

Report on the Constituent Meeting on 16 and 17 June 2021

The Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management - Advisory Board - constituted in a first meeting on 16 and 17 June 2021 to discuss the objectives, tasks and working methods as well as to address the subject of the disposal of radioactive waste.

During the three-year period of the mandate, the **task of the Advisory Board** is to draw up an **inventory** of the low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste located in Austria, **to evaluate repository technologies and to propose a transparency and participation concept** as well as the next steps for the final solution of the disposal issue. The working method of the Advisory Board is evidence-based and transparent. During these three years, the council will neither give recommendations for a specific repository technology, nor hold discussions or give recommendations on a possible site.

The Advisory Board develops a **basis for decisions and recommendations for the Federal Government on the safe disposal of radioactive waste** produced in Austria. It includes representatives of the Federal Government and States, scientists, NGOs, and the civil society. The Advisory Board is chaired by Silvia Benda-Kahri from the Environment Agency Austria.

A preparatory meeting took place at the end of March 2021 as a virtual meeting and was opened personally by Federal Minister Leonore Gewessler. In strict compliance with the Covid 19 provisions, the Advisory Board was able to meet for its constituent meeting on 16 and 17 June 2021 at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH (AGES) in Vienna.

After the meeting, opened by Christian Holzer (Head of Section, Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology) and Thomas Kickingger (Managing Director, AGES), the Advisory Board began its work. The expertise of the Advisory Board was discussed as well as its tasks and working methods, the members of the Advisory Board reviewed the results of former repository studies in Austria with experts from AGES and the Environment Agency Austria. This was followed by a joint introduction

to the content of the three main topics of the mandate through presentations and discussions on:

- Quantities and types of radioactive waste in Austria
- Different types of repositories, using the example of repositories that are already in operation
- Participation processes for final disposal

As a basis for future work, existing information on the subjects regarding the mandate were compiled and suggestions for further in-depth questions were collected.

For a common understanding of the term “participation” and for the integration of the public during the three-year period of the mandate an ad hoc Committee established on 17 June 2021 will present its results at the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Advisory Board will take place on 13 and 14 October 2021.

Background:

Austria is known as a country of advanced medicine, innovative product development and internationally recognised scientific research. These activities may produce low and medium-level radioactive waste. A detailed report on the existing and expected quantities of low- and intermediate-level radioactive material in Austria and its origin is currently being compiled as part of the inventory. These are, for example, components of small scientific reactors or work gloves worn by medical staff, which are being stored professionally in Seibersdorf. A solution for the disposal of the radioactive waste has to be found by 2045. With the establishment of the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management this process has now been started.

For the final disposal of radioactive waste Austria has compiled “The National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste”. To implement this programme, the Federal Government established the **Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management („Advisory Board“ for short)** in March 2021. The Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management develops recommendations for the Austrian Federal Government. It will produce a report on the inventory of the low and intermediate level radioactive material located in Austria, clarifies

technical issues, and proposes a participation concept and the next steps. The working method of the Advisory Board is evidence-based and transparent. These recommendations form the basis for further decisions on the final disposal of radioactive waste. For more information, visit **www.entsorgungsbeirat.gv.at**.

In order to fulfil its objectives, the Advisory Board received a mandate limited to three years. The members are also appointed for this period. Within the framework of future mandates, the members of the Advisory Board may change depending on the tasks.

Members entitled to a vote (in Alphabetical Order):

Roman Beyerknecht (Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf)

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

Ulrike Felt (University of Vienna, Department of Science and Technology Studies)

Bernhard Haubenberger (Association of Austrian Municipalities)

Isabel Lamprecht-Pühra (Federal Ministry of Finance)

Günter Liebel (Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management)

Patricia Lorenz (Global 2000)

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

Gabriele Mraz (Austrian Institute for Ecology)

Nikolaus Müllner (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Institute of Safety and Risk Sciences)

Ewald Plantosar (Styria, Representation of the Federal States)

Horst Reicher (Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)

David Reinberger (Ombuds Office for Environmental Protection Austria)

Wolfgang Renneberg (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Institute of Safety and Risk Sciences)

Ursula Rosenbichler (Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport)

Sabine Schneeberger (Federal Chancellery)

Sigrid Sperker (Upper Austria, Representation of the Federal States)

Johannes Sterba (Technical University of Vienna, Atomic and Subatomic Physics)

Christoph Urbanek (Lower Austria, Representation of the Federal States)

Hannelore Weck-Hannemann (University of Innsbruck, Department of Public Finance, Faculty of Economics and Statistics)

Silvia Benda-Kahri (Environment Agency Austria), who is a trained mediator and art-of-hosting expert, accompanies the Advisory Board as a chairperson to help it fulfil its objectives. The Secretariat of the Advisory Board was established at AGES.

Imprint or Inquiry information or data security

Media owners, publishers, and editors:

Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

Untere Donaustraße 11, 1020 Vienna

Status: 25 June 2021

Phone: +43 1 71100 61 4195

E-Mail: v8@bmk.gv.at

Created by

Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management

Secretariat

Henriette Herzog

Telefon: +43 1 123 45-123456

E-Mail: kontakt@entsorgungsbeirat.gv.at

Created on: 25 June 2021