**HC Newsletter September 2020 – draft**

Dear Friends of Austria!

Fall is here! Now we can look forward to the changing of the colors, a beautiful spectacle of nature. And hopefully to several days of “Altweiber Sommer” (Indian Summer), for these mild, sunny autumn days, combined with the taste of the grapes, apples, and fresh wine (Heuriger) with Apfelstrudel.

**NEWS FROM AND ABOUT AUSTRIA**

 Now it is time for the **“Almabtrieb”.** These stylish cows are decorated to celebrate their annual return from high Alpine pastures to the towns and villages where they spend the winter. These cows pictured are in the Tannheimer Tal, a valley of the Allgäu Alps in Austria, where more than 100,000 head of cattle make the seasonal migration. Most years, the event brings farmers and villagers together for a festival with music, dance, feasts, and booths selling food and artisanal products, but this year the public celebrations have been canceled. Nevertheless, the Almabtrieb is a festive annual tradition that's been happening for hundreds of years and will surely happen again.

: **September 13: Dominic Thiem** wins his first US Open final against German Alexander Zverev. It was a nail biter match decided in a tiebreak. Dominic managed a remarkable comeback from a 2-set disadvantage. Thiem is the first Austrian to win an US Open. Congratulations!! We are so proud of you!

 **September 16:** The stark increase of positive tested cases in Austria, especially in Vienna, prompted Germany, Switzerland, Hungary and several other EU countries to declare Austria as a Covid-19 hotspot and made 2 week quarantine or a negative Covid test mandatory upon entry.

 **September 17:** The **Austrian World Summit 2020**, managed by the Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative, the global matchmaking event for addressing climate change & sharing solutions, is held virtually for the first time. President VanderBellen bestowed upon **Arnold** [**Schwarzenegger**](https://twitter.com/Schwarzenegger) one of [Austria](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Austria?src=hashtag_click)'s highest decorations for his services to relations and his outstanding international commitment to one of the most pressing challenges of our times - overcoming the global Climate Crisis

 **September 18**: World famous Austrian/Russian opera star **Anna Netrebko** got hospitalized with Covid-19, just days after she performed in Verdi’s Don Carlos at the Moscow Bolshoi Theater. It was the first performance at this venue after it was shuttered in March because of the pandemic. So good to hear that Ms. Netrebko is recovering well and started singing from the hospital bed!

**September 21:** United Nations **International Day of Peace**. Peace – needed and longed for especially today more than ever. This year, the traditional Peace Run organized in all parts of the world took place virtually.  All miles and kilometers were run however locally and socially distanced. We need to run for peace – not from it!

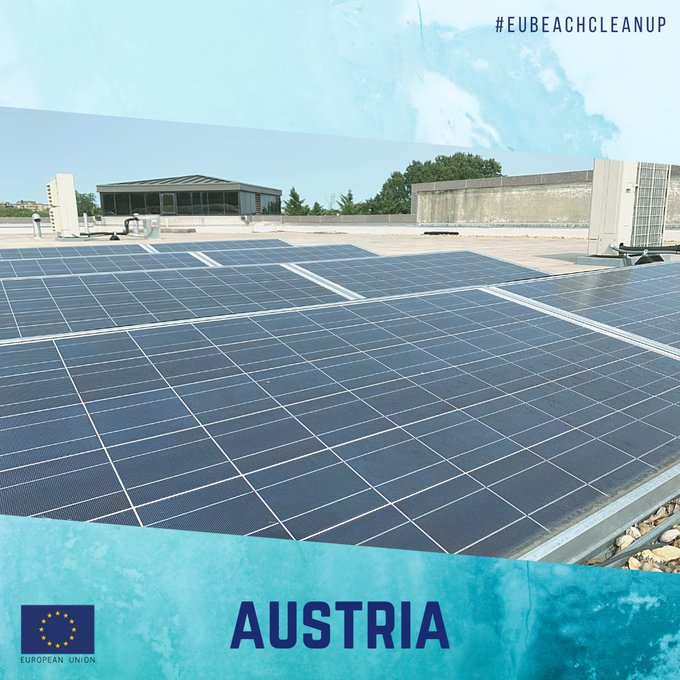
**September 22:** 75 years of the United Nations! 2020 also marks 3 anniversaries for Austria: 65 years as UN member, 60 years of participating in peacekeeping operations, and 40 years of UN Head Quarter in Vienna.

 **September 24:** Today, Austria was elected to the 35-member IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) Board of Governors for the period 2020–2022. Austria emphasizes the essential contribution of IAEA in the area of nuclear disarmament and safety and will continue to be actively engaged in the IAEA framework.

 **Election for Vienna: October 11,** Austrians with **main residence in Vienna** who have completed the age of sixteen on October 11th, 2020, are allowed to vote for the “Gemeinderat” and for the “Bezirksrat”. Moreover, EU citizens with main residence in Vienna can vote for the “Bezirksrat” as well. Vienna has a dual function as a municipality and Austrian state (city-state) and the 100 members of the Gemeinderat of Vienna, the municipal council of the city of Vienna, also act as members of the Landtag, the state legislature of Vienna. Politics in Vienna was traditionally dominated by the social democratic SPÖ. Recent polls point to a continuation of the SPÖ dominance with increases for the Green Party and the conservative ÖVP, and a severe loss for the right-wing FPÖ. For more information on how to order an absentee ballot (only eligible to vote if you have your main residence in Vienna): <https://www.wien.gv.at/politik/wahlen/grbv/2020/wahlkarte.html>

 **Ring of Coldness**: Vienna’s 1st District will install a district wide cooling system that will replace air conditioning while saving energy and reduces CO2 pollution. The water of the “Donaukanal” will be used for heat exchange. The first stage of the project will go live next year, and finished by 2025. More info: <https://www.wien.gv.at/english/politics/international/newsletter/04-2020-cooling-ring.html>

 Vienna based [**Technoclone**](https://www.linkedin.com/company/technoclone-gmbh-vienna-austria/) has developed a precise SARS-CoV-2 antibody test together with the Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna), the **Medizinische Universität Wien** (Medical University of Vienna) and the **Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien** (University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna). The accuracy of the quantitative test is close to 100 percent. False negative and false positive patient results are thus minimized (below 1%).  
As one of the first systems, the test enables antibodies to be determined and the concentration of these antibodies to be measured. Therefore, not only can the immune response in the individual patient be assessed, but it can also be observed over time. The test developed and produced in Vienna is now available worldwide.

 In 2012, a **solar power system** was installed on top of **the Austrian Embassy in DC** to help reduce the embassy’s ecological footprint. The energy produced so far has saved carbon emissions totaling more than 15,000 lbs!

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Thursday, October 1, 7pm**: **Virtual Stammtisch**  **–** hope many of you can join to socialize and enjoy our friendship. <https://zoom.us/j/97085414586?pwd=K1NTV21MenZPWGc2anNYbFdVblNwUT09>

For more information: please contact Jürgen Schatzer, [juergen.schatzer@gmail.com](mailto:juergen.schatzer@gmail.com) or Elana Sabajon, [youcan@askelana.com](mailto:youcan@askelana.com).

**Sunday, October 25, at 4pm**



In 2020 everything is different, so will also be the joint celebration of the

**Austrian National Holiday + Austrian American Day**.

Although we cannot meet in person, we do hope many of you will join the **virtual event:**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88306821969?pwd=ZzlWVE05c3lvZStNQ1FRRDNUcTQ0QT09**](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88306821969?pwd%3DZzlWVE05c3lvZStNQ1FRRDNUcTQ0QT09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw0zMjZ5fYy4T8LnkNN2XQAT)

**It is a special honor that Austria’s Consul General in Los Angeles, Andreas Launer, will join us live!**

Austria regained independence after WWII in 1955 and the last foreign soldier of the occupying forces left the country on October 25 of that year. To celebrate freedom, sovereignty, and democracy for Austria but also for every other country is today more important than ever. Emerging from the ashes of war, dictatorship, and hate, what a thriving and blooming country with the highest standards of living Austria became in the years since, governed by the principles of democracy. We know from Austria’s history how precious but fragile these values are. What seemed to be steadfast pillars of values for the society can crumble and being destroyed faster than imagined.

**Let us celebrate and work towards peace, freedom and democracy not only for Austria but around the world, wherever we are.**

For more details see attached flyer. For technical questions please contact Jürgen Schatzer: juergen.schatzer@gmail.com

DANKE to all for participating in the project: “Listening and Sharing” and already submitted their reflections on their hometown. Each and every contribution is interesting and cherished, valuable and meaningful for every generation. The collection of all contributions will be prepared for distribution and some of them also for presentation at the event. You can still submit your contributions. For more details please see attached flyer. Thank you so much!

Alles Gute und – bleibt gesund !

Herzlichst,

Eva Kammel

Honorary Consul of Austria

Attachments: Invitation National Holiday, Project Listening and Sharing