

Wiener Zeitung – official gazette

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The Republic of Austria (Federation) is the 100 % owner of the Wiener Zeitung group; this ownership is exercised by the Federal Chancellor.

The daily newspaper *Wiener Zeitung* is the oldest among the newspapers existing in the world. The first edition was published in 1703 entitled *Wienerisches Diarium*, since 1780 the newspaper has carried the name *Wiener Zeitung*. Since 1812 the *Amtsblatt zur Oesterreichisch - Kaiserlichen privilegierten Wiener Zeitung*, the official gazette, has been published as part of the *Wiener Zeitung*.

In addition to the edition of the newspaper, the Wiener Zeitung group still publishes the official gazette (*Amtsblatt zur Wiener Zeitung*) of the Republic of Austria and maintains several services on behalf of the Republic. The main goal of the group's activities is to support the communicational tasks of the Republic by providing extensive, service- oriented and economic information to citizens and thus to ensure highest quality and administrative transparency.

The Wiener Zeitung group consists of the Wiener Zeitung GmbH and the subsidiary Wiener Zeitung Digitale Publikationen GmbH (Wiener Zeitung Digital Publications GmbH).

Wiener Zeitung GmbH

The main tasks of the Wiener Zeitung GmbH are the editing, production and distribution of the daily newspaper *Wiener Zeitung*, together with the enclosed official gazette *Amtsblatt zur Wiener Zeitung*. The newspaper and the official gazette are published in a print and an online version.

The Wiener Zeitung GmbH plays an essential role in fulfilling non-market-oriented tasks according to public contracts and legal regulations. Hence the central purpose of the company is to supply relevant information on behalf of the Republic of Austria. For instance, the Wiener Zeitung GmbH does the editorial work for the platform help.gv.at, the central information source for Austrian citizens trying to find answers to everyday questions concerning legal and administrative issues.

Wiener Zeitung Digital Publications GmbH

The Wiener Zeitung Digital Publications GmbH performs mainly market-oriented tasks.

It operates a platform to carry out tenders and it provides Austrian companies with an opportunity to offer their products and services to the public sector as well as to inform themselves on current calls (auftrag.at). Work is ongoing to carry out the provision of an e-procurement-platform due to *new European regulations*.

The Wiener Zeitung Digital Publications GmbH offers an easy-to-use and highly reliable access to organize complex tenders and to benefit from calls for the state sector as well as for Austrian and European companies. Apart from easy handling and high reliability, transparent processing of tender procedures constitutes an essential quality feature.

Other important tasks are the editing of the Austrian Federal Law Gazette in a print-version, and the editing of a periodical newsletter of the Austrian Finance Administration subscribed by experts. These publications aim to satisfy information demands; they do not have any announcement functions.

In addition to that, Wiener Zeitung Digital Publications GmbH carries out a number of intra-corporate services such as IT-service, -support and -development.

Short overview of the publications within the *Amtsblatt zur Wiener Zeitung*

Official statements

The official gazette *Amtsblatt zur Wiener Zeitung*, in its print- as well as in its digital version, is the official medium for the publication of official statements of the Republic of Austria.

Ordinances of public or outsourced authorities, other official announcements, job advertisements for the public service sector and other fields, legally required announcements of job openings, election proposals, election results etc. are published within the official gazette. Law frequently prescribes announcements within the official gazette. According to § 1, para 1 of the Verlautbarungsgesetz (Announcement Act), all announcements of a statutory nature that need to be publicly announced must be published within the official gazette. Publication requirements, for example, are prescribed in the Bankwesengesetz (Banking Act), the Kapitalmarktgesetz (Capital Market Act), the Allgemeines Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz (General Administrative Procedure Act) or the ORF-Gesetz (Act on the Austrian Broadcasting and Television Company).

The content of the *Amtsblatt zur Wiener Zeitung* has to be provided online free of charge (§ 2a Verlautbarungsgesetz).

Publication of information of private companies

The Austrian federal law prescribes the announcement of particular information of private companies. According to § 10 of the Unternehmensgesetzbuch (Austrian Commercial Code), the registration of a company in the commercial register and announcements prescribed by the respective administrative court are to be published in full length in the *Amtsblatt zur Wiener Zeitung*. This concerns all registrations in the companies register of limited liability companies and stock corporations (capital companies), for example the amendment or discharge of a registration or the submission of annual financial statements. Big stock corporations are furthermore obliged to publish their annual financial statements, including the unqualified or refused audit certificate, within the official gazette, according to § 277 UGB (Austrian Commercial Code). The publication is subject to charge according to customary fees in the market and fixed by state authorities.

Outlook

As the central announcement medium of the Republic of Austria, *Wiener Zeitung* aims at providing information in a simple and user-friendly way. In order to provide access to relevant data in an even more service-minded, simple and broader way, the existing *Amtsblatt* shall be further expanded in all channels, from print to online and applications for mobile devices.

Wiener Zeitung aims at optimizing the currently accessible area of economic information and at expanding service offers. In addition to that, it intends to enlarge information offers that are tailored for specific target groups. By bringing together and editing different data sources, users will get the desired results in a faster and easier way. Data that are otherwise hard to find will be supplied in a service- and user-friendly form. Implementing a homogenous publication platform and strengthening creditor and investor protection through improving data transparency will be meaningful and necessary.

Overall, these efforts support the Republic of Austria and its administration in increasing efficiency and transparency.