

Austria – SD Priorities

Source document: A Sustainable Future for Austria. The Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development. (2002)

1. Sound Public Finances as a Basis for Sustainable Development. Sound national budgets, no new debt, lower tax burden for the population. (p. 15)

1.1. Healthy National Budget: Securing balanced budgets throughout the economic cycle (p. 16)

- 1.1.1. In the long run, public expenditures must not be higher than the revenues. (p. 16)
 - 1.1.2. There must be no more new debt in times of a good economy with low unemployment. (p. 16)
 - 1.1.3. The budget should be kept balanced by taking measures on the spending side. (p. 16)
 - 1.1.4. The economic management of the federal administration must be improved. In addition to an extensive administrative reform, there are also financial and economic aspects. One instrument is performance-oriented management of the administration. At the same time, synergies can be exploited and redundancy can be eliminated. (p. 16)
-

1.2. No New Debt (p. 17)

- 1.2.1. The financial policy is heading in the right direction in the long run, if the increase in debt is not higher than the growth rate of the national economy (gross domestic product GDP). (p. 17)
 - 1.2.2. The policy of making debts must in no case result in future generations no longer being able to finance important state functions. (p. 17)
-

1.3. Reduction of Tax Burdens: Creating more tax equity (p. 18)

- 1.3.1. A sustainable reduction of the tax burden is necessary, which would open up scope for growth and corporate profits, thus allowing investments to be made and jobs to be created and preserved. (p. 18)
 - 1.3.2. The federal government has set itself the aim of reducing the tax ratio to below 40% of the gross domestic product by the year 2010. (p. 18)
-

2. Quality of life in Austria. A task for today and tomorrow (p. 22)

2.1. A Sustainable Life-style: Orientation of lifestyles towards the model of sustainable development through education and awareness, and initiation of a shift in values (p. 24)

- 2.1.1. The aim is not only to react to social trends, but also to actively change the lifestyles and consumption habits in the direction of a sustainable society, and to promote a shift in values towards a less resource- and energy-intensive lifestyle. (p. 24)
- 2.1.2. Criteria must be developed for a viable future lifestyle, along the lines of which every person can orient him- or herself. (p. 24)
- 2.1.3. To integrate the concept of sustainable development as interdisciplinary material in all school curricula and in further training for teachers, to define the contents and methodological requirements for an education for sustainability, to develop teaching materials quickly, and to establish sustainable development as a basic subject in the curricula of universities, technical colleges and teachers' training colleges. (p. 24)
- 2.1.4. The propagation of a less resource-, material- and energy-intensive lifestyle and a shift from quantity-oriented to service-oriented consumer behaviour should be promoted. However, it must also be noted that these opportunities are not available to the different social groups to the same degree. This must be taken into consideration in concrete measures. (p. 25)

- 2.1.5. With the labelling of products and other suitable information mechanisms, the consumption of resources and energy (both in the production of goods and in their use) should become the central criterion for purchase decisions. (p. 25)
-

2.2. Opportunities for the Empowerment of All Generations: Designing the financing of family and social benefits, health services and pensions in accordance with the demographic development, and promotion of health (p. 27)

- 2.2.1. To prepare an overall concept by the year 2010 for a reform in the funding of social benefits, the health system and the pension system based on the long-term population forecast, and to have initiated the necessary reform steps with the first projects. (p. 27)
- 2.2.2. Important objectives in this context are family- and childfriendly framework conditions, a socially just reform of the pension systems, the development of new approaches in the pension system that go beyond funding, the guarantee that young people will be able to enter into gainful employment directly, better job integration of older employees, high-quality health and nursing services, and the expansion of care services (nursing) and social services (support for nursing relatives, strengthening of the hospice movements). (p. 27)
- 2.2.3. Guaranteeing the standard-of-living principle and intergenerational and gender-specific distribution fairness, as well as improving the overall condition with comprehensive measures tuned to each phase of life must have priority. (p. 27)
- 2.2.4. A range of nationwide social services in the field of nursing and care both for children and for the elderly to relieve the parents, families or relatives, and an expansion of both the family-friendly infrastructure and of housing suitable for the handicapped and the elderly are necessary. (p. 28)
- 2.2.5. In order to guarantee financing of the social systems and to reduce the financial burdens for younger generations to an acceptable level, a sound, anticipating migration policy is required (p. 28)
- 2.2.6. Physical and mental health for all classes of society is imperative for a life that is worthy of human beings. An important aspect thereby is maintenance of the high quality health systems available to everyone and financed by everyone. (p. 28)
- 2.2.7. An enhanced nutritional awareness should result not only in changed consumer behaviour, but also improve the health of the population and the regional nature of diet. (p. 28)
- 2.2.8. The aim of the employment policy must be to raise the employment rate of older employees at least to the EU average (e.g. by promoting the further education of older employees and increasing the ratio of part-time pensions). Moreover, a work world suitable for the elderly and for aging must be developed that takes the needs and skills of older employees into account. (p. 29)
- 2.2.9. There must be both the necessary vertical redistribution within the scope of an efficient social policy and a horizontal redistribution to people who are currently bringing up children. In addition to a just transfer of benefits to families, we must also continue to pursue the development of a child- and family-friendly environment and work world. (p. 30)
- 2.2.10. Participation of the young generation in decision-making processes is an important focus at all political and social levels and should secure the intergeneration exchange. (p. 30)
-

2.3. Gender Equality: Implementation of gender mainstreaming and true equality of men and women at work and in the family (p. 32)

- 2.3.1. To secure equal access to employment opportunities for women and men with a simultaneous re-orientation (double burdens, pay) and harmonisation of participation as partners in the work of upbringing and care through a shift in the role- and self-image of women and men. (p. 32)
- 2.3.2. Another objective is to enhance the socio-political and financial value of unpaid or low-paid work (e.g. in the field of social occupations and care obligations) compared with gainful employment in the narrower sense. (p. 32)
-

2.4. Solutions Through Education and Research: Exploiting the opportunities of the knowledge society through research, education and life-long learning (p. 35)

- 2.4.1. Broad implementation of the principle of "life-long learning" is a central prerequisite for enabling social innovation, consolidating Austria's international competitiveness, and preserving social solidarity. (p. 35)
- 2.4.2. Access to education must be easy and affordable. (p. 35)

- 2.4.3. To halve the number of people without a completed education by the year 2015. (p. 35)
- 2.4.4. National research programmes for a sustainable development and their international networking must be expanded further. (p. 35)
- 2.4.5. Specific education programmes and communication strategies must be developed for each of the fields of action in the Austrian Sustainability Strategy. The activities and programmes already under way must be supplemented and intensified, and they require coordination and efficient tuning in terms of educational policy. (p. 36)
- 2.4.6. The new media and distance learning should be developed and used even more specifically towards sustainability. (p. 36)
- 2.4.7. Cooperation between research and education for a sustainable development must be promoted at the concept, programme and project level. (p. 36)
- 2.4.8. In compliance with the demands of sustainable development, inter- and transdisciplinarity, participation and networking must be promoted. (p. 37)
- 2.4.9. Efforts will be made to achieve greater international collaboration, competitiveness and problem-solving skills (promotion of human resources) of the scientific community at the service of sustainable development. (p. 37)
- 2.4.10. Sustainability-relevant joint international research, international networking and joint financing (e.g. within the scope of the European research area, the EU framework programmes for research and technological development, the UN science initiatives) should therefore be expanded. (p. 37)

2.5. A Decent Life for Present and Future Generations: Fighting poverty, creating social solidarity, and securing equal opportunities for everyone (p. 38)

- 2.5.1. To fight poverty by providing access to full social participation and to support for integration in the work process. Therefore, the number of people living below the poverty limit or threatened by poverty in Austria must be reduced markedly. (p. 38)
- 2.5.2. The main focus is on a further reduction of the youth unemployment rate through integrative measures, a higher employment rate for older people, and a further reduction of long-term unemployment. (p. 39)
- 2.5.3. In concrete, poverty can also be avoided by accepting certain situations in life socially and offering financial assistance (e.g. nursing need, care and upbringing of children, etc.), and by insuring socially valuable periods of non-employment (e.g. further education, nursing and upbringing times, social work, etc.). (p. 39)
- 2.5.4. The integration or re-integration of disabled persons in gainful employment and their social participation must be pursued, and the funds appropriated for the integration of disabled persons in gainful employment must be regarded as a significant impulse in this direction. (p. 39)
- 2.5.5. Efforts are being made to expand the integration opportunities (e.g. in the legal sense) for foreigners in order to allow them to improve their economic and social participation. (p. 39)

3. Austria as a dynamic business location: Success through innovation and networking (p. 42)

3.1. Innovative Structures Promote Competitiveness: Need-oriented research, technology and development provide system solutions for innovations, structural and social change (p. 44)

- 3.1.1. An increase in the overall innovation dynamics and an orientation towards the model of sustainable development, eco-efficiency and need orientation in research and technology policies must therefore be strived for, so that Austria can become an innovation provider instead of a taker. (p. 44)
- 3.1.2. To promote structures favourable to innovation, the share of thematically focussed programmes oriented towards the model of sustainable development must be increased continuously up to the year 2015 within the scope of R&D funding. (p. 44)
- 3.1.3. To catch up with the leaders in Europe with regard to the research quota, which is to be increased to 2.5% of GDP by 2005, and to establish the core issues of sustainable development (such as resource efficiency, space relevance, participative approaches, as well as inter- and transdisciplinarity) as guiding principles of national research policy. (p. 44)

- 3.1.4. The overall Austrian innovation system must guarantee that companies are supported in their sustainability-oriented innovation capacity - both by consolidating the innovation capability of existing companies and by supported new enterprises in placing the innovative products on the market. (p. 45)
- 3.1.5. Cooperation between consumers and producers allows an optimisation of product use and integrated solutions without entailing lower revenues for the manufacturer. Such projects can be oriented towards social needs and problems, such as e.g. housing structure, work, mobility or energy supply. (p. 45)
- 3.1.6. With joint ventures between enterprises in the value added chain and between retailers and producers, the recycling aspects of products can be taken into account as early as in the design phase, research cooperation can be initiated, and the overall production benefit can be regarded in an integrated way. (p. 45)
- 3.1.7. In research policy, further consolidation of the cooperation between research institutions and business is necessary in order to improve the implementation orientation of research activities and to accelerate the diffusion of research results. (p. 46)
- 3.1.8. In order to promote the breakthrough of eco-efficient technologies, the advantages of a high degree of flexibility, a regional base, a broadly diversified range, and a strong market position can be combined through joint ventures between small and medium-sized enterprises in the form of clusters. (p. 46)

3.2. A New Understanding of Business and Administration: Strengthening corporate responsibility and creating efficient administrative structures and processes (p. 47)

- 3.2.1. With more use of modern technologies, the exchange of information between authorities and enterprises should be improved, thus accelerating procedures and making them less bureaucratic. (p. 47)
- 3.2.2. To have a modern administration with simplified official channels and administrative procedures that are closer to the citizens ("one-stop-shop principle"). (p. 47)
- 3.2.3. This also includes the qualified further development of voluntary agreements between the public sector and enterprises or business sectors, as well as self-obligations in business and certifiable management systems, whereby compliance with the agreement and the achievement of environmental quality targets must be ensured, and the transparency, protection of public interests and existing rights of third parties must remain guaranteed. (p. 47)
- 3.2.4. Tried and tested existing management systems (EMAS, Ökoprofit (eco-profit programme), Responsible Care, ISO 14001) should be developed further in accordance with the principle of sustainability. Moreover, the establishment of a nationwide voluntary "sustainability reporting" system for enterprises by the year 2010 with concurrent simplification and acceleration of administrative procedures for these enterprises is planned. (p. 48)
- 3.2.5. Greater entrepreneurial responsibility must, however, go hand in hand with a simultaneous change in the incentive and control systems (as regulated e.g. in the Environmental Management Act) in order to enhance the motivation and commitment of business. In addition to steering instruments, this also requires a cooperative approach on the part of the administration. [...] The principle of "motivation instead of punishment" must become the guiding principle for the relationship between enterprises and the administration. (p. 48)

3.3. Correct Prices for Resources and Energy: Creating incentives for sustainable behaviour through price signals (p. 50)

- 3.3.1. Sustainability requires an internalisation of ecological and social costs. The key objective of the strategy is therefore to initiate the gradual implementation of a socially balanced, ecological tax reform and tax benefits by the year 2005. Thereby, the European context, the distribution aspects and the balance between ecological, economic and social targets must be taken into account. (p. 50)
- 3.3.2. Another significant aspect in making the tax system more ecological is a reduction of the high tax burden on the factor "labour" in exchange for higher taxation of resources. (p. 51)
- 3.3.3. Within the scope of the state and the provinces there are a multitude of promotion measures that must be investigated with regard to a sustainability strategy. Some of the most extreme examples of subsidies that are counterproductive for sustainability can only be resolved at the global or EU level, and must be tackled immediately. (p. 51)
- 3.3.4. In the evaluation of subsidies and grants, the effects of indirect subsidies through tax exemption, tax allowances, cross-subsidising, etc. should be taken into account. (p. 51)
- 3.3.5. Due to the dramatic increases in traffic and the resulting environmental pollution, the transport sector is a field of action with top priority in the Austrian Sustainability Strategy. In the use of economic instruments, the

objective is to variabilise the costs and internalise external costs (e.g. road tolls, parking fees, eco-points system). (p. 51)

- 3.3.6. The use of alternative fuel technologies (using renewable raw materials, etc.) and alternative drive technologies (such as the fuel cell) must be promoted with a view to ecobalances. (p. 51)
- 3.3.7. The capital markets are a factor of central influence on business decisions. Therefore, they can also be used to achieve a structural shift towards sustainability. The about 20 eco and ethic funds available in the German-speaking world have so far made exceptionally high profits. The trend for private investors to look not only at the profits but also at the ethical and ecological quality of their securities must be reinforced with appropriate information and public relations work. (p. 52)

3.4. Successful Management Through Eco-efficiency: Decoupling the consumption of resources and energy from economic growth even further - promoting the use of renewable raw materials and sources of energy more strongly (p. 53)

- 3.4.1. To increase the productivity of resources together with higher economic growth in such a way as to achieve a further decoupling. (p. 53)
- 3.4.2. In the short term, absolute resource turnover should at least be stabilised, and in the long term the objective must be to increase the productivity of resources by a factor of 4. (p. 53)
- 3.4.3. The prevention of raw material and energy consumption has absolute priority wherever this is technically feasible and economically reasonable, with the ultimate goal of achieving an absolute reduction in total resource consumption. (p. 53)
- 3.4.4. In the energy sector, the objective - in accordance with the resolution by the Council on December 7, 1998, on energy efficiency in the European Community, which sees this as an "ambitious goal" - will be to achieve an improvement in energy intensity by an average of one percentage point per year over and beyond the anticipated level (reference base: average 1990 - 1997 for the EU in total of minus 0.6% per year, taking climatic and economic developments into account). (p. 53)
- 3.4.5. The share of renewable energy sources in Austria is to be increased from the current level of 23% by about one percentage point per year by the target period 2008 to 2012. (p. 53)
- 3.4.6. It is urgently necessary to decouple economic growth from traffic growth to counteract the massive increase in CO₂ emissions in recent years. (p. 55)
- 3.4.7. With an energy efficiency programme, production growth and energy consumption must be decoupled in all areas. (p. 55)
- 3.4.8. A sustainable waste management must aim to promote sparing use of resources by avoiding and recycling waste within the ecological context, by guaranteeing ecologically compatible waste processing, by registering material flows, by using recycling materials, and by closing the material cycles. (p. 55)
- 3.4.9. In the building sector, continuous efficiency gains through stricter specifications in the construction code and housing promotion must be aimed for, and innovative forms of financing (e.g. contracting) and the renovation of old buildings must continue to be promoted. (p. 55)

3.5. Strengthening Sustainable Products and Services: Setting impulses for a higher market share for sustainable products and services and promoting sustainable tourism (p. 57)

- 3.5.1. To achieve a continuous increase in the market share of products and services with less resource and energy consumption. The further propagation of sustainable products and services will be promoted and facilitated with incentives, particularly in the areas "food", "housing", "consumer goods", and "tourism and leisure", by expanding existing model projects and support programmes and by reinforced use of the Austrian eco-label for tourism (including the eco-label for tourism businesses), thus securing jobs into the bargain. (p. 57)
- 3.5.2. Within the scope of public procurement, the criterion of "environmentally friendly services" is an integral condition for award of contract. (p. 57)
- 3.5.3. In order to achieve a sustainable development in the tourism and leisure industry, it is necessary to secure the cultural and natural bases in the long term, and an integrative design of ecologically, economically and socially compatible as well as culturally attractive recreation and adventure offers is required. (p. 57)
- 3.5.4. In agricultural policy, the preservation and expansion of positive environmental impacts (preservation and creation of new landscape elements, cultivation of ecologically valuable surfaces, etc.) and a further reduction of the negative environmental impacts of agricultural activities (use of pesticides, mineral fertilisers, leaching

of nutrients, soil erosion), promotion of organic agriculture and other environmentally friendly management methods, the further development of ecological evaluation of agricultural subsidies, and preservation of the agricultural use of areas with marginal revenues must be to the fore. (p. 58)

- 3.5.5. Moreover, the framework conditions for preserving cultivated plant species through more promotion of cooperation between the public and private sector and through monitoring of the Austrian cultivated species must be improved, national minimum standards for animal husbandry must be defined that should also be implemented at the European level, and the cultivation of ecological Austrian feed plants must be promoted. (p. 58)
- 3.5.6. A marked increase in the market share of products from organic agriculture should be achieved. (p. 58)
- 3.5.7. The demand for resources and energy in the construction and use of buildings should be reduced and covered increasingly by renewable sources or with increased use of recycled building materials. In urban development, space-saving housing construction should be preferred due to its systemimmanent advantages with regard to specific energy consumption and mobility needs. (p. 59)
- 3.5.8. Further sealing of surfaces is to be prevented (e.g. through spacesaving construction and conurbation), the resource and energy demand of buildings is to be reduced (e.g. thermal insulation, restoration of old buildings), and the mobility need is to be reduced by a mix of different uses (housing, work, leisure) and fulfilled by public transport. (p. 59)
- 3.5.9. With public relations measures, consumers and citizens should be made aware of local offers from their region and sustainable products should be positioned with the feature "quality of life". (p. 59)
- 3.5.10. Within the scope of the ecological dimension, environmentally friendly production and consumption processes must be mentioned throughout the entire tourism value added chain, as well as the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources or of the cultural heritage. (p. 60)

4. Living spaces in Austria: Protection of diversity and quality (p. 63)

4.1. Protection of Environmental Media and Climate: Quality targets and a responsible material policy (p. 65)

- 4.1.1. The key objective for sustainable development is quantitative and qualitative protection of soil, water and air, as well as achievement of the national reduction goal of 13% lower climate-relevant gas emissions in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol. (p. 65)
- 4.1.2. The threat to sensitive animal and plant species and their habitats must receive special attention. (p. 65)
- 4.1.3. A reduced input of substances and compounds with a high risk potential must be promoted on the basis of risk assessments. Substances with a higher risk must be replaced by those with a lower risk. A major test criterion for the use of hazardous substances is their degradability. (p. 65)
- 4.1.4. For Austria, protecting the water resources and making them permanently available to future generations means achieving the goal of preserving the drinking water quality of the groundwater. This requires that the natural quality of streams and rivers be ensured, and that the efficient deployment of funds in residential water management while preserving the nationwide supply and disposal system and high environmental standards be guaranteed. (p. 66)
- 4.1.5. To protect the air, national maximum emission levels for SO₂, NO_x, VOC and NH₃ in accordance with the EU National Emissions Ceilings Directive must be complied with by the year 2010. A reduction of the current ozone burden is imperative with a view to both possible interaction effects with other pollutants (especially for risk groups such as children, asthma patients) and chronic health impairments that cannot be excluded, and especially with a view to long-term damage to the vegetation. Compliance with the relevant air quality targets with regard to ozone can only be guaranteed with a marked reduction in the emission of ozone precursors, and in accordance with the target set down in ozone legislation this means a reduction of NO_x and VOX by 70% compared with the values for 1985 and 1988. (p. 66)
- 4.1.6. In order to guarantee an effective soil protection, further sealing of the valuable resource soil must be avoided, soil fertility must be secured by erosion-inhibiting measures and an ecologically oriented agriculture, penetration of hazardous substances into ecosystems and the food chain must be prevented, and hazards emanating from landfills must be minimised by compulsory pre-treatment of the waste. (p. 67)

- 4.1.7. In chemicals policy, risk analyses based on scientific findings as the background for purchase decisions, transparent documentation of the hazards for human health and the environment associated with chemical products, and public access to information are necessary. (p. 67)
-

4.2. Preserving the Diversity of Species and Landscapes: Preserving animal and plant species, living spaces, natural and cultivated landscapes (p. 68)

- 4.2.1. The key objective for a sustainable development is the nationwide protection of species and living spaces, of natural and cultural landscapes. (p. 68)
- 4.2.2. By the year 2004, all the Natura 2000 nominations technically required in accordance with the Fauna-Flora-Habitat Directive and the Bird Protection Directive must be implemented, appropriate management plans must be drawn up and implemented by 2006. Apart from the Natura 2000 regions, regionally differentiated biodiversity guidelines and regional management concepts must be developed and implemented nationwide by the year 2010. (p. 68)
- 4.2.3. The biodiversity of autochthon species must not decrease any further. The diversity, as well as the functionality and development capacity of natural living spaces must be secured. (p. 68)
- 4.2.4. The genetic resources of cultivated plants, domestic animals, and wild animals and plants must be preserved and natural habitats and species also need to be protected outside the protection zones. In the course of a qualitative and quantitative expansion of protection zones (e.g. national and nature parks, Ramsar protection zones), innovative concepts for contractual nature conservation and eco-sponsoring should be developed and implemented. The import and dissemination of non-indigenous species that endanger the ecosystems, habitats or species must be controlled or prevented wherever possible. This requires the implementation, evaluation and further development of the National Strategy for Biodiversity. (p. 68)
- 4.2.5. The further expansion of forestry policy instruments based on broad interdisciplinary, intersector collaboration and the development of a national forestry programme for Austria serve to achieve sustainable forestry. Thereby, long-term improvement in the socio-cultural capacity of the forests is to be achieved by optimising the forests' functions as a protection from natural hazards, improving the instruments for balancing the various interests in the forests, and the expansion of job opportunities in rural areas. (p. 69)
-

4.3. Responsible Use of Land and Regional Development: Orienting and tuning the space-relevant policies towards more quality of life (p. 70)

- 4.3.1. Therefore, application of the precautionary principle is imperative. Responsible use of space with a democratic balance of interests must stop the trend towards uncontrolled urban sprawl and permanent sealing of surfaces. (p. 70)
- 4.3.2. The key objective is the preservation of diversity and of the natural foundations of the landscape and its ecosystems, as well as the cultural and economic diversity of land use based thereon. (p. 70)
- 4.3.3. Therefore, Local and Regional Agenda 21 processes must be reinforced and promoted as future-oriented, participative strategies by all the relevant actors within the scope of their possibilities. (p. 70)
- 4.3.4. By the year 2010, binding landscape models with networking of all the relevant planning disciplines must be developed for the entire nation, and if necessary they must be coordinated across the borders of the provinces. (p. 70)
- 4.3.5. Financial transfers and regional subsidisation policies must be reviewed critically with a view to sustainable regional development. (p. 70)
- 4.3.6. A reduction in the increase of permanently sealed surfaces to a maximum of one tenth of the current growth rate should be achieved by the year 2010. (p. 70)
- 4.3.7. With greenbelt, landscape and urban planning, an uncontrolled urban spread into the surrounding countryside must be prevented. (p. 71)
- 4.3.8. The aim of regional and economic policy is to establish a regionally balanced town-country ratio consisting of functionally independent and economically stable rural areas and vital towns without uncontrolled growth. In accordance with the development model of "decentralised concentration", small-scale agglomerations in housing, business and infrastructure are to be created and arranged in such a way as to provide a system of regional conurbations. (p. 71)
- 4.3.9. In the planning and design of local and regional infrastructure, the resulting consumption habits must be taken into consideration. Small-scale networking, joint use of consumer goods (sharing models), multiple use (housing,

work, leisure), consideration for the special needs of children, the disabled and the elderly, local transport and local supply should be to the fore in future urban and landscape planning. (p. 72)

- 4.3.10. Participation in decision-making on the use of the resource space is a condition for social acceptance of the decisions made, and thus is also important in terms of democracy. Therefore, measures must be taken to enhance citizen awareness, to promote Agenda processes and propagate them from the bottom, and to develop and expand moderation and mediation processes to be employed in conflicts. (p. 73)

4.4. Shaping Sustainable Mobility: Reducing mobility pressures and shaping a sustainable fulfilment of mobility needs (p. 74)

- 4.4.1. By implementing cost fairness in the transport sector and by spatial integration of housing, work and leisure, mobility pressures should be eliminated wherever possible and small-scale structures both in rural areas as well as mixed structures in conurbations should be promoted. (p. 74)
- 4.4.2. The aim is to decouple economic growth and traffic growth, and to achieve a shift from road transport to rail and ship transport, and to public passenger transport. (p. 74)
- 4.4.3. In addition to the settlement of external costs in accordance with the polluter pays principle, important starting points thereby are to reduce the motorised transport needs by changing surface utilisation, mobility patterns, and production and consumer structures. Integrated transport, urban and regional planning (e.g. in zoning, in the location policy for businesses and in transport policy, etc.) is necessary. (p. 75)
- 4.4.4. Mobility and transport management programmes with an impact on transport demand and the choice of means of transport must be promoted. (p. 75)
- 4.4.5. Measures to enhance the awareness of a broad population are also necessary in order to increase the acceptance of environmentally friendly transport and to influence the choice of transport in favour of sustainable mobility. Thereby, information for consumers, for example mandatory labelling of new cars with regard to mileage-specific CO₂ emissions to support fleet consumption agreements, plays an important role. (p. 76)

4.5. Optimising the Transport Systems: Promoting the most environmentally friendly, most resource-sparing, most energy efficient and safest forms of transport (p. 77)

- 4.5.1. In a sustainable transport system, the safety of all transport users is also to the fore. All other measures must be based on the criterion of safety for health and life. (p. 78)
- 4.5.2. Austria should in a pro-active policy be committed to the technological improvement of conventional drive and exhaust treatment systems, as well as supporting the further development of threshold levels with regard to vehicle emissions and fuel specifications. (p. 78)
- 4.5.3. Noise pollution should be reduced both on the emission side and on the imission side. (p. 78)
- 4.5.4. The Austrian General Transport Plan also defines measures for improving intermodal transport and intermodal transport logistics with the aim of shifting goods transports from road to rail. (p. 78)
- 4.5.5. In conjunction with the Austrian General Transport Plan, the Transport Telematics Offensive 2002+ by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology aims at increasing the capacity of all means of transport, reducing congestion and travel times, optimising the interfaces between means of transport and thus shaping the transport flows more efficiently as a whole with the widespread use of transport telematics and integrated transport management. This will make a significant contribution towards improving road safety and reducing the traffic-related CO₂ emissions and other environmental burdens. (p. 78)
- 4.5.6. To achieve sustainable passenger transport, there is to be a marked shift to public transport by rail, bus, taxi and flexible systems, and to walking and cycling. (p. 79)

5. Austria's Responsibility: An active role in Europe and in the world (p. 81)

5.1. Fighting Poverty, Creating a Social and Economic Equilibrium Within and Between the Countries: Making a contribution towards the consolidation of security, peace and human rights (p. 83)

- 5.1.1. The key objective for sustainable development is to fight poverty and create a social, economic and political balance within and between countries. Austria will participate in the implementation of international development goals (United Nations Millennium Declaration 2000) at the bilateral and multilateral level

(regional and global), show commitment for the promotion of human rights, and strengthen the basis for human security and peace with supportive measures in the partner countries. By the year 2015, the number of people living in extreme poverty is to be reduced by half. (p. 83)

- 5.1.2. Austria is committed to a policy of peace. The peaceful resolution of social and political problems is Austria's prime objective at the international level. For peace is the fundamental condition for economic and social development. The motto "prevention is better and less expensive than treatment" also applies to the handling of (potential) conflicts and crises. Therefore, Austria's efforts are aimed at preventing violent conflicts from arising in the first place. (p. 84)

5.2. A Globally Sustainable Economy: Developing a world economy that guarantees an intact environment and social equity (p. 86)

- 5.2.1. In the developing countries, the key objective of developing socially and ecologically compatible economic processes means promoting independent production chains using local raw materials and labour, based on technology transfer, financial support and fair access to the world market. Within the scope of international division of labour, this will lead to more value added in the developing countries. These sustainable forms of production are to be achieved with a strategy of positive incentives, with the promotion of efficiency in production, with specific support for the partner countries, and with further approaches within the scope of the WTO negotiations. (p. 86)
- 5.2.2. The aim of Austrian development policy is to promote agricultural, manual and industrial production. Economic diversification in the form of a stronger informal sector, small industry, the development and promotion of new export-oriented activities, and promotion of the private sector are to contribute towards this. (p. 87)
- 5.2.3. The reduction of subsidies for agricultural exports of industrialised countries and other support measures could assure a more just international competition, and promote the economic consolidation of the developing countries significantly. (p. 87)

5.3. Our World as a Living Space: Securing natural and social living spaces for everyone in the long term (p. 88)

- 5.3.1. The key objective of international cooperation is to promote a balanced equilibrium between the economic, social and ecological dimension of development processes in the countries of the south and the east. The global environmental goods soil, water and atmosphere must be protected in the long term, and the empirically established knowledge necessary for the protection and sustainable development of these global environmental goods must be established. (p. 88)
- 5.3.2. Austria will support the development and implementation of national sustainability strategies in the developing countries. (p. 88)
- 5.3.3. The programmes of Austrian development cooperation and assistance programmes for Central and Eastern European States and the Newly Independent States will take the environmental and socio-ecological aspects into account as effectively as possible. (p. 88)
- 5.3.4. At the private sector level, Austria must also show a stronger commitment. Austria has internationally recognised expertise in the field of "environmental technology and environmental management". In the interest of an efficient north-south cooperation, Austria must show more commitment for technology and know-how transfer in the environmental field. (p. 89)
- 5.3.5. The use of project-related Kyoto mechanisms (joint implementation and clean development mechanism) as planned in the Austrian climate strategy offers additional support for Austria's contribution towards sustainable development in the world. (p. 90)

5.4. International Cooperation and Financing: Making sustainable development affordable for partner countries (p. 91)

- 5.4.1. With support for developing countries in the development of political and social stability, the appropriate conditions for foreign investments can be created. Measures of debt relief as well as investment in the economic power of the partner countries are necessary (e.g. with the development of innovative national and international funding methods, deficit guarantees, promotion of public private partnerships). (p. 91)

- 5.4.2. Only by increasing the official development assistance can the international goals defined in the Strategy and the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the heads of state and government on September 18, 2000, be achieved on schedule (2015). Austria is committed to an efficient deployment of official development assistance, and has declared to the European Commission that it will increase its ODA to 0.35% of GDP in 2003. [...] In the medium term, Austria aims to achieve the internationally agreed level of 0.7% of GDP. (p. 91)

5.5. Sustainability Union Europe: Turning the new Europe into a Sustainability Union (p. 93)

- 5.5.1. Austria also supports the consistent implementation of Art. 6 EC, which provides for the integration of environmental protection needs in other policy areas in order to promote sustainable development. (p. 93)
- 5.5.2. A major Austrian issue is the development of common European safety standards for nuclear power plants as the first step in the right direction. The long-term goal remains the pan-European renunciation of nuclear power. Austria considers the promoted use of renewable energy sources to be a core issue of a sustainable energy policy, and supports this at the European level and in the future member states. (p. 94)
- 5.5.3. Coordination between the individual member states - especially with regard to the individual national sustainability strategies - is an important issue for Austria. In the medium term, the further development of this Strategy should pay attention in particular to comparability and coherence with the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development. (p. 94)
- 5.5.4. In the shaping of a sustainable EU transport policy, Austria will support the development and implementation of concrete sustainability targets and action programmes for the mobility and transport sector. Thereby, the focus of attention should be on sustainable transport in sensitive regions and on EU enlargement. A central demand is that economic growth and further growth of traffic be decoupled. (p. 94)
- 5.5.5. At the international level, the implementation of treaties, guidelines and pilot projects for sustainable transport (e.g. UNECE Vienna Declaration on Transport and Environment, WHO Charter on Transport, Environment and Health, OECD EST Guidelines, CEI Declaration on Sustainable Transport, UNEP Project EST goes EAST) must be supported and promoted actively. (p. 95)
- 5.5.6. In the field of agriculture, too, the public needs articulated more and more strongly in recent years, such as health, food safety and quality, animal protection, and the protection of nature and landscape, must also be taken into account more strongly. First steps in this direction were already taken with the reforms of AGENDA 2000. (p. 95)
- 5.5.7. Another important starting point is Austria's role in the negotiation of conventions and protocols in the European context. The treaty on protection of the Alps, the Alpine Convention, as a model for a regional sustainability instrument should be mentioned here as one example of Austria's active commitment and role in negotiations. The implementation and pursuit of the issues of this Convention - in collaboration with the actors at the EU level - are a central issue for Austria. The aim is to achieve recognition of the Alpine Convention as a permanent instrument with the long-term perspective of preserving the living, economic and recreational area "Alps". (p. 96)

Total number of priorities: 159

Source document: A Sustainable Future for Austria. The Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development. (2002); URL: http://www.sd-network.eu/pdf/SDS_docs/docs/Austria_SDS_2002.pdf

Contact:

Markus Hametner
RIMAS - Research Institute for Managing Sustainability
Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration
Nordbergstr. 15
PO-Box 37
A-1091 Vienna

www: <http://www.sustainability.eu>
email: markus.hametner@wu-wien.ac.at
mobile: +43-650-9234935
phone: +43-1-31336-5135
fax: +43-1-31336-905135