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HOME AFFAIRS**250th anniversary of Court of Auditors**

“The sovereign of today’s democracy – the Austrians – have a right to know where and how their tax money is used. The control of the Court of Auditors is an integral part of our democracy”, said Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann at the celebration ceremony of the 250th anniversary of the Court of Auditors in Parliament hosted by Speaker of Parliament Barbara Prammer and President of the Court of Auditors Josef Moser.

Alois Stöger: taking seriously the reality of children

“If we wish to have a world fit for children, we have to change conditions”, stressed Minister of Health Alois Stöger at the presentation of the Children’s Health Strategy in Vienna’s Museumsquartier. The strategy comprises recommendations for action and concrete projects designed to promote the health of children and young people in Austria. The recommendations cover areas such as health promotion and preventive healthcare, availability of health services, psychosocial health and rehabilitation.

According to Stöger, it was important to take children’s reality and socio-economic backgrounds seriously, rather than treating them as little adults. “Austria should become a global leader also with regard to children’s health”, was the goal formulated by the Minister.

Johanna Mikl-Leitner presents Security Report 2010

Minister of the Interior Johanna Mikl-Leitner presented a favourable review of the overall crime trend based on a long-term comparison. According to the Security Report 2010, last year the lowest number of police reports had been filed since the historic low in 2001. In parallel, the crime-solving rate had increased significantly. The national average clearance rate for crimes was significantly above 40 per cent; the highest rate (57.1 per cent) was recorded in Vorarlberg.

Norbert Darabos pushes for turnaround of national defence

At the celebrations of the Austrian National Holiday, Minister of Defence Norbert Darabos called for a historic turnaround of Austria’s defence system: “Anyone who wants the Austrian Federal Army to become more flexible and efficient may not reject a radical structural reform.” He explained that after the end of the

Cold War, the threat scenarios of the East and the West – and consequently the basis for our defence system – had become obsolete. New scenarios of action required a slim, flexible and rapidly deployable Federal Army with professionals and specialists. Minister Darabos: “I therefore plead for an army with exclusively optimally trained professional soldiers and a strong militia component.”

Climate Protection Act defines first binding emission reduction targets

“Thanks to the new Climate Protection Act, we are entering a new era. Under this law, the individual sectors have a clear mandate to develop efficient sets of measures by early 2012. After a fierce three-year combat, we succeeded in switching from ‘voluntary’ to ‘binding and coordinated’ efforts”, emphasised Minister of Environment Niki Berlakovich. “As Great Britain and Austria are the first countries in Europe enshrining binding targets in their climate protection laws, they play an important pioneering role”, stated the Minister.

Municipalities strive to intensify cooperation across Länder boundaries

The savings potential seems to be enormous – according to findings of the Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Austria could cut costs by 100 million euro annually if the municipalities intensified cooperation. Since 1 October 2011 a sound basis has been provided in the new Act on Cooperation Among Municipalities, allowing municipalities for the first time in history to form associations beyond the boundaries of districts and Länder.

Some initiatives have already been launched, e.g. in Ennstal. And in Mühlviertel (Upper Austria) the three municipalities Wartberg, Hagenberg and Pregarten even dream of merging into a city named “Aist”.

Euregio: Carinthia and regions of Veneto and Friuli continue cooperation

A trilateral agreement on cooperation of the Northern Italian regions Veneto and Friuli with the neighbouring Carinthia entered into five years ago has been renewed on 25 October 2011. It covers cooperation among these three regions in economy, culture, agriculture and forestry, research and social affairs and will serve as a basis for the planned “Euregio Senza Confini”, into which Slovenia and parts of Croatia are to be embedded as well, as Governor Gerhard Dörfler emphasised.

EUROPE INTERNATIONAL**Chinese President Hu Jintao pays state visit to Austria**

President Hu Jintao and his wife Liu Yongqing paid a visit to Vienna, St. Gilgen as well as the city of Salzburg from 30 October to 2 November 2011. On 31 October 2011 a reception was hosted by Federal President Heinz Fischer and his wife Margit. On this occasion, the Chinese President called on Austria to support China's efforts to be recognised as a full market economy by the EU. Against the background of the 40th anniversary celebrations in 2011, he highlighted the "strategic prospects" of the bilateral relations. They were "a historic starting position" to raise cooperation in all fields "to an even higher level". The Chinese TV quoted the head of state and party saying that the relations between Austria and China were "at a historic high".

Recent decisions adopted at the summit of heads of state and government of the euro-zone to strengthen the euro rescue umbrella as well as the intensification of economic relations, notably in the field of "green technologies", were addressed in talks with Federal Chancellor Faymann. Faymann also drew attention to the importance of Austria's activities in the international arena, e.g. as a member of the UN Human Rights Council and in UN peace-keeping missions. After holding talks with Speaker of Parliament Barbara Prammer in the Austrian Parliament, the high-ranking Chinese guest travelled to Salzburg.

At the Austro-Chinese Economic Forum, Minister of Trade Chen Deming met with Minister for Economic Affairs Reinhold Mitterlehner and President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber Christoph Leitl. Among the topics discussed was the increase in the volume of bilateral trade. Federal Chancellor Faymann and Minister for Foreign Affairs Spindelegger had already paid a visit to China in the current year. While trade relations have boasted double-digit growth rates for some years, social exchanges are intensifying only now. According to estimates, at least 10,000 Chinese people live in Austria, and 182,000 Chinese tourists visited Austria last year.

Austria elected into the UNESCO Executive Board

With the votes of 170 Member States, Austria was elected into the Executive Board of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris on 2 November 2011. Its term of office will end in 2015. This

seat is another important element in the foreign policy commitment of Austria, which was a member of the UN Security Council for two successful years and holds a seat in the UN Human Rights Council. Austria supported the application of Palestine for UNESCO membership at the General Conference in Paris on 31 October 2011.

Minister Spindelegger in Belgrade

During his official visit to Belgrade on 27 October 2011, the Vice Chancellor described Serbia's progress in coming closer to the EU as "impressive" (based on the recommendation of the European Commission, the country is to be granted the status of a candidate for EU membership in December). However, Europe expected a normalisation of Serbia's relations with Pristina and the implementation of the customs agreement, emphasised Spindelegger after a meeting with his Serbian counterpart Vuk Jeremić. Jeremić ruled out that Belgrade would recognise the independence of Kosovo. Foreign Minister Spindelegger also met with head of government Mirko Cvetković and Deputy Prime Minister Božidar Đjelić who is responsible for Serbia's EU integration. Economic issues were high on the agenda. With an investment volume of almost 3 billion euro, Austria has been the most important investor in Serbia in the past ten years. Combating corruption and consolidating the rule of law were prerequisites for further increases. A bilateral double taxation agreement is likely to enter into force in the near future.

Minister of Agriculture Berlakovich in Rome

On 27 October 2011 Minister of Agriculture Niki Berlakovich led bilateral talks with his Italian counterpart Francesco Saverio Romano on key items of the fiercely debated reform proposals for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) presented by the European Commission on 12 October 2011. "Italy's position is in many respects similar to that of Austria and it is equally critical", said Berlakovich. The two ministers agreed to set up a bilateral working group at expert level, which will have the task of developing proposals for improvements of the Common Agricultural Policy.

In Rome Berlakovich also held a meeting with Italian Minister of Environment Stefania Prestigiacomo, with whom he discussed the agenda of the climate protection meeting, which will take place in Durban in early December.

ECONOMY**Latest labour market data: Austria is again top performer in the EU**

After 19 months of decreasing unemployment, the number of jobless persons – adjusted for participants in public training programmes – increased slightly in Austria, i.e. to 3.9% in September. Nevertheless, Austria continues to be the EU's top performer in the area of employment. Austria now also boasts the lowest youth unemployment rate of 7.1%, surpassing the Netherlands (8%). This result confirms Austria's ambitious youth labour market policy. The steady significant increase in the number of employed persons is also a highly welcomed fact – in October 2011 Austria had 3,450,000 employees.

Labour market policy: support measures for women and young people

After taking crisis management measures that were excellent by international standards and reflected in favourable labour market data, Minister for Social Affairs Rudolf Hundstorfer is now also launching a campaign to boost youth employment and to promote women. "With a view to increasing the pool of skilled workers, a Youth Foundation will be set up, apprentices and young people will benefit from more coaching and a set of measures promoting women will be implemented still this autumn", said the Minister.

In addition, subsidies will be granted to support standard employment relationships for older women as well as job returners after career breaks due to childcare. Last but not least, measures promoting the qualification of women in technical occupations and crafts will be stepped up.

Go-ahead for new support programme "Credit Assessment for SMEs"

Based on the initiative of the Ministry of Economy, Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws) offers the new support programme "Credit Assessment for SMEs". "Funded credit assessment will for the first time allow small and medium-sized enterprises to assess their financial position objectively and independently from banks", Economic Minister Reinhold Mitterlehner was pleased to state. "The aim of our rating for SMEs is to highlight their strengths, opportunities and risks and to facilitate access to financing", explained the Minister, who plans to encourage investments by SMEs in this pilot project. The credit rating scale applied will consist of 24 ranks.

Austrian Office of Science and Technology opens in China still in 2011

"Minister of Infrastructure Doris Bures paid a one-week state visit to China with a view to intensifying the good relations between Austria and the People's Republic of China." A favourable result to be highlighted is Austria's participation in the Nanchang project, which is a showpiece for environmental protection. Nanchang with a population of five million is to become a "smart city" with minimum CO2 emissions. Up to three billion euro will be invested into this energy-saving and future-oriented city. Planning and concepts are "made in Austria" – by the Austrian Institute of Technology. "This means that the second largest technology market in the world uses Austrian expertise in the energy, environmental and mobility sectors", said the Minister.

To continue strengthening Austria's position in China, the Office of Science and Technology (OST) will be opened in Beijing still in 2011. Following the successful example in Washington, this office will provide a more intensive and lasting basis for promoting Austria as a technology location and help to establish a network of Austrian researchers in China.

Austrian Trade Union Federation is pleased about sound balance sheet

The Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB) is debt-free, announced financial boss Clemens Schneider after the federal board meeting, to which he had submitted a "very sound balance sheet" for 2010. ÖGB President Erich Foglar stressed that the consolidation strategy had been pursued without entailing any dismissals. With regard to programmatic approaches for the near future, the ÖGB continues to push for a tax reform reducing the burden on the factor labour and increasing taxes on capital.

120 years of the Austrian food codex

The Austrian Codex Alimentarius celebrates its 120th anniversary. "Austria has been and is a pioneer in the food safety sector", stressed Minister of Health Alois Stöger in this context. This codex defining food safety standards is based on the visionary concept of the Upper Austrian civil servant and minister Hans Frenzel, which set an example for the global food safety standards. Today the Codex Alimentarius has 185 member countries and one member organisation (EU).

"Nowadays food in Austria is safer than ever before", the Minister said proudly. Austria's current food policy focused on enacting legislation on official quality labels.

CULTURE MEDIA SCIENCE

CORINE International Book Award goes to Christine Nöstlinger for her oeuvre

Christine Nöstlinger, who celebrated her 75th birthday on 13 October 2011, is Austria's most important author of children's fiction. She treats problem issues with a humorous touch and weaves depictions of realistic milieus, social criticism and elements of fantasy in a sassing-charming everyday language combined with artistic, unique word creations into her stories. She was one of the first German-language authors of young-adult fiction to reflect on memories of the war and post-war area, e.g. in her autobiographical novels "Fly Away Home" (1973) and the as-yet-untranslated "Zwei Wochen im Mai" (1981). By writing courageously about outsider and taboo subjects, she captured the liberal spirit of the generations after 1968.

Her children's books, of which millions of copies have been sold, were translated into more than 20 languages and some even became successful films. Nöstlinger also wrote texts for grownups such as her volumes of Viennese dialect poetry ("Iba de gaunz oaman Kinda", "Iba de gaunz oaman Fraun" and "Iba de gaunz oaman Mauna"), non-fiction books, film scripts, radio and theatre plays. She also worked as a literary critic – for the radio, newspapers and magazines. On the occasion of her 75th birthday, the collection of newspaper columns "Eine Frau sein ist kein Sport" was published. Nöstlinger received various awards for her literary work, e.g. the first Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award – the Nobel prize for children's literature – in 2003.

The CORINE International Book Award will be presented in eight categories in a TV gala show in Munich (BMW Welt) on 17 November 2011. The ceremony takes place under the aegis of Bavaria's Governor Horst Seehofer, who will confer the prize on Christine Nöstlinger for "her complete oeuvre". (The ceremony will be broadcast by 3sat on 22 November and BR on 26 November 2011) www.corine.de

Book fair "Buch Wien 2011"

From 7 to 13 November 2011 life in Vienna will revolve around books. The Federation of Austrian Booksellers (HVB) succeeded in inviting authors to the opening of the reading festival and the international book fair (10 to 13 November 2011) who write about issues of vital social importance. The reading festival will be opened by Iranian author Navid Kermani ("Dein Name"), while Greek bestselling

writer Petros Makaris will open the book fair with a speech on Greece and Europe, the economic crisis and the role of art and literature. Klaus Nüchtern will be awarded the State Prize of Literary Criticism on 8 November 2011, Alfred Komarek will receive the Honorary Prize of the Austrian Booksellers for Tolerance in Thought and Action on 11 November 2011. During the book fair held at Vienna's trade fair centre as well as in other venues, authors will read from their latest works, e.g. Judith Schallansky ("Der Hals der Giraffe"), Louis Begley ("About Schmidt"), Franz Schuh ("Der Krückenaktus"), Michael Kumpfmüller ("Die Herrlichkeit des Lebens"), Asfa Wossen-Asserate ("Manieren"), Renée Schröder ("Die Henne und das Ei, eine Suche nach dem Ursprung des Lebens"), Reinhold Messner ("Pol-Hjalmar Johansens Hundejahre"), Eduardo Mendoza ("Riña de gatos"), Javier Cercas ("Anatomy of a Moment") and Götz Aly ("Warum die Deutschen? Warum die Juden? Gleichheit, Neid und Rassenhass" – "Why the Germans? Why the Jews? Equality, Envy and Racial Hatred" is an accurate analysis of anti-Semitism in Germany and Austria). As the Vienna Book Fair places emphasis on literature from South Eastern and Central Europe, György Dalos, Yuri Andruchovych and Andrey Kurkov present their latest works. However, the Book Fair does not only cater for the tastes of literature aficionados but is a feast also for bookworms interested in contemporary history or in culinary delights (Lisl Wagner-Bacher), humour (Heinz Marecek) and other genres. The events for children and young people are presented by actor Gerald Votava. The comprehensive and exquisite programme on six stages developed by journalist, literary critic and longstanding moderator Günter Kaindlstorfer ensures that Vienna Book Fair 2011 will again become a huge success with the audience. www.buchwien.at/

Vienna Art Week 2011

Vienna Art Week was initiated by the auction house Dorotheum and conceived by Art Cluster Vienna. Titled "Reflecting Reality", the series of events taking place from 14 to 20 November 2011 will focus on interdisciplinary communication strategies in art and research as well as on Vienna as the city of psychoanalysis. Museum directors, curators, collectors, critics, artists and personalities of Vienna's art scene will explore current art trends and engage in art discourse.

Firmly committed to this project, artistic manager Robert Punkenhofer and the President of

Art Cluster Vienna, Martin Böhm, want to provide sustainable stimuli and set new standards for Vienna as an international arts hub. The programme comprises guided tours through special exhibitions during the “Gallery Weekend”, panel discussions, lectures, artists’ talks, exhibition openings, installation art, performances as well as events in private companies promoting art. Four design offices will for the first time give insights into their work, while the arts studios of the Federal Ministry of Education, Art and Culture will open their doors to the public for the second time.

In various contributions to “Reflecting Reality”, the spotlight is turned on the psychological dynamics of art production and the passion of collection. Art does not only reflect reality but also offers a frame of reference for coming to terms with the requirements of modern life. However, the event does not only critically review the dynamics between individuality and social relationships, privacy and public life, between the ephemeral of everyday life and the longing for stability, closeness and distance as well as for performance and leisure but also the radical transformation of political systems and the emergence of parallel worlds.

Members of the Art Cluster Vienna invite to an interview marathon on “art and psychoanalysis” as well as expert debates on the psychological dynamics in art production at the Sigmund Freud Museum. Robert Punkenhofer will moderate the event on 14 November 2011, in which the artists’ group Gelitin, 2009 Turner Prize finalist Roger Hiorns, filmmaker Manu Luksch, artist Edgar Honetschläger, concept artist Joseph Kosuth, photographer Iwajla Klinke as well as philosopher and artist Elisabeth von Samsonow will participate.

In parallel, the Sigmund Freud Museum will present the exhibition curated by Ursula Maria Probst and Robert Punkenhofer “Reflecting Reality”. Location-specific installations will examine different artistic approaches to reality and different forms of assessing it based on various models.

On the same day, a panel discussion will be held on the subject “How do museums collect?”, in which museum directors will explain their positions on the conditions and strategies of collecting in the age of globalisation, modernisation and migration (14 November 2011, Museum of Modern Art / MUMOK).

On its Theme Day “Forms of Knowledge in the Practice of Art”, the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna will inform on problems and opportunities of artistic research and the arts study programme “PhD in Practice”. Students will

then present the project “chronopolitics” and a screening of the film “Shulie” about feminist Shulamith Firestone (16 November 2011).

At Dorotheum a discussion round of art collectors will delve into the subject “Is art collecting a promising career?” Subsequently, the art cities Berlin, New York and Vienna are examined closely in an event titled “Vienna’s Gallery Scene – the Viennese Approach from an International Perspective” (18 November 2011).

One of the highlights of Vienna Art Week is the reopening of “21er Haus” – as the museum for Austrian art from 1945 to the present in an international context is called. It is managed by Belvedere Gallery, which has been tasked with defining a new profile for this contemporary art museum. The pavilion designed by Karl Schwanzer for the Brussels World Expo in 1958 was revamped and enlarged by Adolf Krischanitz (15 November 2011).

Experimental filmmaker Ken Jacobs from New York is among the most interesting performance artists. He will present one of his legendary Nervous Magic Lantern films at Generali Foundation Vienna, in which a mesmerizing performance of light and shadow creates 3D images (14 November 2011).

The Vienna Gallery Weekend offering an exciting programme from 18 to 20 November 2011 takes place for the first time during Vienna Art Week. “The Collectors’ Day – the Passion of Collecting” will offer a platform for intensive exchanges among art lovers on 20 November 2011. For more information on the numerous events see:

www.viennaartweek.at.

Exhibition “Tracing a Photo” in Austrian schools

The touring exhibition “Tracing a Photo” – initiated by Milli Segal and conceived for schools – portrays ten children who survived the Shoah, among them Alisa Tennenbaum from Vienna, who escaped the Nazis with the last “children’s transport” to Great Britain.

The show has been curated by Yad Layeled France and its Austrian sister organisation Yad Layeled Austria. The aim of the two organisations is to raise young people’s awareness of racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia. The exhibition material was provided by the Children’s Museum Yad Layeled in Israel. The pupils visiting this show may trace the fate of these children based on the exhibits and with the aid of a questionnaire.

<http://millisegal.at>

Reform step: New Comprehensive School

Based on the bill presented on 25 October 2011, the New Comprehensive School will become a standard school type. This is the first time since 1962 (introduction of the Polytechnic School) that a new school type will become part of the national regular school system. The New Comprehensive School allows targeted decision-making on future career paths, as stressed by Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann: "The internal organisation of these new schools with small groups, more partnership, ability grouping and additional teachers reflects the fact that the federal government has been attaching great importance to the educational reform in the current year."

Minister of Science and Research Karlheinz Töchterle was pleased to inform: "The further development of all lower secondary schools into comprehensive schools with ability grouping and the continued existence of the grammar school are important elements of a school system boosting performance."

Austrian Action Plan for Nanotechnology

In the framework of implementing the Austrian Action Plan for Nanotechnology, a call for proposals has been launched for projects focusing on employee, health and consumer protection. Minister of Environment Niki Berlakovich is convinced of the great potential of nanotechnology, e.g. in energy production or water treatment and hopes for "numerous green jobs". "But to keep the risks involved in the application of nanomaterial as low as possible it was crucial to close the existing knowledge gap on environmental and health protection quickly. With this call for proposals, a decisive step had been made in this direction", stated the Minister. "Nano" is a unit of length of one billionth of a metre.

Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann is on Facebook, Twitter and the like

On the Austrian National Holiday Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann started his social media campaign. The Federal Chancellor joined Facebook and maximises his Internet presence with a new website, a YouTube channel, an iPhone application and Android. Moreover, photos of special events will be published on Flickr. Besides postings of a team with the account "Teamkanzler" ("Chancellor's Team"), also postings made by the Chancellor himself will be published and marked accordingly.

Doris Bures: research internships for female students

Female students of technical disciplines and natural sciences may now serve internships in research enterprises and institutions funded by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology. They will receive a minimum gross salary of 1,400 euro and benefit from social insurance. This project has been realised by Minister of Infrastructure Doris Bures, who wants to get more women into research. "Research and technology have been traditionally male-dominated activities. The aim of these internships is a continuous increase of the women's share in research", said the Minister.

Valuable gift to Austrian National Library

On 27 October 2011 the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts presented a valuable facsimile of the complete graphic art collection of Baron Johann Weichard von Valvasor (1641 – 1693) from Carniola, the so-called "Iconotheca Valvasoriana", as a gift to the Austrian National Library. The collection comprises 17 volumes, containing 7,752 prints and drawings of great European artists such as Albrecht Dürer, Lucas Cranach, Rembrandt van Rijn and others. The original "Iconotheca Valvasoriana" is in Zagreb.

Start of petition for a referendum on education

The petition for a referendum on education may be signed during the week starting on 3 November 2011. The initiators campaign for three key items: nurturing children's talents as from their first year, all-day and comprehensive schools up to the age of 15 throughout Austria. Another goal is an "educational summit" of the government.

Vienna Women Journalists' Prize

The Vienna Women's Journalists' Prize (amounting to 5,000 euro) will be granted for the first time – in concrete terms to the editor of the magazine "profil" Ulla Schmid. The prize winner had been proposed by the jury of the Women's Network for Media (Frauen-netzwerk Medien). The prize money is donated by the female managing directors of the holding company of the City of Vienna "Wien Holding". Besides co-initiator Vice Mayor Renate Brauner, also Vice Mayor Maria Vassilakou and Executive City Councillor for Women's Affairs Sandra Frauenberger will act as patrons of the prize.

SPORTS**40th anniversary of Sporthilfe: 40 million euro for Austrian athletes**

One of the most important institutions promoting and supporting Austrian athletes celebrated its 40th anniversary in early November. Österreichische Sporthilfe was registered as a non-profit association by the then Members of Parliament Fred Sinowatz and Rudolf Sallinger (who was also President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber) after a TV discussion on 29 October 1971. Since then, Sporthilfe invested approximately 40 million euro to support about 2,300 athletes. This year roughly 2.1 million euro have been earmarked for the support of 460 athletes.

From the very beginning, it has been the mission of Sporthilfe to promote Austria's promising talents and elite athletes, predominantly in Olympic disciplines, without using public funding. Starting with a modest budget of 250,000 Schilling (18,168 euro) in the first year, the organisation has developed into an important pillar of the Austrian sports system. Sporthilfe looks back on 40 years of success, i.e. a volume of financial aid to athletes amounting to 40 million euro and 94 Olympic medals earned by the beneficiaries of this aid. The financial resources are raised through partnerships with leading domestic enterprises, events such as the Gala Night of Sport or other fundraising activities. Important partners are the Austrian Lotteries (Österreichische Lotterien), which contributed about 29 million euro.

"Sporthilfe evolved from a pure money distributor to a comprehensive service institution. It has also raised its voice when it came to combat for the reputation of high-performance sport or social values", concluded Sporthilfe Managing Director Anton Schutti.

But also the well-wishers were full of praise. "Thanks to the innovative and creative work of Österreichische Sporthilfe existing for 40 years, it has become possible to provide ongoing support and assistance to Austria's fledgling talents and top performers in an ambitious way. Successful athletes are important "ambassadors" of Austria, representing our country all over the world and of whom we can be rightly proud of", stated Federal President Heinz Fischer. Minister of Sport Norbert Darabos: "It is not by chance that Austrian athletes have been so successful, and this may certainly also be attributed to the domestic promotion schemes for high-performance sports and, of course, to Österreichische Sporthilfe."

To mark the 40th anniversary, Sporthilfe looks back on its history in a jubilee volume. The 160-page publication presents 40 victorious athletes, from Toni Innauer, Andreas Goldberger, Markus Prock, Emese Hunyady or Mirna Jukic to Andreas and Wolfgang Linger, who won the Olympic gold medal in doubles luge. In the anniversary year, the scope of funding of Sporthilfe was widened to include athletes with disabilities.

Kickboxer Nicole Trimmel wins her fifth world champion's title in Skopje

Nicole Trimmel from Burgenland won her already fifth world champion's title in the World Kickboxing Championships in Skopje (Macedonia) at the end of October.

"It was a tough week in Skopje. I suffered from some infectious disease with fever, vomiting and diarrhoea but I did not give in. Of course, I am incredibly pleased about the World Kickboxing Championships title", said the happy athlete.

Minister of Sport Norbert Darabos congratulated Trimmel: "There are only very few female athletes who have become world champions in their discipline. Nicole Trimmel is a shining example of consistency and the ability of motivating herself again and again."

The regional government of Burgenland also expressed its appreciation and recognition to Nicole Trimmel. Governor Hans Niessl paid tribute to the kickboxer in a ceremony on 31 October 2011.

Vera Bichler and Marcus Haider won at World Jiu-Jitsu Championships in Cali

Out athletes were also highly successful at the World Jiu-Jitsu Championships 2011, which took place in Cali (Columbia) in October. The world champion's title was won by the mixed duo, Federal Army athletes Marcus Haider and Vera Bichler. After defeating strong teams from Belgium and France, the duo competed with the Germans in the final tournament. After the first two series, the Germans led but then Marcus Haider and Vera Bichler caught up thanks to their masterful technique, achieving a well-deserved victory in the World Championships. After the twin sisters Mirnesa and Mirneta Becirovic had ranked third in 2010, Marcus Haider and Vera Bichler climbed the second step on the winners' podium.