

Directorate-General for the Presidency  
Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments

## Factsheet: The Austrian National Council



### 1. At a glance











Austria is a federal republic and a parliamentary democracy. The Austrian Parliament is a bicameral body composed of the National Council (Nationalrat) and the Federal Council (Bundesrat).

The 183 Members of the National Council are directly elected by the citizens. Elections to the National Council must take place every five years at the latest, and are based on the principles of proportional representation, an open list system and preferential votes. Austria is the only EU country where the voting age for national Parliamentary elections is 16.




In most cases, the National Council issues federal legislation in conjunction with the Federal Council. However, with some rare exceptions the Federal Council only has a so-called “suspensive” veto right. The National Council can override a challenge by the Federal Council to one of its resolutions by voting on the resolution again.

Elections were held on 29 September 2019. On 7 October 2019, President Alexander Van der Bellen tasked Sebastian Kurz (ÖVP/EPP) to start coalition negotiations.

### 2. Composition

| Results of the elections on 29 September 2019 and current composition               |   |  |       |       |
|---|---|--|-------|-------|
|   | Party   | EP affiliation   | %     | Seats |
|  | <b>Österreichische Volkspartei (ÖVP)</b><br>Austrian People's Party                       |  | 37,5% | 71    |
|  | <b>Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs (SPO)</b><br>Social Democratic Party of Austria |  | 21,2% | 40    |
|  | <b>Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs (FPÖ)</b><br>Freedom Party of Austria                 |  | 16,2% | 31    |
|  | <b>Die Grünen</b><br>The Greens   |  | 13,9% | 26    |
|  | NEOS  |  | 8,1%  | 15    |
|   | Others  |  | 3,2%  | -     |
|   |   |  | 100%  | 183   |
| <b>Turnout: 75,6 % . The next elections will be held in 2023.</b>                   |   |  |       |       |

### 3. Officeholders

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>President of the National Council,<br/>Chairperson of the Main Committee on<br/>Matters of the European Union</b></p>  <p>Mr Wolfgang Sobotka (ÖVP/EPP),<br/>since 20 December 2017</p> | <p><b>Second President of the National Council,<br/>Chairperson of the Standing Sub-Committee<br/>on Matters of the European Union</b></p>  <p>Ms Doris Bures (SPÖ/S&amp;D),<br/>since 9 November 2017</p> |
| <p><b>Third President of the National Council</b></p>  <p>Mr. Norbert Hofer (FPÖ/ID),<br/>since 29 October 2019</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Secretary General of the Austrian Parliament:</b> Mr Harald Dossi, since 1 March 2012</p>  |   |

### 4. Relations with Members of the European Parliament

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| <p><b>Participation rights for Austrian MEPs in<br/>plenary sittings</b></p>            | <p>Each political group in the National Council can nominate one MEP elected in Austria from the same party to speak during a plenary debate on an EU topic.</p>   |
| <p><b>Participation rights for Austrian MEPs in<br/>committee meetings</b></p>          | <p>MEPs elected in Austria have the right to attend the deliberations of the Main Committee on matters of the European Union, as well as other committees when they are debating certain EU topics. (<i>More details in the rules of procedure.</i>)</p> |
| <p><b>Availability of videoconferencing system in<br/>Austrian National Council</b></p> | <p>No</p>  |

## **5. Information links**

- Official website: <http://www.parlament.gv.at>
- [Rules of procedure in English](#)
- [List of committees](#)
- [Recent documents submitted by the National Council to the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange \(IPEX\)](#)
- [European Parliament Information Office in Vienna](#)

## **6. Contacts**

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