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HOME AFFAIRS**Gender equality: enshrining income transparency in the law as from 2011**

In the future, companies are to be required to disclose the average wages and salaries of women and men in an annual income report. On 2 June 2010, Minister for Women's Affairs Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek and Social Minister Rudolf Hundstorfer announced that this had been agreed on with the social partners and the Federation of Austrian Industrialists. Heinisch-Hosek referred to an "important step towards gender equality".

The bill providing a legal framework for income transparency (to be enshrined in the Gender Equality Act) will be examined soon. The law is to be adopted in the plenary session of the National Council in autumn and enter into force with effect 1 January 2011. The Swedish law had served as a model, explained the Minister for Women's Affairs. In Sweden the gender-specific income gap was 6%, in Austria up to 18%. The new legal provisions are to be applied by (a total of about 200) large enterprises with more than 1,000 employees as from 2011, by (about 600) companies with more than 500 employees as from 2012, by (about 1,500) companies with more than 250 employees as from 2013 and by companies with more than 150 employees (2,800 companies or 41% of all employees) as from 2014. In these income reports, the average wages of women and men in the different remuneration groups are to be compared – adjusted for differences in working hours (full-time equivalents) and anonymously. The income reports will be submitted to the works councils.

2010 Report on the Situation of Women

The situation of women in Austria has indeed improved in some areas over the past few years but there is still a long way to go before reaching equality with men. This conclusion can also be drawn from the 2010 Report on the Situation of Women presented on 28 May 2010. Based on these data, women have even partly overtaken men when it comes to education, and more women than ever before are working. The income gap between women and men has, however, been widening.

According to the 2010 Report on the Situation of Women, 13.8% of the women have completed university (tertiary education), compared to 12.8% of the male population. Women's share in the number of graduates of upper secondary education (A-level exam) amounts to 60%. About seven out of ten

women (68.6%) are working, compared to only 62.7% in 1991. However, the rate of female part-time workers has more than doubled. In 2008 it was about 41.5% (men: 8.1%). The main reason why women accept part-time jobs are care-giving duties. Women do about two thirds of all unpaid work (child-raising, household). Women holding paid jobs also face discrimination. Based on data of 2007, women earn only about 58.4% of men's gross annual income; adjusted for part-time work (only all-year-round full-time jobs were compared), they receive about one quarter less than men. Women earn up to 18% less just because they are women. Half of them have gross incomes below 1,740 euro (gross income of men: 2,232 euro). The share of women in leading positions in the economy is still below 10%.

Slowly stabilising labour market

Although more people were without a job in Austria in May 2010 than one year earlier, the pace of job losses is slowing down. Based on data of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection of 1 June 2010, 227,089 people were registered as unemployed – this corresponds to a minus of 22,590 from April and a year-on-year decrease by 12,688 (5.3%). 78,178 persons (+13,981) were participating in training programmes. Hence, real unemployment rose by 0.4% year-on-year.

Applying the national calculation method, the unemployment rate decreased from 6.9% in April to 6.3% in May; based on Eurostat, it stood at 4.9% in April; this is the second-lowest rate in the EU, behind the Netherlands (4.1%; EU average: 9.7%, euro-zone: 10.1%). Youth unemployment dropped by 10.7%.

Burgenland election 2010: SPÖ remains the strongest political force

In the election to the regional Parliament (Landtag) in Burgenland on 30 May 2010, the Social Democratic Party (SPÖ) achieved 48.3% (-3.9%) of the valid votes based on the official final result. Thus the party led by Governor Hans Niessl holds a majority in the Landtag and in the regional government. The Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) won 34.6% (-1.8), the Freedom Party (FPÖ) 9.0% (+3.2), the Greens 4.2% (-1.1) and the List of Burgenland (LBL) 4.0% (+4.0).

Distribution of seats in the Landtag: SPÖ 18 (-1), ÖVP 13 (+/-0), FPÖ 3 (+1), Greens 1 (-1), LBL 1 (+1). No changes in the regional government: 4 seats go to the SPÖ, 3 seats to the ÖVP. The first meeting of the new Landtag will take place on 24 June 2010.

EUROPE INTERNATIONAL**Gaza fleet/Israel: Austria's state and government leaders shocked**

The Austrian federal government reacted with dismay at the latest developments in the Middle East. In view of the bloody escalation, it was impossible to remain silent, stated Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann after the Council of Ministers' session on 1 June 2010. Austria vehemently pled for an independent and full investigation into the violent operation to capture the "Solidarity Fleet" for Gaza by Israel. Only then could a final assessment of the incidents be made. However apart from that, any type of bloodshed and escalation had to be condemned, emphasised the Austrian Federal Chancellor.

Faymann expressed his condolences to the families of the victims. After the violent raid of the ships by the Israeli army off the coast of the Gaza Strip, the situation in the region was extremely serious. Faymann urged to continue the peace process, stating that all parties to the conflict had to be committed to a de-escalation of the situation. Austria actively supported the end of violence also in its capacity as a member of the UN Security Council.

Federal President Heinz Fischer was also deeply shocked at the violent attack on the Gaza Strip aid flotilla, in which numerous participants were killed and injured. The latest action taken by the Israeli security forces had undoubtedly caused damage to the peace efforts in the Middle East. The incident demonstrated once more how urgent a comprehensive solution of the unsettled problems in the region was, said Fischer. The situation caused by Israel's strict blockade of supplies to the Gaza Strip was a matter of deep concern, stated the Federal President. Fischer also called for an investigation based on international standards. Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger expressed his profound dismay and demanded a fast and complete clarification of the incidents. Spindelegger appealed that Israel had to end its counterproductive policy of closures in the Gaza Strip, as advocated vigorously and repeatedly by the UN and the EU.

Vice Chancellor Pröll in Israel

The talks held by Vice Chancellor and Minister of Finance Josef Pröll during his official visit to Israel on 25 and 26 May 2010 focused on the international financial crisis and the sanctions against Iran. Pröll was accompanied by a delegation including the President of the Jewish Religious Community, Ariel Muzicant.

In Jerusalem Pröll met for example with President Shimon Peres and his Israeli counterpart Yuval Steinitz. He laid wreaths at the tomb of Theodor Herzl ("Father of Zionism") and at the Holocaust Memorial Yad Vashem. Pröll stated that especially this site had made a "deep impression" on him. It was the task of all following generations to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and to "do their utmost" to prevent crimes of this kind in the future, warned Pröll.

Josef Pröll agreed with Minister Steinitz to strengthen the economic relations between Israel and Austria, notably in the high-tech sector and "green technologies".

Slovenia's President Türk meets with Federal President Fischer

At a private dinner in Vienna on 2 June 2010, Federal President Heinz Fischer and his Slovenian counterpart Danilo Türk discussed the erection of additional bilingual topographical signposts in Carinthia and other minority issues. These topics were "vital elements of our bilateral relations", explained Türk. Slovenian President Türk emphasised that he supported the agreement between Slovenia and Croatia to establish an international arbitration tribunal to settle the conflict over the border in the Bay of Piran. In a referendum on 6 June 2010, a majority of the Slovenian population voted in favour of setting up an international arbitration tribunal.

Minister Spindelegger at EU-Western Balkans conference in Sarajevo

"The most important event at the conference was that the Foreign Ministers of Serbia and Kosovo sat down at the same table", Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger concluded after the European Union-Western Balkans conference in Sarajevo on 2 June 2010. The European Union reaffirmed the EU membership perspectives of the countries of the region (Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, Albania). Representatives of Russia, Turkey and Greece as well as the EU's chief diplomat Catherine Ashton were also present.

In an interview with the Austrian Press Agency (APA), Spindelegger called for an end of the so-called "Balkan fatigue". At the Western Balkans conference he proposed to develop road maps with concrete timetables and objectives. "This would motivate the countries affected to continue their reforms", stated Minister Spindelegger.

ECONOMY**Chancellor Faymann: “Lack of regulation has led to economic crisis“**

In response to a question about financial market regulation measures in Austria in an interview with the weekly “Format“ (3 June 2010), Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann reiterated his proposal of creating a bank tax, which was also supported by the coalition partner. In principle, an agreement had also been reached on the financial transactions tax. If no European solution could be achieved, as a first step a national stock exchange turnover tax should be introduced in Austria in 2011, demanded Chancellor Faymann.

The bank tax should be levied on the basis of the balance-sheet total of the banks. The IMF (International Monetary Fund) and other countries were also aware of the fact that this was the “only feasible and meaningful approach“, argued the Federal Chancellor. Further details, such as items to be deducted from the calculation basis, e.g. equity or savings deposits, still had to be negotiated.

According to Faymann, the system of bank and financial market supervision was in need of reform. This had become evident in several cases. It would be useful to grant the National Bank (OeNB) and the Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FMA) more supervisory rights. But action was to be taken also with regard to the system of monitoring the budget performance of entire Länder.

While the banks are afraid that over-regulation might lead to a slowdown of the real economy, the Chancellor is convinced that the severest economic crisis since the 1930s had been caused by a lack of financial market regulation. According to him, this was an undisputed fact and lessons had to be learned from it. It was necessary to place obligations on all the speculators. With regard to the criticism that the banks would pass on the reforms in the form of more unfavourable conditions to the customers, Faymann underlined that the OeNB did not share this view. He was also convinced that consumer protection had to be strengthened upon introducing a bank tax. “We have to make the fees more transparent like in Sweden, where a bank tax has already been introduced“, said the Chancellor in an interview with “Format“.

At the 38th Economics Conference of the Austrian National Bank (31 May 2010), Faymann called for a “new economic and social European Union“. Moreover, better coordination and faster responses to crises were required –

sound budgets and stable finances were, however, the decisive prerequisite for this approach, stressed the Federal Chancellor. Europe needed joint initiatives, a more efficient coordination of social growth strategies as well as a new balance between the people and the markets, explained Faymann.

OECD issues upward revision of GDP forecast for Austria

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) adjusted its forecast for Austria’s GDP growth for 2010 from 0.9% to 1.4% as well as for 2011 by 0.1 percentage points to 2.3%. According to Minister for Economic Affairs Reinhold Mitterlehner, these data confirmed Austria’s economic policy and highlighted the success of the economic stimulus packages. They would become fully effective in the current year and support structural change, stressed Mitterlehner at the presentation of the OECD’s economic forecast up to 2011 on 26 May 2010.

Austria was well prepared for “creating real, self-sustained growth“. In the opinion of Mitterlehner, particularly the upswing of exports was likely to safeguard Austria’s growth advantage over the other euro-zone countries. As domestic consumption supported Austria’s economic development, the necessary budget consolidation should be realised “in the framework of a balanced package“ containing “intelligent“ austerity measures, demanded Mitterlehner.

Winter tourism: increase in the number of guests

With 62.6 million hotel nights (minus 0.4%), the winter season 2009/2010 ended with the third-best result in the history of Austrian winter tourism (November to April). These are the latest data presented by the Austrian Statistical Office (“Statistik Austria“) on 26 May 2010. Austria even achieved a new record for arrivals, reporting 15.37 million guests (plus 1.6%). This top result may be attributed to the holiday behaviour of the Austrians, who booked 2.1% hotel nights (14.8 million) more than in the past, while the overnight stays of foreigners dropped by 1.1% to 47.8 million. The number of hotel nights of guests from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) decreased by 0.9% to 6.1 million.

According to Minister for Economic Affairs Reinhold Mitterlehner, the growing trend towards “holidays at home“ confirmed his policy of making available additional funds for the domestic tourism advertising campaign.

CULTURE MEDIA SCIENCE**Digital Austria Explorer: globally unique e-government project**

No matter whether you search for security information and legal advice or wish to apply for a wage tax refund – thanks to Austria's first e-government browser, the virtual office is just a mouse click away.

Based on a recent poll by Marketagent.com, safety (66.9%), speed (61.2%), optimal protection of the users' privacy (59.6%) and high functionality (59%) are the most important criteria for Austrians when choosing a web browser. This is precisely what the Digital Austria Explorer covering all domestic e-government themes wants to offer.

The initiative of Digital Austria – realised with the support of Microsoft Österreich – facilitates a clearly structured, fast and safe access to e-government applications.

(By downloading the free web browser www.digitales.oesterreich.gv.at/explorer, you may gain direct access to Austria's virtual administration).

“Austria has been leading in the field of e-government in Europe for many years. To continue increasing its popularity among the citizens, simple and easily understandable access is required. This is precisely what the Digital Austria Explorer offers. All the domestic e-government services become available by a mouse click – transparent functions and clear structures, including an integrated search field and a box for news. Never before has virtual administration been simpler and less complicated“, stated Manfred Matzka, Director General in the Federal Chancellery.

The Digital Austria Explorer combines the advantages of proven e-government portals for companies (USP.gv.at) and citizens (HELP.gv.at) as well as of online procedures realised by using the citizen card with the demonstrated safety of the most frequently used browser – it is based on Internet Explorer 8. More than 1,000 forms are available for downloading, and more than 350 official procedures can be handled online. Important e-government applications such as “Finance Online”, the Company Register, extracts from the criminal records or residence certificates are now available at a mouse click. In addition, access is provided to practical services of the web browser partners such as the timetable information of the Austrian railway company ÖBB, the functionality “Find a Doctor / Pharmacy” or search on social insurance services/benefits.

Safety and data protection are of vital importance, especially for e-government applications. Today, Internet Explorer 8 is the number one in terms of data and system safety in the worldwide web and the protection of the users' privacy. Its technical safety was examined only recently by TÜV TRUST IT GmbH. The Digital Austria Explorer was also checked and certified in accordance with the Austrian standard ÖNORM A7700 defining the technical safety criteria for web applications. This is the first internationally recognised standard documenting existing safety levels of web applications on a measurable basis.

In the next months, the Digital Austria Explorer will be presented to a wide public by using selected marketing measures. The functionalities of the web browser are expanded and adjusted to the requirements of state-of-the-art administration on an ongoing basis. New partners are invited to join the initiative Digital Austria Explorer free of charge. The browser may be downloaded through the respective websites of the partners. All partners of Digital Austria may participate, which was founded in 2005 as an overarching platform of the federal government to coordinate a uniform e-government strategy of the Federal Republic, the Länder, cities, municipalities and the economic sector.

This Austrian model set an example in Europe, it has been leading in the EU since 2006, was ranked first in an EU comparison in 2009 for the third time in a row and achieved 100 percent of the indicator “full online availability“ (see also: www.digitales.oesterreich.gv.at).

Microsoft Österreich GmbH is a subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation/Redmond, U. S. A., the globally leading producer of standard software. Microsoft has been represented by a branch in Vienna since 1991; since 2006 the company has also been operating a R&D facility – Vexcel Imaging – in Graz. Microsoft Österreich employs a total of about 330 staff members at both sites in Austria and cooperates in software projects with more than 5,000 domestic partner companies. www.microsoft.com

Presentation of the State Prize for Architecture and Sustainability

The St. Gerold Community Centre (Vorarlberg), the passive solar housing complex Samer Mösl in Langwied (Salzburg), the components production facility Obermayr in Schwanenstadt (Upper Austria) and the passive solar building for the primary school of Mauth in Wels (Upper Austria) are this year's winners of the State Prize for Architecture and Sustain-

ability. The awards were presented to the winners at a gala in Vienna on 27 May 2010.

“Sustainable building is a decisive step towards energy autarchy“, stated Minister of Agriculture and Environment Niki Berlakovich at the award ceremony. “With the award-winning projects, Austria once more anticipates the future. The great examples of the competition (editor’s note: 93 project entries) have clearly shown that the subject “sustainable building” is becoming more and more attractive and increasingly provides an incentive to the professionals in the construction sector to set new standards“, said the Minister. The award-winning projects demonstrated that the concepts “architecture” and “sustainability” “stimulate one another and that sustainability is gaining ground also in art and culture“, stated the head of the jury Roland Gnaiger, professor of architecture at the Art University of Linz.

According to the jury, the St. Gerold Community Centre was a good example of sustainability transformed into architecture.

Architect Andreas Cukrowicz commented emotionally: “To us it is important that a building smells good and that you like it“.

The passive solar housing complex Samer Mösl impressed the jury “with manifold quality features, in particular the social functions and economic efficiency of the building“. The tenants, among them many people with a migration background, were involved in an exemplary way. Margarethe Schörghofer, who has lived for three and a half years in the housing complex: “The rooms are bright, you do not have to heat and we have always fresh air“. The 3,500-square-metre components construction hall of the company Obermayr Holzkonstruktionen had an aesthetic and energy-efficient design and set a new standard in the manufacturing sector. Thanks to its design and insulation (for which wood shavings, waste from the company’s own production, were used), no heating system was required, and the hall was “completely biodegradable in case it is no longer used“, said Markus Fischer of the architects’ studio “F2 Architekten”.

According to the jury, “social, ecological and pedagogical responsibility was translated into reality at the highest level” in the passive solar primary school of Mauth. The concept of the “moving school” – taking into account the children’s need to move already in the planning stage – had been a criterion in the architecture competition, said Karl Pany, Director for Urban Planning of the City of Wels. It was unique that a pedagogical concept was presented and that then the school building was

planned on this basis, stated District School Inspector Barbara Pitzer.

A special prize in the category “export“ went to the research and amenities building HIT of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich. The jury stated that it was an example of the export of know-how from Austria to a neighbouring country, demonstrating how sustainable architecture led to a drastic reduction in the energy consumption of a building. www.staatspreis.klimaaktiv.at

National Library: symbolic transfer and repurchase of looted books

The restitution of looted books and other publications by the Austrian National Library (ÖNB) is entering its final phase. On 1 June 2010, Library Director Johanna Rachinger symbolically handed over 8,363 books confiscated during the NS period to the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for NS Victims at a commemorative ceremony, in which also Speaker of Parliament Barbara Prammer participated. Restitution to the heirs of those owners the Austrian National Library had been able to identify was almost completed in recent years. Now the looted assets whose heirs could not be traced were symbolically restituted and then repurchased.

On this occasion, Prammer promised to conduct an investigation into the provenance of all books stored in the library of the Parliament building. She also stressed that Austrian museums exhibiting looted works of art “still in the 21st century“ had profited from NS looting.

“It is sad and shameful that such a long time – 65 years – had to pass before the last vestiges of NS looting were eradicated in the Austrian National Library“, said Rachinger. “But I am also relieved that the tragic chain of active involvement and complicity during the NS period as well as deliberate omissions and delays in the post-war period have finally come to an end“. An institution like the ÖNB – a place preserving the memory of the nation – should have zero tolerance for the “dark periods” in its own history.

These library holdings consisted exclusively in publications not providing any information about the former owners. The books mainly coming from small private libraries of Viennese Jews who emigrated or were deported were delivered in trucks by the Gestapo to the then National Library. The ÖNB had launched a systematic investigation into all acquisitions dating back to the NS period only in 2002. Since then, 35,217 individual items have been returned to the rightful owners. The looted

books without heirs, which were handed over in a symbolic gesture by the ÖNB to the National Fund and then repurchased for 135,000 euro, include for example children's books and academic reference works.

Karl pays tribute to Martin Haselböck and 25 years of "Wiener Akademie"

To mark the 25th anniversary of the orchestra "Wiener Akademie", its founder and conductor-in-chief Martin Haselböck was awarded the Grand Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service to the Republic of Austria on 1 June 2010. After a concert of the acclaimed original sound orchestra at Musikverein, also US actor John Malkovich extended his congratulations. Playing Jack Unterweger in Haselböck's controversial project "The Infernal Comedy", Malkovich is currently touring Europe.

The award was presented by Minister of Science Beatrix Karl, who praised the organist and professor at the Vienna University of Music as a "Baroque aesthete and exceptional conductor". Haselböck is currently working with "Wiener Akademie" on a large Liszt project in Raasdorf (Burgenland). He has been responsible for a concert cycle at Musikverein since 1991 as well as for regular guest performances at international festivals. Besides, Haselböck is "Wiener Hoforganist" ("Vienna Court Organist") and has held the position of the music director of the baroque orchestra Musica Angelica in Los Angeles since 2005/06. Last but not least, he is the manager of the Reinsberg Opera Festival.

Linz: show about Alfred Kubin, Margret Bilger, Emmy Haesele, Clara Siewert

Until 28 August 2010, the Nordico Museum of the City of Linz presents the unique, fascinating exhibition titled "Contacts. Encounters" with drawings by Alfred Kubin and works by his soul mates Margret Bilger, Emmy Haesele and Clara Siewert. Despite similar role-specific motifs, nature drawings, themes revolving around transience and death, the works by the three lesser known artists are spectacular and by no means inferior to those of Alfred Kubin in terms of originality and quality. Kubin became a renowned artist at least after the publication of a portfolio of drawings by Hans von Weber ("Weber Portfolio") in 1903 and of his novel "Die andere Seite" ("The Other Side") in 1909, which was translated in many languages. In 1906 he started to live a reclusive life with his wife Hedwig in a small hideaway in Zwickledt near Wernstein/Inn. He exchanged frequent letters with Hermann Hesse, Thomas

Mann, Franz Kafka, with friends and other artists such as Emmy Haesele and Margret Bilger to "keep in touch with the world", as he wrote. His relationship with graphic designer Emmy Haesele, which had started out on the basis of mutual artistic inspiration in the early 1930s, developed into a passionate love affair lasting many years. Art historian Brita Steinwendtner published the superb novel "Du Engel, du Teufel. Emmy Haesele und Alfred Kubin – eine Liebesgeschichte" ("You Angel, You Devil. Emmy Haesele and Alfred Kubin – A Love Story").

The exhibition is rounded off with valuable letters, books with dedication drawings by Kubin, photo and audio documents as well as a highly interesting accompanying programme. www.nordico.at

Jewish Museum Vienna: Ernst Toch

The exhibition "Ernst Toch. Life as a Geographical Fugue" will be shown at the Jewish Museum Vienna from 23 June to 31 October 2010.

Born in Vienna's second district in 1887, Ernst Toch became one of the most frequently performed composers from Germany in the 1920s. Alongside with Paul Hindemith, he was considered one of the main representatives of New Objectivity in music. His works were an integral part of all German avant-garde festivals. At the Berlin Music Festival in 1930, he and his colleague Hindemith won the acclaim of the New York Times. In 1932 he toured the USA successfully. At the Berlin Festival, Toch's recitative singing "Die Fuge aus der Geographie" ("Geographical Fugue") fascinated also the young musician John Cage, who some years later – Toch had in the meantime fled from the Nazis to the USA – conducted his translation of the "Fugue". Despite earning an excellent reputation in the world of music and three Oscar nominations as well as winning the Pulitzer Prize for his third symphony (out of a total of seven), Toch's US exile was a disaster, both professionally and privately. Even after 1945, Toch hardly managed to get his scattered life back on track.

The exhibition offers numerous sound examples providing new insights into the pioneering work of one of the most important Austrian composers of the 20th century. The Ernst Toch concert at ORF RadioKulturhaus is expected to become a sensation. It will offer an overview of his oeuvre – with members of the ensemble "die reihe", baritone Mathias Hausmann and Wiener Motettenchor. www.jmw.at, <http://radiokulturhaus.orf.at/>.

SPORTS POLICY**Austria is leading in development policy in sport**

The first Football World Cup on the African Continent will take place this year.

Austria will not participate in the “football concert of nations” in the stadiums of South Africa. But as an important player at a different level, the Austrian Ministry of Sport will still make a vital and lasting contribution to strengthening sport structures in Africa and the remaining third world.

The international sports community will focus on the African continent from 11 June to 11 July 2010. Many people hope that the 2010 Football World Cup in South Africa will be a strong driving force for development of the crisis-stricken African continent. Thousands of telephoto lenses and hundreds of TV cameras will capture colourful, marvellous and certainly unforgettable images and scenes during this month. Thanks to their outstanding football skills Messi, Rooney, Cristiano Ronaldo and others will for a short while make us forget many a problem of the black continent. But this mega-event should not cover up the enormous infrastructure and social problems usually dominating every-day life in Africa as well as the remaining Third World.

Austria has therefore played a leading role in international cooperation in the area of development policy for many years.

The subject “sport and development policy” has been in the limelight of the International Year of Sport and Physical Education of the UN in 2005. Since then, numerous political, humanitarian and financial efforts have been devoted to this area. The topic “sport and development policy” was also a priority of the Austrian EU Council Presidency in 2006. Moreover, Austria is a founding member of the International Working Group “Sport for Development and Peace”. Governments, UN agencies, athletes and international NGOs participate in this working group.

On the initiative of Austria, the aim of “promoting the use of sport as a tool of the EU’s development policy” was incorporated into the White Paper of the European Commission. The Republic of Austria supports the realisation of different sports and development projects with 120,000 euro annually.

Financial aid is mainly granted for projects focusing on the development and realisation of methods and measures of conflict prevention, trauma treatment and peace building in crisis regions to ensure that development cooperation

has long-term effects. The projects are managed exclusively by experienced international organisations, which are also able to guarantee the sustainability and continuity of the projects after the end of the funding period.

Since 2008, the Ministry of Sport – in close cooperation with its project partners – has been represented with an exhibition stand devoted to the policy area “sport and development cooperation” at the “Day of Sport” at Heldenplatz in Vienna. All those wishing to obtain more detailed information are cordially invited to the tenth “Day of Sport” at Vienna’s Heldenplatz on 25 September 2010.

Jürgen Melzer at the semi-finals in Paris – Minister Darabos is enthusiastic

Minister of Sport Norbert Darabos reacted enthusiastically to the fighting spirit shown by tennis ace Jürgen Melzer at the French Open tennis tournament, where he made it to the semi-finals. Melzer defeated Novak Djoković (ranked as the third best tennis player in the world) in five sets after the Serb had been 2:0 ahead in two sets. Only Rafael Nadal, who later won over Roland Garros, managed to stop the Austrian delivering a vibrantly passionate performance. Darabos: “Jürgen Melzer certainly scored the greatest success in his sports career. With strong nerves, powerful and varied tennis, Austria’s number one very deservedly made it into the semi-finals, where he also played excellently in the match against Rafael Nadal. Melzer’s performance re-kindled enthusiasm for tennis in Austria. I congratulate Jürgen Melzer very sincerely on this huge success and wish him all the best also for the next tournaments!”

Summer Talks “frauen.netz.werken”

Under the title “frauen.netz.werken” (“women networking”), the Summer Talks of the Federal Sports Organisation (BSO), including a panel discussion, take place at the House of Sport on 9 June 2010 (7 p.m.). Herta Mikesch, Chairwoman of the BSO Committee “Women in Sport”, Ilse Dippmann, initiator of the Austrian Women’s Marathon, as well as Heidi Vitéz, Spokeswoman of the Women’s Network in the Upper Austrian Press Club, and others will discuss women-specific topics. Gabriela Jahn, a journalist of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF), will act as the presenter of the event.

The title “most women-friendly sports association” will be awarded in the framework of the Summer Talks.