Entsorgungsbeirat

Report on the 13th Meeting on 4 and 5 June 2025

The Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management ("Advisory Board" for short) met for its 13th meeting on 4 and 5 June 2025. The objectives of this meeting were to receive information on the results of the studies and committee meetings, to present and discuss the proposed recommendations as well as the next steps, and to decide on amendments and additions to the final report.

Background

Based on "The National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste" (2018), the Advisory Board **develops a basis for decisions and recommendations for the Federal Government regarding the safe disposal of low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste** accumulated in Austria. Radioactive waste is generated in Austria through applications in medicine, research, industry and through the dismantling of facilities that are no longer required (decommissioning).

The mandate of the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management defines its tasks. It is valid for three years and ends in June 2024. The four tasks according to the mandate are:

1. **Radioactive Waste in Austria: Survey of the Status Quo**

The aim is to survey and collect information and data on radioactive waste management, to discuss the inventory of radioactive waste in Austria as well as to evaluate the studies on the Federal Government's previous activities with respect to final disposal. As part of this, plans are to provide a tangible overview of the existing situation. The data collected in this survey describes the starting point in detail and provides the basis for the work of the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management.

2. **Analysis of the Options for Final Disposal**

The aim is to provide an overview of all possible options for the final disposal of radioactive waste in the form of a single document. It should include the option of cooperation with other countries and outline the requirements, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and risks, as well as an initial cost estimate for each option.

3. **Framework for Public Participation**

The aim is to develop a framework for the public to participate (including cross-border measures) during the process of establishing a final repository for radioactive waste in Austria. The concept should consider technical, economic, and social aspects. Moreover, it should contain recommendations on how and when the public should be informed, involved, and included in the decision-making process.

4. **Development of a Timetable for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste**

The aim is to define a timetable and roadmap for the disposal of radioactive waste accumulated in Austria. This draft should include, where possible, relevant intermediate stages ("milestones"), key performance indicators and precise timelines for reaching these stages.

The recommendations worked out by the Advisory Board on the individual mandate items are forwarded to the Federal Government and serve as a basis for decisions on future steps.

The Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management includes representatives of the Federal States and Governments, scientists, NGOs, and from the public. The Advisory Board is chaired by Silvia Benda-Kahri from the Environment Agency Austria.

Review

During the 12th meeting, the results of the committees and the first study results were presented and discussed. Plans for further work were also made.

Results of the 13th meeting:

Recommendations and next steps were presented, discussed and agreed upon during the 13th meeting of the Advisory Board.

The remaining results of the 13th meeting of the Advisory Board will be presented based on the mandate items.

Mandate Item 1: Radioactive Waste in Austria: Survey of the Status Quo

The study on "Chemical substances in radioactive waste and assessment of their release" was presented and the committee on the "Radioactive Waste in Austria - Focus on Quantities" presented its considerations for the next steps.

Results

Outcomes from the study on “Chemical substances in radioactive waste and assessment of their release” and from discussions were incorporated into the final report.

Mandate Item 2: Analysis of the Options for Final Disposal

The committee on the "Pathway to the Evaluation of Options for the Final Disposal" reported on its work and reflections on the study “Derivation of reference values for long-lived radionuclides in the Austrian repository”.

Results

The existing recommendations are retained in the report. The clarification of parts of the content was discussed and details will be worked out.

Item 3: Framework conditions for public participation

The committee on the "Framework for Public Participation" presented its reflections on the recommendations and additions to the participation concept. These were discussed comprehensively from different perspectives.

Results

Proposed recommendations will be revised based on the discussions and voted on by means of a circular resolution.

Mandate Item 4: Development of a Timetable for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste

Based on input from the committees on the "Pathway to the Evaluation of Options for the Final Disposal" and the "Framework for Public Participation" the established timetable and roadmap were amended and presented by the Secretariat.

Results

Information on time spans will be added to the timetable and roadmap and details from mandate item 2 and 3 will be included.

The 14th meeting of the Advisory Board will be held on 8 October.

Participants in the meeting:

Disposal Advisory Board

Roman Beyerknecht (Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf)
Manfred Ditto (Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection)
Ulrike Felt (University of Vienna, Institute for Science and Technology Research)
Eva Festl (Federal Ministry of Finance)
Bernhard Haubenberger (Association of Austrian Municipalities)
Patricia Lorenz (Global 2000)
Frank Melcher (Montanuniversität Leoben, Chair of Geology and Economic Geology, Applied Geosciences and Geophysic)
Gabriele Mraz (Austrian Institute for Ecology)
Nikolaus Müllner (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Institute of Safety and Risk Sciences)
Anna Muner-Bretter (Federal Chancellery)
Wolfgang Piermayr (Upper Austria, Representation of the Federal States)
David Reinberger (Ombuds Office for Environmental Protection Austria)
Volker Schaffler (Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure)
Gerhard Seifritz (Lower Austria, Representative of the Federal States)
Angelika Spieth-Achtnich (Institute for Applied Ecology.)
Johannes Sterba (Technical University of Vienna, Atomic and Subatomic Physics)
Hannelore Weck-Hannemann (University of Innsbruck, Department of Public Finance, Faculty of Economics and Statistics)

Other participants:

Silvia Benda-Kahri (Environment Agency Austria) Chair
Sabine Kranzl (Environment Agency Austria) Co-Chair
Barbara Hofbauer (Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)
Claudia Ackerl (Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)
Christina Raith (Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)

Roman Zöchling (Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)
Gunther Schellner (Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure)
Henriette Herzog (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH)
Secretariat
Christian Katzlberger (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH)
Sonja Rosenitsch (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH)
Katharina Schmidt (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH)

Imprint or Inquiry information or data security
Media owners, publishers, and editors:
Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management
Untere Donaustraße 11, 1020 Vienna
Status: 5 June 2025
Phone: +43 1 71100 61 4195
E-mail: v8@bmk.gv.at

Created by
Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management
Secretariat
Henriette Herzog
E-Mail: kontakt@entsorgungsbeirat.gv.at

Created on: 5 June 2025