

# Austria

## 1. Location and capability of nuclear facilities

Austria does not operate any nuclear power plants. This is the result of the referendum in 1978, which rejected the beginning of the operation of a nuclear power plant at Zwentendorf. The Austrian parliament prohibited the use of nuclear fission for energy supply in the country. The Chernobyl accident in 1986 further reinforced the Austrian antagonism to nuclear power, shared by both political parties and the public at large, and since then Austrians' opposition to nuclear power plants in neighboring countries has also increased. <http://www.foratom.org/Content/Default.asp?PageID=632>  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index_en.html)

### Research Reactors

Operational: 1 ( Triga II Vienna-Triga mark II)  
Shut Down: 2 (Astra-Pool and Sar-Graz-Argonaut )  
Decommissioned: 0  
Under Construction: 0  
Planned: 0  
<http://www.iaea.or.at/worldatom/rrdb/>

## 2. Fissile Material Holdings

**Highly Enriched Uranium:** 0.005-0.02 tons (end of 2003)  
Supplier- US  
[http://www.isis-online.org/global\\_stocks/end2003/civil\\_heu\\_watch2005.pdf](http://www.isis-online.org/global_stocks/end2003/civil_heu_watch2005.pdf)

### Waste Disposal

As there are no nuclear power plants in Austria, there is no need for intermediate or final storage capacities in the country for high level radioactive waste. The small quantities of HLW resulting from the activities of the research reactors are returned to the United States under a framework agreement concerning nuclear fuel of US origin. Most radioactive waste produced in Austria is collected and treated at the Austrian Research Centre, Seibersdorf (ARCS), where the ASTRA research reactor was located. According to the country's legislation, the costs of radioactive waste management have to be borne by the producer and thus a fee has to be paid for the treatment of radioactive waste at the time of delivery to ARCS.

The remaining spent fuel from the ASTRA research reactor, after it's shut down in July 1999, was transferred to Savannah River, US, in 2001 for final storage. All radioactive material will be removed from the reactor building, which will be used as an intermediate storage for conditioned radioactive waste, scheduled to be operated until 2012. [http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index_en.html)

## 3. Nuclear Activities and Cooperation

### Nuclear Research Centers

Austrian Academy of Sciences  
Atominstitut of the Austrian Universities  
Austrian Research Centre, Seibersdorf  
VERA - Vienna Environmental Research Accelerator  
<http://www.radwaste.org/research.htm>

The TRIGA Mark II research reactor, which is operated by the Atominstitut of the Austrian Universities, is the closest research reactor to the IAEA headquarters and is therefore recurrently used by IAEA staff for the development and testing of safeguards instruments.

## **Nuclear Cooperation**

As Austria does not use nuclear power, its international cooperation efforts are focused on other forms of energy. Within the European Union, Austria has cooperated in several efforts in the area of energy policy, including the SAVE II-program (a directive on energy efficiency), the Altener II-program (a directive on the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market), the directive on the single market in natural gas, and the SYNERGY-program (cooperation with non-member countries in the energy sector), among others. [http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index_en.html)

In 2006, the Austrian Presidency indicated that under the stewardship energy policy, a major focal point will be the fundamental principle of sustainability. Its main aim is “to achieve an economically optimal supply of energy sources and raw materials, taking account of security of supply, cost-efficiency and environmental and social acceptability.” <http://www.euronuclear.org/e-news/e-news-11/austria-presidency.htm>

## **4. International Non-Proliferation Efforts**

### **Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit**

Antarctic Treaty, 25 August 1987

APM Convention, 29 June 1998

Biological Weapons Convention, 10 August 1973

Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, 14 March 1983

Chemical Weapons Convention, 17 August 1995

Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), 13 March 1998

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 22 December 1988

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 27 June 1969

Outer Space Treaty, 26 February 1968

Seabed Treaty, 10 August 1972

Austria signed the Additional Protocol on 22 September 1998.

### **Multilateral Groups**

Australia Group

Conference on Disarmament

Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation

Missile Technology Control Regime

Nuclear Suppliers Group

Wassenaar Arrangement

Zangger Committee

## **5. Positions Taken in International Fora on Various Issues of Nuclear Disarmament**

*Nuclear Disarmament:* “A world free of nuclear weapons and, as it were, of all weapons of mass destruction is the aim and goal of Austrian policy. This cannot be achieved tomorrow. It will require a patient multilateral endeavour, step by step, beginning with a reduction of nuclear threats that will eventually, irreversibly and transparently lead to the complete elimination of all nuclear arsenals. We concur with others that we must begin to seek an alternative system of collective security in which nuclear deterrence does not figure and in which the supply and demand side are equally addressed.” - **Statement by Ambassador Wernfried Koeffler to the Seventh Review Conference of the NPT, New York, 4 May 2005.** <http://www.un.org/events/npt2005/statements/npt04austria.pdf>

*Disarmament and Non-Proliferation:* “Progress in non-proliferation and a strong commitment to enforce compliance with the Treaty obligations is urgently needed. Progress in this field will be possible if there are also tangible results in nuclear disarmament.” - **Statement by Ambassador Wernfried Koeffler to**

**the Seventh Review Conference of the NPT, 4 May 2005.**

<http://www.un.org/events/npt2005/statements/npt04austria.pdf>

*FMCT*: “Of equal importance is to start the negotiations on a comprehensive Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. We see such a treaty as a key element for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. An FMCT without a robust verification regime would be devoid of its purpose and would raise questions about the commitment of those who are the main addressees of such a treaty.” - **Statement by Ambassador Wernfried Koeffler to the Seventh Review Conference of the NPT, New York, 4 May 2005.**

<http://www.un.org/events/npt2005/statements/npt04austria.pdf>

*Nuclear Doctrine*: “Our concern that nuclear weapons are still central to strategic planning is increased by reports of intentions to develop new nuclear weapons or alter their design for new uses. Even the affirmation that only concepts are being studied is not reassuring.” - **Statement by Ambassador Wernfried Koeffler to the Seventh Review Conference of the NPT, New York, 4 May 2005.**

<http://www.un.org/events/npt2005/statements/npt04austria.pdf>

*CTBT*: “Seven years after opening the CTBT for signature, it is time for those states which have not signed and ratified the Treaty to do so without conditions and without further delay. [...] In this respect, the CTBT has an essential role to play as it curbs the qualitative nuclear arms race and stops the decades-long deadly spiral of developing evermore sophisticated and hence more destructive nuclear weapons. Despite the difficulties in the ratification process and the uncertainty about the entry- into-force of the CTBT, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to the treaty. We must continue to work hard on those countries which still harbor doubts about the treaty’s verification capabilities and usefulness in the new international security environment or which link the ratification of the CTBT with the resolution of the Middle East conflict.” - **Statement by Minister for Foreign Affairs Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Federal to the Conference on Facilitating the Entry-into-Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, 3 September 2003.**

*Civil Society*: “The Land Mine Convention represents thus one of the most successful processes in international disarmament. It is unique for the way it was negotiated and the close involvement of civil society and non-governmental organizations. The Convention is unique as it is the first disarmament treaty, which addresses the needs of survivors of these odious weapons.” - **Statement by Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 13 March 2007.**

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/cd/speeches07/1session/March13Austria.pdf>

*Cluster Munitions*: “I would like to inform you that I had been authorized by the Austrian Federal President acting upon a proposal by the Austrian Federal Government to announce during the recent Oslo meeting a national moratorium on the use of cluster bombs and cluster munitions. This moratorium reads in its English translation: ...The Republic of Austria declares that the Austrian Armed Forces until the elaboration of an adequate international regulation renounce the use of cluster bombs and cluster munitions.” - **Statement by Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch to the Conference on Disarmament, 13 March 2007.** <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/cd/speeches07/1session/March13Austria.pdf>