

Chronology of the Convention

(Status: 28 January 2005)

2 May 2003 – Meeting of the Founding Committee

The Founding Committee of the Austrian Convention agrees on aims and tasks of the Convention and appoints the Praesidium of the Convention.

23 May 2003 – Inaugural meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium of the Austrian Convention inaugurates and agrees on the further steps.

3 June 2003 – 2nd Meeting of the Founding Committee

The Founding Committee draws up a list of 18 persons ('expert pool'), out of which the Praesidium elects nine members of the Convention, the so-called 'virilists'.

16 June 2003 – 2nd Meeting of the Praesidium

The members of the Praesidium debate a possible timetable of meetings, the proceedings, the draft of the rules of procedure and possible working groups of the Convention. The Praesidium nominates nine 'virilists' from the expert pool as members of the Convention.

23 June 2003 – 3rd Meeting of the Praesidium

The members of the Praesidium debate proposals regarding the draft rules of procedure and topics for the working groups.

25 June 2003 – 4th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium of the Convention continues its debate on the draft rules of procedure and on topics for pre-debates in the working groups, and it prepares the inaugural meeting of the Convention.

30 June 2003 – Inaugural meeting of the Convention

The members of the Austrian Convention hold the first, inaugural meeting of the Convention and the general debate. The meeting is interrupted at 1 p.m.

8 July 2003 – 5th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium of the Convention finalises the draft rules of procedure and discusses the forming of working groups of the Convention.

10 July 2003 – 2nd Plenary session of the Convention

The Austrian Convention continues its general debate interrupted on 30 June 2003 and adopts the proposal of the Praesidium regarding the forming of ten working groups unanimously with one alteration.

15 July 2003 – 6th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium of the Convention deals with the eight motions for amendment regarding the draft rules of procedure proposed by the members of the Convention and debates who is to become member of which working group.

25 July 2003 – 3rd Plenary session of the Convention

The Austrian Convention agrees unanimously (with one alteration) to the rules of procedure and the set-up of nine working groups. The Convention furthermore nominates the chairpersons of nine working groups and suggests which functions the vice-chairpersons of these working groups are to have.

27 August 2003 – 7th Meeting of the Praesidium

The members of the Praesidium of the Convention debate the guidelines for the appointed working groups, the personnel and offices of the Secretariat of the Convention, and allots the topics not yet assigned to the working groups.

11 September 2003 – 8th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium of the Convention continues the discussions on the draft mandates (issues) for Working Groups 1 to 9 agreed with the respective chairpersons, and agrees on the mandates for the Working Groups 1 to 7.

17 October 2003 – 9th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium adopts the mandates for the Working Groups 8 and 9 and the proposal for the composition of Working Group 10 – Financial Constitution.

20 October 2003 – 4th Plenary session of the Convention

The chairpersons of the working groups report for the first time on the inaugural meetings and the progress of the discussions in the working groups to the Austrian Convention.

3 November 2003 – 10th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses the hearings of civil societies and interest groups and thanks the Secretary-General Mag. Karl Wollrab (now retired) for successfully building up the Secretariat; he is succeeded by Dr. Edith Goldeband.

11 November 2003 – 11th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses the first hearings of representatives of the following civil societies: youth, women, senior citizens, state-approved religious communities, ethnic minorities and human rights organisations on 21 November 2003. They plan to further hearings on 15 December 2003 and in January 2004.

21 November 2003 – 5th Plenary session of the Convention

The Convention finishes the installation of the working group. They hear representatives of youth groups, women organisations, senior citizens, state-approved religious communities, ethnic minorities and human rights organisations and debates their requests. For the next hearing on 15 December 2003, representatives of the following civil societies are invited: social affairs, persons with disabilities, minorities, environmental affairs and sports.

2 December 2003 – 12th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses the third hearing on 26 January 2004, where representatives of education, culture, media, families, peace organisations (including national defence), first-aid organisations, automotive clubs and civil societies are invited. Further, they debate to consult experts.

15 December 2003 – 6th Plenary session of the Convention

Hearing of representatives of civil societies of the following interest groups: social affairs, persons with disabilities, minorities, environmental affairs and sports. They decide on the next hearing on 26 January 2004.

18 December 2003 – 13th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium adopts the mandate for Working Group 10 with changes and discusses the time-frames set for the Working Groups to present their reports.

20 January 2004 – 14th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses the written reports on the results of the Working Groups which will be presented in March 2004.

26 January 2004 – 7th Plenary session of the Convention

Hearing of representatives of the following interest groups: education, culture, media, families, peace organisations (including national defence), first-aid organisations, automotive clubs and civil societies.

9 February 2004 – 15th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates the partial report presented by Working Group 1 and decides to present this report to the Convention on 16 February 2004.

16 February 2004 – 8th Plenary session of the Convention

The Convention discusses the partial report of Working Group 1 after a speech on the work of the Working Group held by the chairman, Univ.-Prof. DDr. Heinz Mayer.

23 February 2004 – 16th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates the reports of Working Groups 1, 3 and 7 and decides to present these reports to the Convention on 5 March 2004.

5 March 2004 – 9th Plenary session of the Convention

The Convention discusses the reports of Working Groups 3, 7, and 1 after the speeches on the work of the Working Groups held by the respective chairmen, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gerhart Holzinger, Dr. Manfred Matzka, and Univ.-Prof DDr. Heinz Mayer.

10 March 2004 – 17th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates the report presented by Working Group 5 and decides to present this report to the Convention on 29 March 2004.

26 March 2004 – 18th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates the report presented by Working Group 6 and decides to present this report to the Convention on 17 May 2004. Afterwards they discuss how to work on in the Convention.

29 March 2004 – 10th Plenary session of the Convention

The Convention discusses the report of Working Group 5 after a speech on the work of the Working Group held by the chairman Univ.-Doz. Dr. Peter Bußjäger.

16 April 2004 – 19th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates the report presented by Working Group 9 and decides to present this report to the Convention on 17 May 2004.

29 April 2004 – 20th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium grants additional mandates to the Working Groups 1, 2 and 6.

17 May 2004 – 11th Plenary session of the Convention

The Convention discusses the reports of Working Groups 6, and 9 after the speeches on the work of the Working Groups held by the respective chairmen, Mag. Werner Wutscher and Dr. Herbert Haller.

25 May 2004 – 21st Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium welcomes Dr. Peter Kostelka as a new member. Then they debate the interim report of Working Group 2 and the report of Working Group 8 and decide to present these reports to the Convention on 25 June 2004.

28 May 2004 – 22nd Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium intensively debates about the Working Groups 5 (Division of Tasks between Federal Government, Provincial Diet and Municipalities) and 9 (Legal Protection and Jurisdiction).

3 June 2004 – 23rd Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium intensively debates about the Working Groups 6 (Administrative Reform) and 7 (Structure of Special Administrative Institutions).

9 June 2004 – 24th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates the report presented by Working Group 4 and decides to present this report to the Convention on 25 June 2004.

25 June 2004 – 12th Plenary session of the Convention

The Convention discusses the reports of Working Groups 4, and 8 after the speeches on the work of the Working Groups held by the respective chairmen, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Bernd-Christian Funk and Dr. Peter Kostelka.

28 June 2004 – 25th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses how to proceed further and to form the expert committee called "New Forms of Administrative Actions".

13 July 2004 – 26th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium intensively debates about the Working Groups 3 (State Institutions) and 8 (Democratic Control Mechanisms).

14 July 2004 – 27th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium continues its intensive debate about Working Group 8 (Democratic Control Mechanisms) and intensively debates Working Group 2 (Questions of the Legal Structure). Afterwards they discuss how to proceed further in Working Groups 1 and 4.

24 August 2004 – 28th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates the reports presented by Working Groups 2 and 10 and decides to present these reports to the Convention on 27 August 2004.

27 August 2004 – 13th Plenary session of the Convention

The Convention discusses the reports of Working Groups 2 and 10 after the speeches on the work of the Working Groups held by chairman Univ.-Prof. Dr. Herbert Korinek and vice-chairman Bernd Vögerle.

1 September 2004 – 29th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium intensively debates about Working Group 2 (Questions of the Legal Structure) and discusses the partial report on the additional mandate of Working Group 5.

23 September 2004 – 30th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses the additional report of Working Group 7 and the topics reserved by the members.

4 October 2004 – 31st Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses the rights of the President of the Republic and debates how to proceed in the Plenary Session on 18 October 2004.

18 October 2004 – 14th Plenary session of the Convention

The Convention discusses the results of the Working Groups after the chairpersons presented the work done in the Working Groups.

27 October 2004 – 32nd Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses the additional report of Working Group 3 and the topics reserved by the members.

4 November 2004 – 33rd Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses the additional reports of Working Group 1, the report of the mutual debates of Working Group 6 and 7 and the report of the expert committee "New Forms of Administrative Actions".

8 November 2004 – 34th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates how to proceed further and continues to discuss the additional report of Working Group 3.

15 November 2004 – 35th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses fundamental rights and how to proceed at the closed-door meeting.

22 November 2004 – 36th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates the topics "division of tasks between federal state and provinces" and "democratic control mechanisms".

23 November 2004 – 37th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses fundamental rights and questions regarding the final report.

29 November 2004 – 38th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates democratic control mechanisms, fundamental rights, the special status of the province of Vienna in the Constitution, as well as rights and duties of the Austrian President.

1 December 2004 – 15th Plenary session of the Convention

The Convention discusses the reports of Working Groups 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 after speeches on the work of the Working Groups held by the chairpersons.

6 December 2004 – 39th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates fundamental rights and questions regarding the final report.

7 December 2004 – 40th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses questions regarding the final report and the preamble, basic principles or aims of the state in the Constitution, security and possible tax limits.

10 December 2004 – 16th Plenary session of the Convention

The Convention discusses the reports of Working Groups 1, 2, 4, and 10 after speeches on the work of the Working Groups held by the chairpersons.

13 December 2004 – 41st Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates legal protection and jurisdiction as well as an administrative reform.

21 December 2004 – 42nd Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses the additional reports of Working Groups 2 and 10 as well as questions regarding municipalities and the right to vote.

12 January 2005 – 43rd Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium discusses how to proceed further.

20 January 2005 – 44th Meeting of the Praesidium

The Praesidium debates the report of the Convention. Further they discuss the proposal of the provincial governors regarding the allocation of tasks and on the inclusion of a provision regarding Southern Tyrol in the Constitution.

28 January 2005 – 17th Plenary session of the Convention

The Convention debates the report.