Dear reader,

I am very pleased to send you the first edition of our Embassy’s newsletter. We are looking back on a very successful year for our bilateral relations with the UK: We had 4 official ministerial visits from Austria to the UK – among them Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz. At the same time, Foreign Secretary Hammond was in Vienna about a dozen times this year – for the Iran talks, the Syria talks as well as for a bilateral visit, Lord Maude met with the Austrian Minister for Economy, Reinhold Mitterlehner – and Prime Minister Cameron had a very constructive meeting with Chancellor Faymann only a few weeks ago.

However, it is not only on the political level where things moved forward. We brought Austria to the UK through the activities of our Embassy, Cultural Forum, Trade Office and Tourism Office. Among them were events like the presentation of the famous “Salzburg Festival” and the Vienna State Opera at the Austrian Residence, the inauguration of the “Vienna Concert Series” which will continue in 2016, the start of a
lecture series in the spirit of “Forum Alpbach”, panel discussions on topics like apprenticeships and many more.

Austria welcomes an increasing number of British tourists every year – be it for skiing, hiking, sightseeing or cultural events. Likewise, our economic relations are growing steadily, boasting a trade volume of 10 bn. Euro and 240 Austrian businesses which created 32,000 jobs in the UK.

We are grateful for this successful year and we are looking forward to a similarly eventful and fruitful year 2016.

Yours,
Martin Eichtinger
(Ambassador)

Latest News from the Embassy

Visit of Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz to London

Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz came to London on 3 November on the occasion of a work visit. The programme included a meeting with Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, a visit of the “Near Neighbours” integration project in Southall, a meeting with Lord Hague of Richmond as well as a get-together with Austrians at a reception in the Austrian Residence hosted by Ambassador Martin Eichtinger.

The formula one racing car of Red Bull which is produced in Milton Keynes and was parked in front of the residence for this special evening served
as symbol for the cooperation in the high-technology area sector between Austria and the United Kingdom.

Vienna State Opera - Presentation of the Programme 2015/2016 and its UHD-Live Streaming

On 2 November 2015, Dominique Meyer, the Director of the Vienna State Opera, presented the programme of the 2015/2016 season and its UHD live streaming programme at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador in London.

The programme includes more than 350 performances, of which 234 are opera and six opera premieres, a world premiere of an opera for children, 51 ballet performances and three ballet premieres and a series of concerts and events. 45 performances will be broadcast live over the internet with UHD picture and sound quality to be viewed on the computer, SmartTV or mobile devices worldwide in the context of the innovative and prize-winning offer WIENER STAATSSOPER live at home.

Presentation of the Salzburg Festival 2016

Helga Rabl-Stadler and Sven-Eric
Bechtolf, the Salzburg Festival Directorate, presented the programme of the next Salzburg Festival at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador on 12 November 2015.

The 2016 Salzburg Festival will comprise 192 performances in 41 days at 14 performance venues.

**Austrian National Day reception**

On the occasion of the Austrian National Day, the Austrian Ambassador Martin Eichtinger invited Austrians living in the United Kingdom to a reception at the residence on 26 October 2015.

The brass band „Blechsalat“ from Linz played the national anthems of Austria and the United Kingdom as well as the European hymn, the “Ode to Joy” by Ludwig van Beethoven. Subsequently the quartet created a cheerful atmosphere.

**Concert on the occasion of the Austrian National Day**

On the 27th of October 2015 the Auner Quartet launched the “Vienna Concert Series in London” with support of the
City of Vienna.

Besides the Austrian Ambassador, the Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps Julian Evans from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Director for International Relations of the City of Vienna, Mr. Oskar Wawra spoke on the occasion of the National Day.

The Quartet won over the audience by its impressive stylistic assurance, its musical virtuosity and the convincing interpretation of works of different eras.

Lt Gen Wolfgang Wosolsobe in Chatham House

The Director General of the EU Military Staff, Lt Gen Wolfgang Wosolsobe, gave a talk on “The European Union as a Security Actor: Integrating Military Action” on 13 November 2015 at Chatham House.

He gave an overview of the current military aspects of the European External Action Service and discussed steps that will be taken to deal with new challenges, such as hybrid and cyber threats. He discussed the EU’s relationship with the defence industry and the preparation of an EU strategy and security policy document planned for spring next year.
### Other London Events

**Austrian Ball London 2016** - see photos of the great event organised by the Austrian Club London!

**Commemoration Plaque Austrian Centre** - home and support for several thousand refugees in UK working for a free and democratic Austria 1939 - 1947 - inaugurated on 16 November.

![Commemoration Plaque](image)

**Young Austria** Exhibition on the fight against Nazism by young Austrian refugees in Britain during World War II at the London School of Economics.

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### News from Austria in brief

- **Talks of Prime Minister Cameron with Federal Chancellor Faymann on 26 November** focused on the British referendum on EU Membership, the refugee crisis, the fight against terrorism and the nuclear power plant Hinkley Point. They agreed on increased cooperation regarding the refugee crisis and the fight against terrorism.
• **50 points towards successful integration** - The Minister for Integration, Sebastian Kurz and the Chair of the Expert Council for Integration, Prof. Fassmann, presented the 50 Point Plan towards Integration of those entitled asylum and subsidiary protection in Austria. In 2013, Austria registered 17,500 asylum requests compared to 28,000 in 2014. For 2015 Austria expects 95,000 asylum requests. Projections for 2016 estimate numbers up from 100,000 to 130,000.

• **The Spanish Horse Riding School was recently added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.** The new Gala Programme includes „Pas de Deux, „Airs above the Ground“ with Kapriole, Levade and Courbette and performances of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the singers Alexandra Reinprecht und Ildiko Raimondi.

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**Preview 2016**

**150 Years Austrian Embassy London on Belgrave Square** - a series of events & a highlight on 11 October are planned!

**200 Years Salzburg in Austria** – numerous events in Salzburg and the special exhibition 'Bishop. Emperor. Everyman' from 30 April - 31 October 2016.

**250 years Vienna Prater** – the Emperor’s hunting grounds were opened to the public in 1766.

**Austria will be Troika member of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2016** and will chair the OSCE in 2017.