

MINUTES

STRATEGIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Date, Time: 2024.10.29, 10:30 – 12:00 (CET)

Location: Vienna Chamber of Commerce, Straße der Wiener Wirtschaft 1, 1020 Vienna and online (hybrid)

PARTICIPANTS

Present

Markus Bischofer (co-opted)
Brigitte Brenner
Verena Ehold
Irene Giner-Reichl
Wolfgang Habermayer
Michael Hirschbrich
Michael Ikrath
Thomas Kahn (co-opted)
Georg Kopetz
Armin Laschet, Co-Chair
Kathryn List
Hans Mahr
Bernhard Marckhgott
Josef Margreiter
Clemens Mayr-Harting
Wolfgang Petritsch
Klaus Poier
Rainer Schrems
Matthias Strolz
Stefan Wallner
Christoph Wenna
Werner Wutscher

Online

Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook
Valerie Hengl
Christian Kern
Filip Radunović
Martin Weiss

Excused

Lisa-Marie Fassl
Bruno Hofbauer
Herwig Hösele
Larissa Krainer
Elisabeth Krainer-Senger-Weiss
Sophie Martinetz
Beate Meinl-Reisinger
Dieter Natlacen
Bernhard Niesner
Leonard Novy
Andrä Rupprechter
Sophie Pornschlegel
Rupert Sausgruber
Martin Schulz
Agnes Streissler-Führer

QUA FUNCTION

Othmar Karas (Executive Board)
Jenni Zeller (FAN)
Thomas Mayr-Harting (IAB)
Günther Schrems (Auditor)

Sabine Herlitschka (Executive Board)
Antonella Mei-Pochtler (Executive Board)
Marie Ringler (Executive Board)

Karl Sevelda (Auditor)

Peter Oberlechner (Executive
Board)

Florian Boschek (FAN)

Andreas Maierhofer (FAN)

Franz Fischler (Honorary
President)

Andreas Treichl (Honorary
President)

Michaela Fritz (SAB)

ORGANISATIONAL TEAM

Maximilian Handl

1. OPENING

- Talking points:**
- Opening words Othmar Karas
 - Opening words New Co-Chair Armin Laschet

2. INTRODUCTION OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THEIR POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SAC

- Introduction:**
- Caroline Hornstein-Tomic: (historical) political education in Germany and Bulgaria, hub for democracy education
 - Irene Giner-Reichl: Interface environment and sustainable social development - developing countries; interest in internationalisation (especially Africa and Asia), should not lose unelected scholarship holders;
 - Jenni Zeller (FAN): Inclusivity
 - Christoph Wenna: Internal dimension of change - changemakers; transformation processes; cooperation with investor programme;
 - Bernhard Marckhgott: Networks, experiences;
 - Wolfgang Petritsch: Foreign policy, security policy;
 - Brigitte Brenner: Democracy process; bringing in networks;
 - Thomas Kahn: Interface with companies in the region
 - Markus Bischofer: Mayor of Alpbach
 - Michael Ikrath: Financial issues, justice issues;
 - Michael Hirschbrich: Positive future narrative and AI
 - Stefan Wallner: More understanding between politics and business, cross-sector cooperation; resilience and strengthening liberal democracy
 - Christian Kern: ÖBB, electricity providers, green technology;
 - Cathryn Clüver-Ashbrook: intergenerational leadership skills, future model Europe, use of technology to support democracy
 - Klaus Poier: Expert on electoral law, further developing Alpbach's regional spirit;
 - Filip Radunovic: Eastern European focus; international development cooperation; political economy of the Western Balkan states; programme design contribution; bringing Brussels structures closer to Alpbach;
 - Martin Weiss: Interlinkages with EFA and Global Summit; Middle East, peace movements; defence of democracy;
 - Valerie Hengl: Equal opportunities in venture capital funds for women; gender funding gap; increasing innovation content; women in business and finance;
 - Wolfgang Habermayer: Financial sector, high-quality string instruments - lending to outstanding musicians;
 - Matthias Strolz: Scaling peace; European identity; Integrating the left and right margins;
 - Clemens Mayr-Harting: EU, international affairs
 - Rainer Schrems: Strength of Youth;
 - Kathryn List: Diversity, Youth, Inclusion; Research in Technology;
 - Verena Ehold: Austrian Federal Environment Agency;
 - Georg Kopetz: Joining European forces.
 - Werner Wutscher: capital market topic, finance tracks, innovation and technology, bridge to science; interdisciplinarity;

- Hans Mahr: Raising international profile; broadening the scope

Next steps: Joint intensive effort to make the best for Alpbach.

3. SPEECH OF EFA PRESIDENT

Talking points: EFA impact today

Next steps: Hybrid meeting before Christmas 2024. Council members are asked to convey interesting ideas, news or proposals to help further the work of EFA.

4. INPUTS

Talking points: Ideas and suggestions by SAC members:

- Further expand the scholarship programme and increase diversity;
- Increase overall diversity in the programme and among participants;
- Give space to the 'inner dimension' of the necessary social change;
- Utilise and further expand 'Alpbach in motion';
- Consider an EFA 'Ambassador Programme';
- Internationalisation of the participants: Make Alpbach better known in other countries;
- Take alternative offers for interested participants/competition seriously and emphasise Alpbach's added value more clearly;
- Since the absolute change in the world is not sufficiently reflected in the 'European consciousness', Alpbach should address the divergence between the European internal view and the assessments of the 'others' more strongly and intensify the discussion;
- Problematised the concept of democracy and state more clearly what we want to achieve in Alpbach;
- Communicate the results of the EFA more widely;
- Continue/improve work on interfaces with the village, local businesses, the province of Tyrol and the Euregio;
- Examine possible solutions from the village perspective;
- We need a positive narrative for the future;
- Alpbach should try to overcome the compartmentalisation of individual areas of society;
- What can Alpbach contribute to strengthening social resilience and liberal democracy (justice - science - civil society)?
- Emphasise the importance of journalism;
- There is a lack of 35- to 45-year-olds in Alpbach; how can we address them?
- How can technology be utilised for democracy?
- The protected environment of the 'labs' should be utilised for more willingness to take risks in the search for solutions;
- Preserve and promote the scientific nature of the forum;

- Can we offer retreats for the EU Commission or individual directorates?
(Note Irene GR: during time as Ambassador to the UN in Vienna and also afterwards, such UN retreats organised by the UN itself took place several times; the participants in the UN retreats were then of course also able to interact with the general programme;
- Aim for links/synergies with Salzburg Global Seminar;
- Do not forget K. Popper's legacy - meta-themes - defence of democracy;
- Make 'unusual' offers: e.g. 'String Instrument Exchange';
- Aim for more substance - more depth;
- Scaling peace - creating identity both internally and externally;
- Invite the left and right fringes of social discourse (examples mentioned: Sarah Wagenknecht and V. Orban)
- Collaboration between AVL Cultural Foundation and Thun-Hohenstein announced;
- Do not neglect technology and research and look for ways to bring them back to Alpbach (after AIT held its own technology symposium in September 2024)
- Twinning of the UBA in the Western Balkans were mentioned as a successful model that has led to high-level networking in the Balkans;
- Work on the interface: climate & security & digitalisation;
- What does the EFA business plan look like?
- Which brackets hold our society together? What can EFA do to strengthen these brackets?

The Board Meeting ended at 12:00h
Minutes: Maximilian Handl and Ulla Offenbeck