

Report on the 14th Meeting on 8 October 2025

The Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management (“Advisory Board” for short) met for its 14th meeting on 8 October 2025. During this meeting, the results of the Advisory Board were presented to Secretary General Dr. Abentung, representing the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management. In addition, the 2021–2025 mandate period was reviewed and an outlook on the next steps was provided.

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 13th meeting, the results of the committees and the recommendations developed were presented and discussed. In addition, further work on the final report was planned.

Results of the 14th meeting

During the 14th meeting of the Advisory Board, the results of the Advisory Board were submitted. These are documented in the final report, including its annexes.

Reflection

The 14th meeting is the final meeting of the 2021–2025 mandate period. The past four years were reviewed, and the work of the Advisory Board was reflected upon in order to draw conclusions for the future work of a subsequent Advisory Board.

Outlook

The Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environment Protection, Regions and Water Management provided a brief outlook on the next steps following the submission of the recommendations and on the continuation of the Advisory Board's work.

Participants in the meeting

Advisory Board

Manfred Ditto (Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection)

Ulrike Felt (University of Vienna, Institute for Scientific and Technical Research)

Patricia Lorenz (Global 2000)

Frank Melcher (Montanuniversität Leoben, Chair of Geology and Economic Geology, Applied Geosciences and Geophysics)

Benedikt Montag (Bundeskanzleramt)

Monika Mörth (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management)

Gabriele Mraz (Austrian Institute of 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)

Ewald Plantosar (Styria, Representation of the Federal States)

David Reinberger (Ombuds Office for Environmental Protection Austria)

Gerhard Seifritz (Lower Austria, Representative of the Federal States)

Angelika Spieth-Achtnich (Oeko-Institut Consult GmbH, Germany)

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

Claudia Ackerl (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management)

Christina Raith (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management)

Roman Zöchling (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management)

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)

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