Dear reader,

The last months brought major political changes. In Austria, presidential elections were held in May - which have to be renewed for formal reasons -, and Austria has a new Federal Chancellor and there has been a major reshuffle of the cabinet.

A month later, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. Whilst fully respecting the democratic decision, Austria regrets the loss of one of its most important partners in the European Union. Although the result of the referendum will most likely lead to a fundamental change in the relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union, it has no immediate effect on the legal status of Austrian and other EU citizens in the United Kingdom or British citizens in Austria or
other EU member states.

However, the last months were not only filled with political changes but also with numerous events, organised by the Embassy, our Cultural Forum, the Trade Commission and our National Tourist Office. Austrian authors have been presented to an interested audience at the London Book Fair and the Academy Award winning Austrian movie 'The Counterfeiters' was screened at Regents Street Cinema, followed by a Q&A with actor Karl Markovics. Also, the Austrian Embassy and the Club Alpbach London hosted a lecture in the framework of the 'Club Alpbach in Residence' series on 'Is the digital era killing or curing society?' with digital strategist and Author Julie Dodd and Jon Alexander, Founder of the New Citizenship Project.

From Friday 17 until Sunday 19 June, the Austrian Cultural Forum opened its doors on the occasion of its 60th anniversary with a series of anniversary commissions including artworks, film, concerts and literature reflecting its programme and its history.

Classical music lovers had the chance to enjoy a free concert screening of the traditional summer concert of the wonderful Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, live broadcasted from Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna to London's South Bank.

We wish you a wonderful summer and are looking forward to various events in September and the upcoming months.

Yours,

**Martin Eichtinger**
Austrian Ambassador
to the United Kingdom

p.s.: Just in case that you travel to Vienna this summer: the Vienna Danube Canal and the Danube Island have been ranked among the top ten urban beaches and city riversides in Europe by The Guardian.

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Latest News from the Embassy
Austria opened up a new Honorary Consulate in Manchester

The Austrian Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Martin Eichtinger, has sworn in the new Honorary Consul of Austria in Manchester, Mr. Harald Loeffler, an internationally operating solicitor advocate and partner at DAC Beachcroft LLP.

The contact details and business hours of the new consulate can be found on the website of the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs.

The official opening ceremony of the premises of the Consulate in Manchester took place on Tuesday 31 May, 2016.

Grafenegg Festival celebrated its 10th Anniversary in London

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Grafenegg Festival the artistic director and world-famous pianist Rudolf Buchbinder presented the location in the park of Grafenegg Castle and its characteristics as well as the new programme for the summer season 2016 at the residence of the Austrian Ambassador.

Buchbinder was accompanied by musical performances of young musicians of the London based European Youth Orchestra - EUYO.
BartolomeyBittmann’s Concert in the Residence

Matthias Bartolomey and Klemens Bittmann enthralled the audience in the Austrian Ambassador’s Residence on 4 April.

Since 2012, the Austrian duo is working together as “BartolomeyBittmann” and leading their instruments out of the classical music tradition on new paths.

BartolomeyBittmann have played a selection of their new programme “Neubau” and delighted the audience across all generations.

Austrian Architecture exhibition in Cardiff and Glasgow

From 5 April to the 6th of May, the travelling exhibition „Getting Things Done“ about the typical architecture of the Austrian state of Vorarlberg, branded „Vorarlberger Bauschule“ was on at the Senedd in Cardiff.

It featured more than 230 projects and 700 photos along with video interviews with several architects, curators and architecture critics.

In May and June, the exhibition was
Glasgow Lord Provost Sadie Docherty and the Second President of the Austrian Parliament Karlheinz Kopf shown at Glasgow's architecture and design centre 'The Lighthouse'. The opening on 16 May was attended by the Second President of the Austrian Parliament, Karlheinz Kopf.

Brucknerhaus © Stadt Linz

Bruckner Orchestra Linz in London

On the occasion of the tour of the Bruckner Orchester Linz in the United Kingdom, the new programme of the Musiktheater Linz was presented at the Residence of the Austrian Ambassador.

The musical tour through the United Kingdom started on Thursday 21 April with a concert in the Cadogan Hall in London. On Friday, the Austrian Ambassador Martin Eichtinger invited a select public to a reception in his Residence.

Michael Niavarani

The Austrian star comedian, actor and writer Michael Niavarani gave a hilarious performance at the Residence of the Austrian Ambassador on 13 July.

The benefits of charity event organised by the Embassy in cooperation with the Austrian Club London will flow into the Fund for Austrians in Need.
Other Events

Interfaith reception at Lambeth Palace

To honour the work of the charity Near Neighbours, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby hosted a reception at Lambeth Palace on 19 May.

It was attended by several faith and community leaders, including Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and Shaykh
EU Referendum

Information for citizens

The result of the EU referendum has no immediate effect on the status of Austrian and other EU citizens in the UK or British citizens in Austria or other EU member states. As long as the United Kingdom has not left the European Union, which is expected no earlier than 2018, all entry and residence requirements as well as social security regulations remain unchanged.

The preservation of the freedom of movement will depend on the outcome of the negotiations between the United Kingdom and the European Union. Therefore, the modalities of the relationship between the UK and the EU and any implications for citizens living abroad cannot be predicted at this stage.

Nevertheless, Austria will continue to look out for the status of its citizens in the United Kingdom.
See also the statement of the UK government on the status of EU nationals in the UK here.

**Caution**: The Austrian Citizenship Act (Staatsbürschaftsgesetz 1985 - StBG) does generally not allow double citizenship. **The Austrian citizenship is immediately lost if a foreign nationality is acquired by a declaration of intent (‘naturalisation’), and not obtained automatically (e.g. by birth).** However, pursuant to article 28 of the Austrian Citizenship Act, it is possible to make a request for an authorisation to retain the Austrian citizenship BEFORE applying for a foreign nationality.

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**Austrian Presidential Elections**

The result of the second round of the presidential elections has been challenged by the defeated candidate before the Austrian Constitutional Court who ruled that the second round has to be renewed - not on grounds of manipulation but for formal reasons. The new date is still to be set - most likely on 2 October. Eligible to vote are those Austrian citizens who were already listed in the electoral register for the first round of the elections.

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**Asylum and Migration**

The Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz reiterated that the international community has to continue supporting the refugees in the conflict zone in Syria and in the refugee camps in its neighbouring countries. According to the Minister, the EU-Turkey-Deal is sensible, but "the aim should be a strong, independent Europe which is able to protect its borders."

On June 1st, the new Austrian asylum law has come into force. Among other points it includes temporary asylum, stricter regulations for basic care and gives the
government the possiblity to put an emergency executive order into place. It also regulates the number of asylum seekers allowed to enter into Austria which the government announced will be 37,500 at most in 2016.

Austria will continue to work towards an European solution to the refugee crisis. This year, Austria received more than 22,100 asylum applications until now. In 2015, 90,000 people applied for asylum in Austria.

News from Austria in brief

- **Syria and Libya Talks in Vienna** - On 17 May Vienna has once again been venue for international dialogue as the peace talks for Syria and Libya have taken place there. The meetings was chaired by US State Secretary John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

- **60 years of diplomatic relations with Israel** - On the occasion of this celebration, Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz visited Israel from 15 to 16 May. Mr Kurz met with Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanjahu as well as with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki.

- **Austria’s new government** - After Chancellor Werner Faymann (SPOE) resigned, President Heinz Fischer appointed a new government led by Chancellor Christian Kern (SPOE), former CEO of the state owned Austrian Federal Railways OEBB.

Events Preview

150 Years Austrian Embassy London on Belgrave Square - more events and a
Highlight around 11 October are planned!

21st Austria Central and Eastern Europe Round Table - 19 and 20 September

Spanish Horse Riding School - SSE Arena, Wembley, London, from 11 to 13 November
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