financial crises, the EU heads of state and government agreed on important measures concerning the euro at their recent summit meeting in Brussels (28 to 29 October 2010). The euro stability pact will be tightened. Moreover, the introduction of a permanent rescue mechanism for bankrupt euro-zone countries and “limited” EU Treaty amendments will be examined.

Proposals regarding the installation of a permanent crisis management mechanism to protect the euro-zone are to be prepared by December, the final decision on a “minor” change of the Treaty will be taken at the summit of EU heads of state and government in December.

The suspension of the voting rights of deficit sinners demanded by Germany and France should be examined “at a later date”. Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann was “glad” that the discussion on voting rights had receded into the background. He criticised that stripping voting rights from EU Member States was “unimaginable and nonsensical”. Early warning systems offered plenty of possibilities of preventive intervention if countries accumulated excessive debt.

The Federal Chancellor reiterated that from Austria’s perspective no EU Treaty amendment was required to install a permanent euro rescue umbrella after 2013. (The current euro rescue package of 750 billion euro will end in 2013.) German Chancellor Angela Merkel had explained very clearly that due to a judgment of the Federal Constitutional Court Germany considered a Treaty amendment absolutely necessary to create the new rescue mechanism. The so-called “no-bailout” clause in the EU Treaty should not be changed. Based on an analysis of the EU’s legal service, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso clarified that no EU Member State had to hold a referendum if the EU Treaty amendment affected only the guarantee mechanism, informed Faymann.

Minister Spindelegger: Serbia should be brought closer to the EU

On 25 October 2010, the EU foreign ministers decided in Luxembourg to forward the EU membership application filed by Belgrade on 22 December 2009 to the European Commission. This was an “absolutely crucial signal to Serbia and the entire Western Balkans”, stated

Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger. According to him, “the first fundamental step on the path towards Europe” had been taken.

After Serbia agreed to a UN resolution in September, in which the country committed itself to a dialogue with Kosovo, Spindelegger has been highly active in this connection in the past few weeks. As far as the EU is concerned, Kosovo has been formally recognised as an independent state (unilateral declaration of independence on 17 February 2008) by 22 EU Member States, including Austria. Spindelegger also expressed his hope that Serbia would cooperate in a positive way with the UN War Crimes Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, above all with regard to General Ratko Mladic.

Minister of Defence Darabos pays official visit to Egypt

On 27 October 2010, Minister of Defence Norbert Darabos travelled to Egypt for a several-day working visit. Items on his agenda were talks with Minister of Defence Mohamed Hussein Tantawi and Minister of State for Military Production Sayed Abdou Meshaal. The aim of the visit was to intensify bilateral relations. Other items on the agenda were the security policy situation in the Middle East (Iran) and the Horn of Africa (Somalia) as well as Egypt’s role in the African Union.

Federal President Fischer at presidents’ meeting in Lübeck

Federal President Heinz Fischer participated in a meeting of the heads of German-speaking states in Lübeck (Schleswig-Holstein, Germany) on 1 November 2010. Besides Fischer, German Federal President Christian Wulff received Swiss President Doris Leuthard as well as Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein. The main subjects for discussion were immigration, integration and human rights.

20 million euro for Jewish cemeteries

The National Council paved the way for the renovation of Jewish cemeteries in Austria. In a joint petition submitted by the Social Democratic Party (SPÖ), the People’s Party (ÖVP), the Greens and the Alliance for the Future of Austria (BZÖ) on 20 October 2010, the necessary state funds are guaranteed. The Federal Republic of Austria will contribute one million euro annually during the next 20 years. The same amount will be made available by the Jewish Religious Community (Israelitische Kultusgemeinde / IKG). A special fund will be set up for this purpose.

ECONOMY

Unemployment decreased significantly

Unemployment in Austria decreased again in October compared to the same month of the previous year. The number of registered unemployed persons dropped by 7.9% (-19,386 persons) to 226,137. But also the number of persons participating in training programmes declined slightly. In late October, the Public Employment Service reported a minus in the number of training participants of 2.7% (-1,970 persons), a total of 71,827 jobseekers attended training courses of the Public Employment Service. Thanks to the economic upswing, the number of registered vacancies rose by 18.5% (+5,131) to 32,915. The number of jobless persons and training programme participants recorded the strongest decline (minus 21,356 persons) since March 2008.

In October unemployment decreased in all categories and sectors, the most significant decrease was observed in occupations in the metallurgical and electrical engineering sector. The metallurgical sector had been affected most severely by the crisis, the substantial decline of jobless persons in this industry showed therefore that the crisis was receding, emphasised Minister for Labour and Social Affairs Rudolf Hundstorfer in a press release.

The unemployment rate for men decreased more significantly (-11.4%) than that of women (-3.8%); the decrease in unemployment among Austrian nationals (-8.7%) was stronger than among foreign jobseekers (-4.4%). Unemployment of young people (15 to 24 years) dropped more sharply (-9.8% to 37,198 persons) than that of older workers aged 50 and above (-3.4% to 47,437 persons). The number of long-term unemployed persons (longer than 12 months) decreased substantially, i.e. by one fifth (-20.3%) to 5,507 persons.

Minister Hundstorfer considers the strong decline in long-term and youth unemployment as a major success of the active labour market policy. "Clear impetus" had been provided through numerous measures "in these difficult segments". As far as the combat against youth unemployment was concerned, Austria was among "Europe's best", stressed the Minister.

In 2011 additional priorities would be set in labour market policy to combat long-term unemployment, announced the Minister for Social Affairs. Next year an extra amount of 56 million euro would be made available for the labour market reintegration of long-term unemployed persons. These funds would be used to provide stronger support to employ-

ment projects, socio-economic enterprises and non-profit job initiatives, said Hundstorfer.

Record summer tourist figures

Obviously, Austria's tourism has finally overcome the crisis. In the current summer season 2010, both the number of hotel nights and of guests went up. According to preliminary data, the number of hotel nights between May and September totalled 55.18 million, corresponding to a plus of 1.1% compared to the same period of the previous year, informed the Austrian Statistical Office (Statistik Austria) on 27 October 2010. A ten-year comparison revealed that this was the second-best result in hotel nights since 2008. The number of guests (arrivals) rose by 3.5% to 15.71 million.

The number of nights spent by domestic guests in Austrian hotels increased by 1.0% to 17.70 million, while the number of overnight stays of foreign guests went up by 1.1% to 38.48 million.

Shanghai Expo: 3.2 million flocked to the Austrian pavilion

The World Expo in Shanghai ended after six months on 31 October 2010 with a record number of 72 million visitors. The organisers described the Expo as the largest tourist event in the history of China. Austria also achieved a fairly positive result at the Shanghai World Expo. According to Minister for Economic Affairs Reinhold Mitterlehner, "numerous new economic contacts are the basis for a new export boom in one of the best future markets". Austria's medium-term goal was to double exports to China, informed the Minister in a press release.

A total of 3.2 million people had flocked to the Austrian pavilion on the Expo site; on average, 17,400 visitors were counted per Expo day. The presentations focused on energy and environmental technology, high tech, logistics and the automotive industry.

OMV takes over Turkish Petrol Ofisi

The listed Austrian petrol company OMV takes over the remaining 54.17% in the Turkish petrol group Petrol Ofisi from the Turkish Dogan Holding for 1 billion euro.

World Economic Forum will meet in Austria in June 2011

After a gap of several years, the World Economic Forum will again meet in Austria next year. A regional summit meeting on Eastern Europe and Central Asia has been scheduled for 8 and 9 June 2011.

CULTURE MEDIA SCIENCE

State Opera: cheers for new production of Paul Hindemith's "Cardillac"

German composer Paul Hindemith (1895-1963) always attached great importance to technical precision despite being a provocateur from an early age. His entire oeuvre is characterised by his unique system of organising the material, while his compositions remained firmly rooted in tonality and integrated historical references fitting his style – from Baroque fugues to jazz.

The opera "Cardillac" – libretto by Ferdinand Lion, based on the novella "Mademoiselle de Scuderi" ("Das Fräulein von Scuderi") by E.T.A. Hoffmann – deals with a goldsmith who kills everybody who buys his jewellery because he cannot bare to part with it. The opera was premiered in Dresden in 1926, the second version in Zurich in 1952. Although Hindemith did not permit any further performance of the first version after 1953, the revised version – including no less than 14 out of 18 pieces of the first version – was not really successful. After WWII., the composer wanted to avoid any understanding attitude towards the murderer, which could be easily misunderstood.

Nevertheless, conductor Franz Welser-Möst decided in favour of the version of the 1920s, "because it is cruder, wilder and more concise. Hindemith's basic message: artists are free to do everything, even kill. But things do not work out for his protagonist: first Cardillac murders the buyers of his jewellery, but in the end he is killed".

Sven-Eric Bechtolf was responsible for the first fully-staged new production under the new director of Vienna State Opera, Dominique Meyer. He created an extra fine gem reminiscent of silent film masterpieces by Fritz Lang or Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau. The stage director was supported by Rolf and Marianne Glittenberg (stage sets and costumes), a duo paying knowledgeable tribute to modernism between expressionism und Neue Sachlichkeit ("New Objectivity"), on which the opera is founded. Slanting skyscrapers designed as black-and-white silhouettes create the gloomy atmosphere of Cardillac's minimalistic cosmos, in which only the interior of his black safe sparkles with the golden glitter of the jewels recovered by murdering his customers. The black-clad and pale-faced singers with doll-like movements support the silent film horror reminding of "Metropolis" or "Nosferatu". The production trying to avoid a psychological

development of the characters gives an almost ideal interpretation of Hindemith's calculating and cool music. As Bechtolf said, "typical characters, typical behaviours are presented, and the aim was to make them distinguishable, turn them into wood-cut visuals". A sentence that could be by Bertolt Brecht, with whom Hindemith had engaged in a productive but conflict-laden cooperation in this period, e.g. the "Baden-Baden Lesson on Consent" and "Lindbergh's Flight" (with Kurt Weill). By the way, Brecht was also considered as librettist for "Cardillac".

At the premiere at Vienna State Opera on 17 October 2010, the audience celebrated "Cardillac" frenetically – certainly above all Paul Hindemith, who became professor of composition at Berlin University of Music in 1927, lost his job in 1934 and was forced into emigration due to the Nazi boycott of his works; then of course the singers, notably Juha Uusitalo as the goldsmith, Juliane Banse and Herbert Lippert as Cardillac's daughter and her lover. The second couple in the performance, Matthias Klink as the "Cavalier" and Ildikó Raimondi as the "Lady", as well as the peculiar and extravagant Provost-Marshal Alexandru Moisiuc also received rapturous applause. Under its conductor, the downsized orchestra (conforming to the intentions of the composer) recreated the impact of the first version of the opera – a better "Cardillac" is barely conceivable. www.wienerstaatsoper.at

"Book Vienna 10" celebrates Paul Nizon and Armin Thurnher

This year the Reading Festival Week "Buch Wien" ("Book Vienna") takes place from 15 to 21 November 2010. For the first time the festival is opened with the award ceremony of the Austrian State Prize for European Literature. The prize will be conferred on Paul Nizon from Switzerland at the Ministry of Education. The Austrian Booksellers' Honorary Prize for Tolerance in Thought and Action will be presented to journalist and editor-in-chief of the Viennese weekly "Falter" Armin Thurnher on 19 November 2010. "Even in critical reviews he never lacks respect for his opponents", the jury explained its decision.

The opening statement at the book fair will be presented by journalist and writer Christian Ankowitsch, who lives in Berlin.

Among the authors taking part in readings are Ken Follett, Bernhard Schlink, Donna Leon, Dietrich Grönemeyer, Tommy Wieringa, Jussi Adler-Olsen and Alia Yunis.

Austrian writers reading from their books are inter alia Barbara Frischmuth, Erich Hackl and Doron Rabinovici.

About 250 exhibitors will participate in "Book Vienna", 100 are international publishers. Eleven nations are represented, the focus on CEE is evident in view of numerous exhibitors from Romania, Serbia and Hungary. Some of the large German publishing houses such as S. Fischer Verlag, Suhrkamp, Kiepenheuer & Witsch, Hanser, Rowohlt and Aufbau Verlag will also come to Vienna. The book fair with an exhibition space of 7,200 square metres offers five stages for readings. In a special e-book exhibition sector, visitors may try out e-readers and inform themselves about book downloads.

The admission fee to the book fair has been reduced – from nine to seven euro.

This year's free book campaign is devoted to the novel "Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" by Dai Sijie.

Besides, the Austrian book trade is growing: in September 2010 sales climbed by 6.9 per cent compared 2009, a comparison of the entire year results in a plus of 4.5 per cent.

www.buchwien.at, www.lesefestwoche.at

Heinisch-Hosek: important prizes to Luzenir Caixeta and Erika Weinzierl

On 27 October 2010, the Käthe Leichter State Prize and the Women's Lifetime Achievement Award 2010 were presented at the Federal Chancellery. Minister for Women's Affairs Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek praised prize winners Luzenir Caixeta and Erika Weinzierl for their outstanding accomplishments in the field of women's research, gender research and equality in the labour market. "The achievements of women have to be communicated more intensively to be heard", said Heinisch-Hosek.

This year the Käthe Leichter State Prize granted by the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Public Service went to Luzenir Caixeta of "Maiz", the autonomous centre by and for female migrants in Linz. Through this association, Caixeta promoted social and legal improvements for female migrants, especially sex workers. Heinisch-Hosek also stated that she wanted to take measures to improve the situation of sex workers. The main goal was to abolish legal provisions according to which sex work was *contra bonos mores*, i.e. immoral.

This year's Women's Lifetime Achievement Prize was awarded to historian Erika Weinzierl. Heinisch-Hosek praised Weinzierl as an "ethical and moral institution with an exemplary character". She played a "pioneering

role" in contemporary history, her merits in promoting a confrontation with National Socialism free from taboos were "outstanding". "The Lifetime Achievements Prize goes to a woman who has always fought for equal treatment and made women's accomplishments visible". It was important to grant these prizes to spotlight social role models and acknowledge feminist work, stated the Minister for Women's Affairs.

This was the 16th time that the prizes were awarded to women active in the field of gender research and equality in the spirit of Käthe Leichter, a national economist and the first woman expert of the Chamber of Labour.

Faymann receives participants of Vienna Seminar of Nobel Prize Laureates

On the occasion of this year's Vienna Seminar of Nobel Prize Laureates, Chancellor Werner Faymann will host a reception at the Federal Chancellery on 3 November 2010. The reception will be attended by Nobel Peace Prize winners Mohamed ElBaradei (2005), José Ramos-Horta (1996), Melissa Flemings, as the representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (1954 and 1981), as well as the President of Médecins Sans Frontières (1999), Unni Karunakara.

The 5th Vienna Seminar of Nobel Prize Laureates on 3 and 4 November 2010 will be devoted to the subject "peace research". International politics, human rights and development cooperation will be at the heart of the discussions.

Schmied and Karl: new teacher training system by the end of 2010

The new teacher training system developed by the Ministries of Education and Science will be finalised by year-end. This was affirmed by Minister of Education Claudia Schmied and Minister of Science Beatrix Karl at a joint press conference in Vienna. Implementation will start in 2011, study courses will be adjusted to the new model still in this parliamentary term.

In the future, training in all teaching professions should be at tertiary level (universities and teacher training colleges) based on the Bologna model (bachelor/master/PhD) and cover common core areas. To facilitate changes between different occupational areas, the curricula for teacher training will be differentiated only at a higher level. The status of training for nursery and primary school teachers will be enhanced. Moreover, this seems to be a step towards comprehensive school.

Schmied described it as “a natural consequence“ to offer a common curriculum for the entire secondary level I (currently, the first four years of academic secondary school and lower secondary school) as these two types of school essentially had already the same curriculum.

Furthermore, the students should take a qualifying examination and undergo an entry procedure, instead of a single decisive test, stressed Schmied.

According to Karl, this admission procedure would help future teachers to learn more about the job profile. To start practical work after basic training, teachers will also have to undergo an “induction phase”, i.e. a kind of internship.

The prerequisite for teaching is a bachelor’s degree; beginners will be supported by an experienced teacher acting as a mentor. This would also be a step towards a stronger team orientation of teachers, said Schmied. Specific positions and tasks at school will require a master’s degree; in addition, continuous in-service training will be offered.

The areas in which the graduates are to be used, detailed procedures of the induction phase as well as the interaction of teacher training colleges and universities in clusters still had to be concretised. To this end, stakeholder conferences will be held in Linz, Graz, Innsbruck and Vienna in November and December.

The cooperation between teacher training colleges and universities in the different clusters could be based on different models, stated Schmied. “There will be no standard pattern”. A pedagogical university could be the outcome of this process; this was “definitely a target model but we have not yet made sufficient progress“.

KUNSTHALLE wien: Female Pop Art

KUNSTHALLE wien rediscovers outstanding women artists of the Pop Art movement from 4 November 2010 to 20 February 2011, honouring the militant pledge of Dorothy Iannone after 40 years: “The next great moment in history is ours“ (1970). The art movement that continues to be associated predominantly with male protagonists even today, is reinterpreted in this show.

Plastics, shrill colours, reduced forms and graphic shapes – the works of the nine women artists represented in the exhibition are similar in many ways to those of their male counterparts. The pop art women also appeal to the mainstream but as feminist pioneers they re-

mained militant and critical. They expressed their views openly on the social and political developments of the 1960s such as the Vietnam War. Outstanding works by Dorothy Iannone, Evelyne Axell, Sister Corita, Christa Dichgans, Kiki Kogelnik, Rosalyn Drexler, Jann Haworth, Marisol and Niki de Saint Phalle are displayed in this show. www.kunsthallewien.at

Vienna Art Week 2010

Vienna Art Week 2010 – initiated by Dorotheum – will take place under the motto “Crossing Limits“ from 15 to 21 November 2010. With about 100 individual events, it has become Vienna’s largest visual arts event staged annually. Based on the idea of attracting international attention to renowned Vienna-based cultural institutions, museums and galleries by making them join forces as the “Vienna Art Cluster” and of promoting Vienna as an art hotspot, Vienna Art Week has developed into one of Europe’s most successful art festivals.

This year’s theme “Crossing Limits“ is an allusion to art permeating our every-day lives and representing a factor of stability in times of economic and social upheaval.

23 participating art institutions offer for example tailored guided tours through special exhibitions and permanent collections. This year traditional Vienna-based enterprises and the artists’ studios of the Federal Ministry of Education, Art and Culture will for the first time open their doors to the public in the framework of the Vienna Art Week.

www.viennaartweek.at

Federal Chancellor Faymann attends commemoration at Kaprun memorial

On 11 November 2000, a production error in the fan heater of the driver’s cab of the glacier funicular in Kaprun (Salzburg) caused a fire inferno, in which 155 people died.

On 11 November 2010, a commemorative ceremony will be held at the Kaprun memorial, to which the bereaved as well as the helpers at the disaster site have been invited.

Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann and Salzburg’s Governor Gabi Burgstaller will be among the attendees of the commemoration. The speakers will include family members of the victims, among them Ursula Geiger and Werner Kirnbauer. After the ceremony, an ecumenical church service – with Superintendent Luise Müller and Prelate Balthasar Sieberer – will be held to mark the tenth anniversary of the disaster.

SPORTS POLICY

WADA Director-General Howman praises Austria's anti-doping efforts

At an informal meeting of sports ministers in Antwerp, David Howman, Director General of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), highlighted Austria's efforts in the struggle against doping.

During the deliberations of the ministers of sport, he praised Austria as a model for combating doping effectively. "In the past few years Austria has adopted a new approach in the combat against doping, setting an example at international level", stated WADA's Director General.

Howman also responded favourably to the proposal resubmitted by Minister of Sport Norbert Darabos to harmonise doping legislation at European level, adjusting it to the Austrian standard. "It is vital that the same, strict rules are applied all over Europe to ensure a successful anti-doping combat", emphasised Darabos in the discussion.

Howman backed the call of the Austrian Minister of Sport for more uniform laws: "Austria has shown how an effective legal framework can be created. The EU should follow this example."

Second meeting behind closed doors on the reform of sports funding

At the invitation of the Ministry of Sport, experts of the Austrian sports organisations met for a second meeting behind closed doors to discuss the reform of the federal sports funding system.

Initiated by Minister of Sport Darabos, an extensive reform process of the federal sports funding system has been underway since spring 2010. Concepts for restructuring the sports funding systems for mass sports and high-performance sports have been developed in a multi-stage process.

The interim results of the process prepared by the associations responsible for individual sports disciplines were presented on 27 October 2010. At the meeting chaired by university professor Wolfgang Mayrhofer of Vienna University of Economics and Business, the leaders of the three teams "mass sports", "high-performance sports" and "tasks in sport", Michael Maurer, Rena Eckart and Rudi Sporrer, presented the results achieved so far.

The intensive final phase is starting now. A joint "experts' report" will be completed by the end of November. It will serve as a basis for political negotiations on a new law.

Austrian sport stars set a new record at show "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire?"

Our athletes have repeatedly demonstrated that they succeed in setting new records beyond sport. And therefore it is little surprising that the TV quiz show "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire" of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) presented under the motto "Athletes for Sport" on the eve of the National Holiday surpassed the magic threshold of one million viewers for the first time. Four couples supported by a sports star as well as a moderator answered the questions of Armin Assinger with a view to raising funds for the Austrian sports charity "Österreichische Sporthilfe".

The quiz teams showed that that had not only extensive knowledge but also a great sense of humour and team spirit. They earned a prize money totalling 150,000 euro. Minister of Sport Norbert Darabos was of course highly pleased about this wonderful result. Together with Sporthilfe boss Anton Schutti and the President of the Federal Sports Organisation (BSO) Peter Wittmann, he watched the show live to support the sports celebrities.

Ninepin Bowling World Championships were held in Ritzing

Minister of Sport Norbert Darabos opened the III. Single's World Championships Ninepin Bowling Classic 2010 in Ritzing (Burgenland) on 24 October 2010. The 400 athletes from 19 nations participated in this top event ending on 30 October 2010. In his welcome statement Darabos stressed the vital importance of large-scale international sports events for Austria and the region. He extended special thanks to the President of the Austrian Ninepin Bowling Association and the World Ninepin Bowling Association Ludwig Kocsis and the numerous helpers working predominantly on a voluntary basis.

The sprint event became the highlight for Austria. Winning silver, Doris Frank from Carinthia achieved the best result for Austria.

First world champion title for Jasmin Ouschan

Austria's billiard star Jasmin Ouschan, who had been awarded all four gold medals at the European Pool Billiard Championships in Zagreb in spring, won her first world champion title in the elite class in late October. The 24-year-old Carinthian beat double world champion Kim Ga Young from Korea in the finals, winning her first gold medal in a world championship. Ouschan has held the title of a junior world champion.