

# Short version...

## ... of the Handbook of Freedom Party Politics

### 1) Freedom and responsibility

Freedom is our greatest asset. The freedom of individual citizens and the freedom of the community, as it was achieved by our ancestors in the civil revolution of 1848, has to be maintained by us and our successors, it is the goal of our strive.

Freedom is the will for self-responsibility, it aims at self-determination and it excludes any form of oppression. Freedom and responsibility are forming the core of personal development and any kind of community.

The term freedom is rooted in an idealistic outlook and it looks at man as not just restricted by his material circumstances. The freedom of the individual finds its limit in the restriction of the freedom of another.

Freedom, human dignity and a democratic sense of community are the principles of our freedom-loving attitude and our sense of order with regards to the following thematic emphasis:

- Homeland and identity,
- Law and justice,
- Family, generations and population development,
- Common welfare and working environment,
- Health,

- Knowledge and inspiration,
- Security,
- Cosmopolitanism and independence,
- Europe of fatherlands

### 2) Homeland and identity

The right to a homeland and to a national identity is a basic right. We are obligated to protect our homeland and our living principles as well as to preserve our national and cultural identity.

We are committed to the right to self-determination of the nations, the independence of our homeland, the Republic of Austria, as well as the solidarity of all Austrian citizens.

The love for one's own homeland requires being aware of the cross-generational attachment with our ancestors and the responsibility towards our successors. We want to preserve a homeland for generations to come, in which a life of self-determination in a healthy environment as well as the continued development in freedom, peace and safety are made possible.

The language, history and culture of Austria are German. The large majority of Austrians are part of the German community of people, language and culture. The autochthonous population groups are –as historically residing minorities- a precious part of our homeland Austria and the people of our country.

Assimilated immigrants from a culturally close environment are able to obtain the right to a homeland and to citizenship.

Austria is not a country of immigrants. It is a question of humanitarianism to provide those, who are persecuted due to racial, religious or political reasons, with limited political asylum in our homeland for as long as there is a need for protection. Whoever travels through Austria via a safe third country has to apply for this asylum in that country.

Austrian citizenship represents a high value. Its bestowment requires the knowledge of the German language, the observation of our laws, the integration into our culture and a clear commitment to our liberal-democratic constitutional state.

Europe was characterized considerably by Greek philosophy, by Roman law, by the German love for freedom and by Christian values and it continued its substantial further development by reformation, humanism and enlightenment. We are committed to these occidental basic values, to a Christian humanistic world view and to secularism, the separation of church and state.

Fanaticism, extremism and violence are dangers to our culture, our identity and a positive further development of our homeland Austria in peace and freedom. We are ready to defend our community of values and our liberal-democratic basic rights against these dangers and to stand up in defense for the preservation and further development of this occidental culture.

The privilege of the lawful recognition as a religious community and the bestowment of the status of a public legal entity are reserved to religious denominations which are committed to secularization as an achievement of our enlightened society. The freedom of religious practice in Austria also depends on the freedom –protected by our constitutional state- to remain free from religious dogmatic forces.

We are committed to the independence of our homeland. Amendments to European law, which affect the core of our federal constitution, require a binding referendum for Austria's consent.

Regarding the issue of supplying our citizens with necessary goods of everyday life, with clean water, natural food products and renewable energy, Austria must – regardless of its good economic relationships with foreign countries- strive for and maintain the largest-possible self-sufficiency.

A healthy common sense is the prerequisite for self-sufficiency and the preservation of our natural basis for livelihood. Austria's farmers should be free from subsidy restrictions and monopoly-oriented agricultural corporations. Therefore agricultural output has to be paid for by fair prices for products.

We are committed to a special emphasis on the family for our homeland and to the unique cultural heritage of Austria. The preservation of our cultural monuments and a healthy environment as well as the protection of animals as fellow creatures carries a high value for us.

### 3) Law and justice

The freedom of a citizen is protected by our constitutional state and a true solidarity community. Payments by the social welfare state are available primarily to Austrian citizens.

We are committed to a constitutional state and to a social welfare state, in which life together is characterized by justice and equal opportunity.

We are committed to the mental foundations of our homeland: respecting life, human dignity and the basic freedoms. From these derive the liberal, democratic, republican, power-separating and federal principles of the constitution.

We are committed to neutrality, to the expansion of direct democracy, to a law on proportional elections and to media laws, which prevent monopolies and manipulation of public opinion.

Our state is considered to be a community of citizens, who have special rights and obligations. Among the rights of our citizens are the right to vote, the right to an appropriate education and the protection by the community. The obligations include solidarity with fellow citizens, the contributions to the maintenance of the functions of the state and personal efforts to maintaining internal and external security.

The active and passive right to vote for the election of legislative bodies in Austria as well as the legal right to social benefits are reserved to Austrian citizens. They are protected by the social welfare state from

dangers to their existence, which could be the result of old age, disability, illness, accident, unemployment or other serious strokes of fate.

Humanly dignified living must be affordable in our homeland also for the socially weak. Community apartments serve primarily to cover the needs of Austrian citizens. Handicapped people, fragile people and people in need of care have to be considered through innovative living and care models.

We are committed to a liberal and humane society, in which solidarity is practiced efficiently and justly. Such social justice requires the effective fight against abuse of social benefits and requires the abolishment of privileges.

We are fighting for fair wages and for the strengthening of domestic middle-class and we reject the unjust financial basic aid particularly for foreign citizens in Austria.

### 4) Family, generations and population development

The family as a community of a man and a woman for the purpose of raising joint children is the basis of our community. It deserves the strongest protection and our highest appreciation.

We are committed to equal opportunities between men and women and to a fair income, regardless of gender.

The family, which is characterized by the responsibility of generations and the partners, i.e. by the man and the woman,

for each other, is the most important social basis of every society. A partnership of a man and a woman becomes a family through a child. Also those, who assume responsibility as a single parent, form a family with their children.

On one hand the state has to respect the family as an institution in its autonomy and on the other hand has to provide it with protection. To put homosexual partnerships on an equal footing with families or the marriage between a man and a woman is to compare equal with unequal things and is therefore rejected by us just like the adoption of children through same-sex substitute parents. We are committed to the preferential treatment of marriage and the partnership between a man and a woman. Only they bring the joy of large numbers of children to our society, which are the prerequisites of our ethnic survival.

We are only committed in those instances, where the failure of the family leads to a significant negative effect on the welfare of the child, to intervention into the autonomy of the family within the framework of the protective task of the state. The ideological paternalism of families contradicts the liberal view of society.

We are committed to the generation contract and to the fostering of Austrian families, particularly those with a lot of children as the basis of our future. The retirement fund contributions provided later by our children will benefit our society.

The special importance of families for the preservation of our solidarity community has to be considered in the tax laws and in the retirement laws. The retirement system must provide a fair consideration for supporting children and to care for family members, rather than penalizing families with multiple children.

Tax laws must provide for relief for families through just taxation of families, which consider the family as an economic community. Income tax and tax on wages must therefore be adjusted to the size of the family.

The creation of a good framework for Austrian families shall not only be restricted to economic prerequisites. We are committed –apart from the creation of an absolutely necessary economic basis- to the basic appreciation of the family and the richness of children by society.

The raising of our small children within the care of a family must be given preference over substitute measures by the state, such as nurseries. Child care subsidies shall be guaranteed for our children as educational pay until the time they enter school, so that parents have a true choice in favor of the welfare of the children and professional opportunities.

Parents with the wish to work should receive aid to make rejoining the work-force easier. The existential importance of family, children, parenthood and responsibility in a partnership should be pointed out in public schools.

The right of a child to joint care by both parents in the event of a divorce must be put into law. Divorced parents and separated partners must not be separated from their children. Only serious reasons, which clearly would contradict the welfare of the child, would justify such measures.

Parents, and in particular the children concerned, must not have their basic needs taken from them due to divorce or separation.

The state has to accept its responsibility if the parents, who are obligated to provide child support, have reached the bare minimum of their existence and are thus no longer able to provide for the welfare of the child.

Domestic violence, particularly against children, is especially despicable and does not deserve consideration. We are committed to the most severe provisions according to criminal law in case of criminal acts against people requiring protection, against women and children.

The future of Austria lies in the hands of our children, our youths. The aim of liberal youth politics is the enlightened, independent and intelligent citizen, who is fitted with all such knowledge and abilities, which are necessary in order to be able to exist as a free person with a stable character.

We want to achieve an Austria with social welfare and solidarity for all age groups and we are committed to the solidarity towards generations. We recognize the social, cultural, economical and political contributions of older generations and we support the cooperation of older people in decision-making processes, in the democratic formation of will and in political planning.

We are committed to the 3-pillar-model, to the assessment system and to the harmonization of the retirement system in the pillar of the state.

We are determined to provide appreciation to the dignity of older people and to fight against all forms of neglect, abuse and violence.

## 5) Welfare and work environment

Individual freedom requires social safety and financial independence as well as a

just division of the lowest-possible tax burden with the largest-possible willingness to work.

Honest performance must be rewarded. A willingness to work and proper work should enable our citizens to acquire property and build up their own assets through fair wages and fair company taxation.

We are committed that each Austrian is enabled to have the best-possible living conditions in freedom and prosperity under the perspective of equal opportunities in the homeland. The prosperity achieved over generations in our homeland Austria shall therefore benefit our citizens.

We are committed to an economic policy which is geared towards the challenges of the current time, which is free of ideological bias and which must lead to a state budget which is balanced beyond the cycle of the economic situation.

Low taxes are a prerequisite for a thriving economy and a healthy labor market. They are to be preferred over subsidies and redistribution. Start-up aid and tax breaks are to be granted to young entrepreneurs.

Our fiscal policy is based on the equality of labor and the proceeds of assets as the basis for wide-spread prosperity and beneficial development.

The goal of liberal fiscal policy is the relief for the citizen. Taxes and fees shall be reduced to a bare minimum for employees and employers alike through frugal administration as well as economical and purpose-driven use of public funds.

We are committed to a social taxation system, which considers the higher material expenditures of families. For companies, investments in the company as well as the creation of jobs for domestic workers has to be favored especially.

We recognize the importance of leading companies for the economic location Austria. The strongest support of the domestic economy, however, is a healthy middle-class. The center of our measures for the domestic economy are small and medium-sized companies as the most important employers, the pillars of dual education and the motors for the Austrian economy.

## 6) Health

Austrian citizens –regardless of their age, their gender and their financial performance capacity- the right to the best-possible medical treatment and care in their homeland.

The right to life by man, his health and his dignity must not be the subject of discussion regarding usefulness. Therefore man's existence must not be questioned for economic considerations and he must not be robbed of his dignity by the abuse of medical science and genetic technology or by negligence during sickness or disability.

We are committed to the political claim not to subsidize a multiple-level class system in the public healthcare system. The public healthcare system in Austria also excludes privileges based on membership of a social class or on religious orientation.

The protection of life as well as the maintenance and regeneration of mental and physical health are the goals of the public healthcare system. These honorable tasks are incompatible with the inhumane destruction of human life.

The administration of the healthcare sector has to be carried out according to the principle of frugality, economics and purpose to allow health expenditures to benefit mankind. The Austrian Freedom Party is committed to a healthcare system, which does not cause disadvantage to the socially weak. Healthcare and care shall be financed independently.

Provisions for health care shall be based primarily on self-responsibility. Therefore we are calling for the clear labeling of all contents in food products and we are committed to an agricultural system free of genetically altered organisms.

Sports and exercise shall be supported in our society, particularly in our kindergartens and schools, to best extent possible. Nutritional science shall be considered in the curriculum of our mandatory schools.

The protection of our children from drug abuse is most important to us.

Persons living in Austria, who do not have Austrian citizenship, shall have access to basic medical care within the framework of an independent social security system.

## 7) Knowledge and inspiration

Education, science, art and culture are prerequisites for the true development of personality within a society and they are the basis of a

positive future of our homeland.

Art and culture are significant providers of the identity of a society and therefore they are of great importance for the cohesion of our society. Culture as the sum of all forms of human expressions finds its highest form of creative expression in art.

In our society art knows its limitation only by a legal system and by a humanistic image of society on which our constitution is based. Freedom of artistic expression requires the freedom of the citizen to be critical and to the critical discussion about art.

Our occidental culture is rich and varied. It combines the European cultural nations. Therefore it is necessary to make the further development of our own culture possible in depth. The protection and the continued development of our German mother tongue as the most important culture-generating element are of special importance.

The main task of cultural politics is the preservation and continued development of the cultural richness of our society. Politics shall merely provide the framework conditions for guaranteeing the freedom and diversity of art, since this diversity is developing through the individual artistic performance. Art must not be instrumentalized; it has its own purpose. Only that way art can remain the school of fantasy and self-understanding.

We are committed to the self-responsible development of culture, science and art within the framework of the common welfare. Science and art serve

human society. Innovative research and development are the basis for the positive development of our homeland.

In order for man to achieve the highest level of his development, he requires the best-possible professional and mental education. For that, science and its teachings must be free of charge. Science is based on the unity of research and teaching; it serves exclusively the search for the truth and does not need a patronizing attitude unrelated to the subject-matter nor the perceived direction or consideration of popular science. The state has to stay clear from ideological interference in the autonomy of sciences.

The provision of basic cultural techniques, the fostering of individual talents and the best-possible education are the main tasks of the state's schooling and educational policies. Our school and educational system has to consider the internal differentiation and the mental capacities and interests of the people and to meet same. The educational policies shall thus aim for the provision of knowledge, skills and competences and refrain from any kind of ideological patronization.

The prerequisite for the participation in standard education in public schools is the sufficient knowledge of the German language.

## 8) Security

Austria has to protect its territory and its neutrality with all means and to grant its citizens protection and aid both domestically and abroad.

Law and order are the basic values of our

liberal attitude and they serve the security of our citizens.

We consider security as a basic need and an important prerequisite for a positive human development. The preservation of our security requires the ability for self-defense. We are therefore committed to the best-possible education and equipping of our executive organs and the military.

When fighting organized crime, gangs and traffickers, the drug trade, terrorism, violence and other criminal phenomena, the state has to use its resources with resolve. Imprisonment for life has also to be administered as such. The death penalty is categorically declined by us.

In the penal system the protection of our society as well as the protection and aid for victims of crimes have the highest priority. The rehabilitation of convicts has to consider this aspect. Monetary fines should benefit primarily the victim and not the state. In a humane society the penalties imposed must clearly distinguish between violent crime and crimes against assets.

Criminals, who do not belong to our state community, must be deported.

We are committed to a comprehensive defense of the state as well as the general duty to perform service, either in form of military duty or in form of social services as a personal contribution of the citizen for the security and independence of Austria.

Protection of the homeland and the country's defense have priority before use of the military abroad. The use of Austrian soldiers abroad should take place strictly on a voluntary basis and only for use during catastrophes, humanitarian tasks, to secure peace and by U.N. mandate.

Austria is a neutral country and therefore it must remain free from any membership in a military alliance. The principle "with solidarity in Europe and neutral in the world" requires that the decision regarding the use of our military and our soldiers shall remain strictly within Austria as a sovereign, self-determining and neutral state.

## 9) Cosmopolitanism and independence

Only the sovereignty and freedom of our homeland, the Republic of Austria enable our cosmopolitanism. Austria's role in the world has to be characterized by self-confidence and strive to promote peace.

The economic and cultural interests of Austria and its citizens in this world are of great importance for us. We are therefore committed to a foreign policy which is aiming for the security of the sovereignty of Austria and the protection of the freedom of its citizens. Any foreign policy, bilateral or multi-lateral activity has to follow first and foremost Austrian interests.

We are committed to the neutrality of Austria in order to promote peace. We want to strengthen the neutrality of Austria and contribute our part in the traditional role as mediators and equalizers for world peace.

Apart from independence and freedom the love for our homeland, the care for our traditions, our identity and our culture are the basis for our cosmopolitanism. Only those who appreciate their own culture and their origins can also appreciate and honor other cultures truthfully and to be able to fight them if they show an aggressive character attempting to displace our own culture.

Developing aid is part of our foreign policy. It meets crisis situations, conflicts and the flow of refugees associated with them. The basic principle of Austrian foreign aid must be the support for self-help.

Austria shall remain the advocate of the German and Ladin South-Tyrolean and representatives of all German ex-Austrians from Sudetenland, Bohemia and Moravia, Slovenia, Transylvania, Hungary, Slovakia and Silesia. We are committed to the support of the associations of people displaced from the homeland.

## 10) Europe of fatherlands

A Europe of fatherlands, as a community of those countries, which together form the Christian-humanitarian Western civilization based on history, culture and geography, serves the positive further development of the European people, peace and freedom.

We are committed to a Europe of self-determining people and fatherlands and to European cooperation according to the principle of subsidiarity. The future fate of Europe must be characterized by the freedom of determination of its states. Thus the diversity created throughout history and the cultural heritage must be preserved and developed further.

We support a Europe which enables true democracy and respects the independent citizen. Essential amendments of state treaties according to international law, such as European Law, require the consent by a binding referendum in Austria.

The Austrian Freedom Party is committed to a European contractual framework with a catalog of rights and obligations for the union and its member states. The constitutions of the sovereign member states must have absolute priority over the rights of the union.

The Benes decrees and the AVNOJ regulations, which violate human rights, must not be accepted in a humanistic and enlightened Europe and must be deleted without replacement to provide justice for displaced, murdered and expropriated people.

The goal of European integration is the community of those states, which together make up Europe geographically, historically and culturally and who are committed towards occidental values, the heritage of cultures and the traditions of European peoples.

The AFP is committed to a Europe of diversity of historically grown and autochthonous ethnic groups and it decidedly declines a multi-cultural Europe as an amorphous, destructive melting point of to-date diverse languages and cultures.