

[AT] The Media in the Programme of the New Government

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On 11 January 2007, the new Federal Government was sworn in by the Austrian President. The Federal Chancellor, Dr Alfred Gusenbauer, will be responsible for the media.

The Government programme contains a chapter on "Media and Telecommunication". Alongside ensuring a pluralistic media landscape with high-quality services, promoting Austria's competitiveness as a media and cultural centre and strengthening the dual broadcasting system, the following plans are outlined:

- 1. The media authority KommAustria and the Rundfunk und Telekom Regulierungs-GmbH (broadcasting and telecommunications regulator) will be merged to form an independent media and telecommunications authority. KommAustria is currently bound by the instructions of the Federal Chancellor, while RTR-GmbH is subject to the directives of KommAustria. There will be two stages of appeal, which should quickly provide legal certainty for media providers.
- 2. As well as existing support for printed media, the introduction of subsidies for commercial and non-commercial electronic media will be examined.
- 3. The programming remit of the Österreichische Rundfunk (ORF) will be reviewed, with the protection of minors and the self-obligation to broadcast Austrian productions particularly under the spotlight. The advertising restrictions specific to ORF will be assessed and relaxed if necessary.
- 4. The introduction of mobile television will be promoted.
- 5. Internet networks will be extended so that the whole population can access the broadband infrastructure by the end of 2009.

Regierungsprogramm für die XXIII. Gesetzgebungsperiode

http://www.austria.gv.at/DocView.axd?CobId=19542

Government programme for the XXIII legislative period

