

KOMMUNALE SOMMERGESPRÄCHE 2020

Sustainable services for general interest – Crisis-proof into the future.



The challenges posed by the drastic but necessary restrictions to overcome the recent global health crisis illustrate the need for a functioning infrastructure for social and economic well-being. This includes a relevant social infrastructure, a secure energy supply and a high-performance communications structure.

How are we prepared for such crisis scenarios? What needs to be considered in the future? Which measures must be effective? While everyday life was characterized by social distance (home office) and reduction to the essentials, a digital convergence took place at the same time. What experiences are we taking with us? What can, what should remain?

We are called upon to create sustainable economic and social foundations in order to keep everyday life and thus the economic engine running. We are striving to channel communication and finance in order to maintain the continuity of all units. We are aware of the need to invest in infrastructure in order to be better equipped for the future. The communities as suppliers, business locations, schools, workplaces, cultural, natural and living spaces are doing this every day.

Sustainable – regional – appreciative – together. We will talk about challenges, experiences and opportunities after these months at this year's KOMMUNALE SOMMERGESPRÄCHE. Let's work together to make our future even more crisis-proof.

THURSDAY, 27TH AUGUST 2020

- 10.30-10.45 a.m.: **Welcome**

Erwin DIRNBERGER, President Styrian Association of Municipalities, Member of the State Parliament of Styria, Mayor Söding-St. Johann (Styria) | **Bernd FISLAGE**, CEO Kommunalkredit | **Franz FROSCH**, Mayor Bad Aussee (Styria) | **Alfred RIEDL**, President Austrian Association of Municipalities, Mayor Grafenwörth (Lower Austria)

Presented by **Meinrad KNAPP**, TV host and radio anchor

- 10.45-11.15 a.m.: **Impulse**

Reflection & Challenges.

Thomas HOFER, political consultant and author

The challenges posed by the drastic but necessary constraints to address the recent global health crisis demonstrate the need for a functioning system. How are we prepared for such crisis scenarios? How compatible is this with existing principles, including the rule of law?

- 11.15 a.m.-12.45 p.m.: **Impulse & Panel Discussion**

Basis services. Immediate measures and future scenarios.

Gerhard CHRISTINER, Member of Board Austrian Power Grid

Crisis-proof basic services combined with sustainable infrastructure are the principles of biggest energy-economic change of the century. Are we prepared for it?

Learn. Implement. Use. Insights for the future.

Ingrid FELIPE, Deputy Governor Tyrol

Challenges and opportunities in the environmental and energy sector: How can measures to combat climate change be taken quickly and efficiently now?

Post-crisis economies. Recommendations for action for Austrian municipalities.

Christoph BADEL, Head of Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)

Overall, about one third of the Austrian workforce works in sectors that are not economically affected or only moderately affected by the current crisis phase. What regional differences are there in the economic impact?

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Crisis-proof infrastructure. How are Austria's municipalities positioned?

Discussion with the speakers | **Bernd FISLAGE**, CEO Kommunalkredit | **Walter OBLIN**, Member of Board Post AG

- 12.45-2.15 p.m.: **Lunch**

- 2.15-2.30 p.m.: **Impulse**
You can always rely on the communities.
Alfred RIEDL, President Austrian Association of Municipalities, Mayor Grafenwörth (Lower Austria)

- 2.30-2.45 p.m.: **Impulse**
Crisis-proof investments in our infrastructure.
Bernd FISLAGE, CEO Kommunalkredit

- 3.00-5.30 p.m.: **Parallel Sessions**

Session 1: Regional instead of global. Life after the crisis.

How digitalization and sustainability strengthen local authorities.

Christoph BADEL, Head of Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) | **Daniel DETTLING**, Head of Institute for future Policy, Berlin | **Marcus GRAUSAM**, CEO A1 | **Herbert GREISBERGER**, CEO Energy and Environment Agency Lower Austria | **Robert NAGELE**, Member of Board BILLA MERKUR AG, Real Estate Division | Hosted by: **Wolfgang UNTERHUBER**, Kurier (Newspaper)

Session 2: Crisis-proof investments. Future-oriented infrastructures.

Let us secure the services of general interest for the next generations.

André FELKER, CEO Backbone | **Ingmar HÖBARTH**, CEO Climate and Energy Fund Austria | **Kurt LEEB**, Managing Director eww Anlagentechnik | **Helmut MIERNICKI**, Chief Executive ecoplus. The Business Agency of Lower Austria | **Johannes PRESSL**, Mayor Ardagger (Lower Austria) | **Leopold REYMAIER**, Head of Austrian Market Kommunalkredit | Hosted by: **Leopold STEFAN**, Der Standard (Newspaper)

Forum 3: Energy concepts of the future. Sustainable and safe.

Which ideas must take effect now?

Paul ABLINGER, Managing Director and Representative Upper Austria Small Hydropower Austria | **Heidelinde ADENSAM**, Head of Department Energy Efficiency and Buildings Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation & Technology | **Alexandra AMERSTORFER**, Managing Director Kommunalkredit Public Consulting | **Bernd STROBL**, Mayor Ollersdorf (Burgenland) | Hosted by: **Manfred PERTERER**, Salzburger Nachrichten (Newspaper)

- 6.00 p.m.: **Dinner**
Musical act: **ZIAMWIAM** and **Holatrio**

FRIDAY, 28TH AUGUST 2020

- 9.00-9.30 a.m.: **Impulse**
Must we fear the future?
Daniel DETTLING, Head of Institute for future Policy, Berlin
Digitalization, demography and the crisis of democracy are the three major challenges of our time and cause immense uncertainty. But to be able to look optimistically into the future, we do not need fear of the future, but something new: "future intelligence".

- 9.30-10.00 a.m.: **Impulse**
EU post-crisis support plan for municipalities.
Othmar KARAS, Vice President European Parliament
All EU institutions and bodies are working around the clock at full speed to combat the corona crisis. Legislative proposals, communications, guidelines, recommendations as well as the new EU investment offensive, the expansion of the EU Solidarity Fund and the Euro rescue package must now take effect quickly.

- 10.00-10.30 a.m.: **Impulse**
Country.Economy.Tourism. The strenghts of a country.
Elisabeth KÖSTINGER, Federal Minister of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism
The consequences of climate change are also affecting Austria. What does this mean for our agriculture? And how will tourism, one of the most important economic factors in our country, adapt to these and other challenges?

- 10.30 a.m.-12.00 p.m.: **Discussion**
Together we can do this!
Discussion with the speakers | **Alfred RIEDL**, President Austrian Association of Municipalities, Mayor Grafenwörth (Lower Austria) | **Ralph SPIEGLER**, President German Association of Cities and Municipalities, Mayor Nieder-Olm (Germany)

- 12.00-12.15 p.m.: **Resumee**
Bernd FISLAGE, CEO Kommunalkredit | **Alfred RIEDL**, President Austrian Association of Municipalities, Mayor Grafenwörth (Lower Austria)

- 12.15 p.m.: **Lunch**