London, October 2016

Dear Reader,

This month, the Austrian Embassy is celebrating 150 of presence on 18 Belgrave Square. These 150 years stand not only for the richness of history at 18 Belgrave Square, but also for the history of the strong and friendly relationship between Austria and the United Kingdom. Royalty, artists, actors, philosophers, diplomats, politicians, entrepreneurs and many others have met here to engage in conversations about politics and the economy, science and the arts, to exchange information, to enjoy concerts and expand their social networks.

As you will read in this Newsletter, the bilateral exchanges between Austria and the United Kingdom are intensive and our relations are excellent – in foreign policy issues we largely share parallel interests and common values, bilateral trade relations have reached new record levels. London and the United Kingdom are attractive destinations for young Austrians to study at renowned universities, work in banking and creative industries and found start-up companies. And for many Britons, Austria is not only their European winter holiday destination of choice but Austria is first and foremost a country of beautiful landscape and a rich cultural heritage.

Against the backdrop of Prime Minister Theresa May’s announcement that the United Kingdom will formally begin to withdraw from the European Union before the end of March 2017, our goal must be to keep strong relations between Austria and the United Kingdom. I am confident that, whatever the future nature of the relationship between the United Kingdom and the EU will be, the strong foundation on which the Austrian-British relationship was built will be further enhanced and deepened.

I and my colleagues at the Austrian Embassy, the Cultural Forum, the Trade Commission and National Tourist office are eager to live up this legacy by further engaging in numerous projects and activities with British institutions. Enjoy reading our Newsletter and please send us any suggestions and your feedback!

Yours,

Martin Eichtinger

Austrian Ambassador to the United Kingdom
Latest news from the Embassy

First bilateral meeting between Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz and British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Boris Johnson in Vienna on 2 September 2016

On 2 September Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson met for the first time in Vienna, where they discussed the United Kingdom’s planned exit from the EU (“Brexit”), preparations for Austria’s Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2017, as well as the trouble hotspots in Europe’s neighbourhood. The ministers agreed that Austria and the United Kingdom face many joint challenges such as illegal migration and the fight against Daesh and that intense bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries remains vital in dealing with them. With regard to “Brexit” Foreign Minister Kurz stated “Our goal must be to keep a strong partnership between the EU and the United Kingdom, and strong relations between the United Kingdom and Austria.” Foreign Secretary Johnson furthermore visited the counter-radicalisation NGO ‘Women Without Borders’, an NGO active in Austria and the UK which trains women to prevent and counter radicalisation in their communities.

Visit of Austrian Defence Minister Hans Peter Doskozil to London from 7-8 September 2016

From 7-8 September Austrian Defence Minister Hans Peter Doskozil attended the “UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial : London2016” hosted by British Defence Minister Michael Fallon. The visit also included a working meeting with the Secretary of Defense RtHon Mike Penning, expert discussions with the Secretariat of the National Security Council and the British Ministry of Defence as well as a visit to the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), an independent think tank dealing with issues of national and international safety.

Visit of Salzburg’s Mayor Heinz Schaden to London from 15-16 September 2016

From 15-16 September Salzburg’s Mayor Dr. Heinz Schaden and a delegation of mayors of the Association of Cities and Towns of Salzburg met with the Lord Mayor of Westminster Steve Summers and other high-ranking representatives of the City of London’s district administration unit. On their agenda was an exchange on the latest initiatives and developments concerning urban policies. Furthermore, the delegation attended the monthly meeting of the Court of Common Council, the City of London’s primary decision-making assembly. The visit also included a discussion about “Brexit” with Austrian Broadcasting Agency-correspondent Bettina Prendergast at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador Dr. Martin Eichtinger.

Visit of Finance Minister Hans Jörg Schelling to London on 29 September 2016

On 29 September Finance Minister Dr. Hans Jörg Schelling and the President of the Austrian Central Bank Claus Raidl opened the conference “CEE Breakfast Panel Discussion 2016” in London, an event within the framework of 21st Austria. 21st Austria is an initiative established in 2011 for strengthening Austria’s global competitive position. Afterwards, Finance Minister Schelling met his British counterpart Philip Hammond at 11, Downing Street. Schelling’s visit to the United Kingdom concluded with a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford Professor Louise Richardson and a speech to university students.

READ MORE http://www.21st-austria.at/events-webinars/event/cee-round-table-2016.html?day=20160928&times=1475013600,1475186399
Jazz concert at the Austrian Residence on 30 September 2016

On 30 September as part of the Austrian Ambassador Dr. Martin Eichtinger’s special concert series the Embassy presented a jazz concert featuring pianist and singer Simone Kopmajer and drummer Reinhard Winkler. The audience enjoyed the selection of self-composed songs and the own and unique interpretation of jazz classics.

READ MORE  http://simonekopmajer.com/engl/start_en/start_en.htm

150 Years Austrian Embassy on Belgrave Square

This year, the Austrian Embassy is celebrating 150 years of presence at 18 Belgrave Square. According to an announcement made in the newspaper “The Morning Post” on 11 October 1866 the Austrian Embassy relocated from their location in Chandos House to Belgrave Square where they have been ever since!

On this special occasion, the Embassy hosted a Gala event on 10 October 2016 – an Austrian style ball featuring opera singers and waltz music by Johann Strauss - in the presence of HRH Princess Michael of Kent and Lord Mayor of Westminster, Steve Summers. Furthermore, on 11 October the jubilee publication “Celebrating 150 years of Austria’s Presence on Belgrave Square” was presented in a panel discussion by the authors, Prof. Otto Rauchbauer (University of Vienna) and Prof. Richard Bassett (University of Cambridge) and moderated by Ambassador Dr. Martin Eichtinger.

The book was especially commissioned for this anniversary and compiles photographs, portraits of Ambassadors and facsimiles of original documents.
„Welt.Wirtschaft.Österreich”: A new initiative of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 31 August the Business Support Service in the Austrian Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs launched the initiative "World.Economy.Austria. Successful ideas for our country".

“What can we learn from other countries?” is the key approach of this initiative. The Foreign Ministry not only supports Austrian citizens and businesses around the globe, but is also looking for successful examples of how other countries have dealt with different challenges and managed to stay competitive. With this initiative the Foreign Ministry wants to bring together best-practice examples and put them to discussion in Austria. Austrians living abroad can certainly contribute on the basis of their experience in different countries.

Call for participation: We are looking forward to every comment or new idea on the Facebook page of the Austrian MFA. A selection of ideas already can be found on the initiative’s website http://www.erfolgsидеен.at (only in German). If you want to contribute with an idea through a video message, please get in touch with the Austrian Embassy (christoph.weingartner@bmeia.gv.at or 0207344 3265).
News from Austria in brief

Austrian Presidential elections - The second round of the Austrian Presidential Election will be held on 4 December, 2016. For information on the election (in German) please click [READ MORE](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-aufenthalt/leben-im-ausland/wahlen/aktuelle-information-zur-bundespraesidentenwahl-2016/)

OSCE Mediterranean Conference on the fight against radicalisation & extremism North and South of the Mediterranean, on 5-6 October 2016 - Recent and current developments demonstrate the inextricable link between security in the OSCE area and in the Mediterranean region. Violent extremism, radicalization and terrorism as well as current migration trends are amongst the most pressing challenges. Youth is the population group most widely affected by these phenomena, both south and north of the Mediterranean. The Conference "Youth North and South of the Mediterranean: Facing Security Challenges and Enhancing Opportunities" provided a platform for exchanging views and experiences from north and south of the Mediterranean. [READ MORE](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/the-ministry/press/speeches-and-interviews/)

OPEN AUSTRIA – Austrian representation opens in innovation hot spot Silicon Valley on 4 October 2016 - The Foreign Ministry and the Austrian Economic Chamber (WKO) opened a joint office in California to pave the way for success for Austrian businesses in Silicon Valley. Together with US Ambassador Alexa Wesner, Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz and Jürgen Roth, Vice-President of the Austrian Economic Chamber, opened the new office of the OPEN AUSTRIA initiative on 4 October 2016 – via a live video link connecting Vienna with the community event in San Francisco. The goal of "Open Austria" is to support Austrian science and business communities, established companies and start-ups alike, and smoothen their way to Silicon Valley. [READ MORE](http://www.open-austria.com/)

United Nations Human Rights Council adopts Austrian resolution on the safety of journalists - On 29 September, the United Nations Human Rights Council unanimously adopted a comprehensive resolution on the safety of journalists introduced by Austria. The resolution is by far the strongest text that the UN Human Rights Council and the General Assembly have ever adopted on this topic, and focuses on the risks journalists are exposed to in exercising their profession. [READ MORE](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/new_hrc_resolution_commends_unescos_work_on_the_safety_of/#.V_39ak_2aUk)

71st General Assembly of the United Nations - Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz at General Assembly in New York - Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz joined the 71st General Assembly of the United Nations which took place from 18 to 23 September 2016 in New York. For his agenda please click [READ MORE](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/the-ministry/press/announcements/2016/09/71st-general-assembly-of-the-united-nations/); for his speech see [READ MORE](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/das-ministerium/presse/reden-und-
Opening of the new Austrian Embassy in Tbilisi - During his visit to the southern Caucasus region, Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs, Michael Linhart, along with Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia, Gigi Gigiadze, inaugurated the new Austrian Embassy in Tbilisi on 22 September 2016.

Austrian Foreign Minister, Sebastian Kurz, undertook a strategic reorganisation of the network of diplomatic representations; the opening of the embassy is part of this restructuring process. Three new Austrian embassies were opened in member states of the Eastern Partnership with the EU in 2016. Along with Tbilisi, the others are Chisinau in Moldova and Minsk in Belarus. The countries in the Eastern Partnership with the EU are of increasing economic importance to Austria and, as with Georgia, are also priority countries for the Austrian Development Cooperation. These countries need both strengthened political and economic support, also within the EU framework.

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Events Preview


**Concert with Austrian pianist Ingolf Wunder** - On the occasion of the Austrian National Day, Austrian Ambassador Dr. Martin Eichtinger invites to a concert of Austrian pianist Ingolf Wunder on 25 October 2016 (only by personal invitation).

**Austrian National Day reception** - On the occasion of the Austrian National Day, Austrian Ambassador Dr. Martin Eichtinger invites Austrians living in the United Kingdom to a reception at the Austrian residence on 26 October 2016 (only by personal invitation).

**The Spanish Horse riding school** of Vienna will perform at the SSE Arena, Wembley Stadium from 11-13 November 2016. [READ MORE](http://www.ssearena.co.uk/events/detail/spanish-riding-school).

**Austrian pianist Ingolf Wunder** performs at Southbank Centre on 19 November 2016. [READ MORE](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/ingolf-wunder-piano-95087).

**Vienna State Opera press conference** on the occasion of the presentation of the 2016/2017 season on 24 November 2016 (for media only).

**Alpbach in Residence** - The Austrian Embassy and Club Alpbach London will jointly organize on 29 November 2016 the “Club Alpbach in residence” (more information will soon be available on the Embassy’s webpage [https://www.bmeia.gv.at/botschaft/london.html](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/botschaft/london.html)).

**Austrian Club London invites to Pre-Christmas drinks** at the Austrian Residence on 2 December 2016 [READ MORE](http://www.austrianclublondon.com/events).
Austrian Club London “Nikolaus Feier” at the Austrian Residence on 4 December 2016
READ MORE http://www.austrianclublondon.com/events).

For events of the Austrian Cultural Forum in London please see http://www.acflondon.org/