

**“Doing less more efficiently!” –
Focusing on the essentials as a guiding principle
for the future of Europe**



23rd Europa-Forum Wachau, 15 – 16 June 2018, Göttweig Abbey

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Organiser:

Martin Eichinger

President of the Europa-Forum Wachau,
Minister of Housing, Labour and International Relations in the
Government of Lower Austria

with the support of the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria
and the State Government of Lower Austria



Chair:

Sebastian Kurz

Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria



Johanna Mikl-Leitner

Governor of Lower Austria



Presentation:

Paul Lendvai

Head of ORF TV-Europastudio

Conference Venue:

Göttweig Abbey, 3511 Furth bei Göttweig, Austria

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Federal Chancellery

Europa-Forum Wachau
15 – 16 June 2018, Göttweig Abbey

**Friday 15 June**

10.00 a.m. **Arrival** at the Abbey of Göttweig

10.30 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION**, Altmann Hall
Host: Paul Lendvai, Head of ORF TV-Europastudio, Vienna

Welcoming speeches

Rt.Rev. Columban Luser, Abbott of Göttweig

Martin Eichtinger, President of the Europa-Forum Wachau, Minister of Housing, Labour and International Relations in the Government of Lower Austria, St. Pölten

Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Governor of Lower Austria, St. Pölten

Gernot Blümel, Federal Minister within the Federal Chancellery for the EU, Arts, Culture and Media of the Republic of Austria, Vienna

Karin Kneissl, Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, Vienna

Panel discussion

“A Europe that protects: Stability in the neighbourhood, especially the Western Balkans and South-Eastern Europe”

Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

Lilyana Pavlova, Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Sofia

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Brussels

Chairwoman: Stefanie Bolzen, WELT Correspondent, United Kingdom, London

Followed by **Reception** given by Governor **Johanna Mikl-Leitner**
 Restaurant of the Abbey, Terrace

2.00-4.30 p.m. **WORKING GROUPS**

Saturday 16 June

10.00 a.m. **Arrival** at the Abbey of Göttweig

10.30 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION**, Altmann Hall
Host: Paul Lendvai, Head of ORF TV-Europastudio, Vienna

Welcoming speeches

Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Governor of Lower Austria, St. Pölten

Sebastian Kurz, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Vienna

Panel discussion

“A Europe that protects: Security concerns and the fight against illegal migration”

Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, Zagreb

Duško Marković, Prime Minister of Montenegro, Podgorica

Ana Brnabić, Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade

Berndt Körner, Deputy Executive Director, Frontex, Warsaw

Chairman: Christian Wehrschütz, Foreign Correspondent, ORF Austrian Broadcasting Corporation, Belgrade/Kiev

Closing words

Martin Eichtinger, President of the Europa-Forum Wachau, Minister of Housing, Labour and International Relations in the Government of Lower Austria, St. Pölten

Followed by **Reception** given by Federal Chancellor **Sebastian Kurz**
 Restaurant of the Abbey, Terrace



Working Group 1
(Working language: German)

“European workshop – citizens shaping Europe”

Chair: Peter Görgl, Managing Director, Modul 5, Vienna

Keynote Speeches:

Ulrike Guérot, Head of the Department for European Policy and the Study of Democracy, Danube University Krems, Krems

Martin Gebhart, Chief-Editor for Lower Austria, newspaper “Kurier”, Vienna

Working Group 2
(Working language: German)

“A better Europe with a smaller EU budget – how can this work?”

Chair: Hubert Wachter, Publicist and Writer, St. Pölten

Keynote Speeches:

Lukas Mandl, Member of the European Parliament, Austria, Brussels/Gerasdorf

Friedrich Mostböck, Head of Group Research, Erste Group Bank AG, Vienna

Thomas Salzer, President, Federation of Lower Austrian Industries, Vienna

Oliver Dreute, Adviser on the Multiannual Financial Framework, European Commission (European Political Strategy Centre), Brussels

Working Group 3
(Working language: English)

“Austrian EU Presidency 2018: Chairing Europe at the crossroads”

Chair: Andrä Rupprechter, former Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Principal Adviser at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, Vienna/Brussels

Keynote Speeches:

Lilyana Pavlova, Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Sofia

Carsten Pillath, Director General, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, Brussels

Alexander Schallenberg, Ambassador, Director General for Coordination at the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria, Vienna

