

CABINET SECRETARY FOR CULTURE, TOURISM AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Visit to Austria to speak at the Europa Forum Wachau
09 – 11 June 2017

1. You have accepted an invitation to attend and speak at the Europa Forum Wachau. The conference will take place on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June 2017 in Göttweig (Austria). You will be flying into Vienna in the early evening (18:50) of Friday 9th June and fly back to Scotland in the afternoon of Sunday 11th June.

2. This note updates you on progress with the development of the programme, we would be grateful for an early steer on whether you are content. A first draft of your speech scheduled for Sunday 11th June will be sent on Friday 2nd June.

3. [REDACTED] Head of European Engagement, will be accompanying you and providing senior official support. We also propose that [REDACTED], Desk Officer for Austria, joins your delegation to provide administrative and logistical support.

4. We understand that the British Ambassador to Austria is not available [REDACTED] You then have the option of staying overnight in Vienna or travelling, by Embassy car, to a hotel closer to the conference venue, where most attendees are expected to sojourn. Göttweig is about one hour away from Vienna by car. We believe the latter option would be logistically more appropriate as Saturday's proceedings are scheduled to start at 10:00.

5. After Saturday's plenary, you are invited to attend a lunch hosted by Mr Sebastian Kurz, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs. You will be seated at the Ministerial table. We understand that Mr Kurz will be leaving immediately after lunch, making it challenging to organise a bilateral but we have secured a bilateral with Wolfgang Brandstetter, Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Justice. This meeting is scheduled for 13:00 on Sunday. Austria will hold the Presidency of the EU in the second half of 2018.

6. [REDACTED]

7. The programme for the Saturday afternoon features a number of working groups.

- Security Policy – The EU Global Strategy
- Europe of Diversity and Subsidiarity
- Economy – Between Asia and US: how can Europe remain competitive?
- Culture – Tensions between Migration, Democracy and rule of law.

Organisers have advised that key-note speakers do not usually take part in the working groups. However, you are more than welcome to attend any of the above. Each group features a chair and a number of panellist (mainly academics or senior officials) who will be delivering brief introductory statements. The panel on culture will see the participation of a number of adolescents. Attendees will be asked to join teams of three people, including one adolescent each.

8. On Saturday night, you are invited to attend a dinner hosted by the Government of Lower Austria. We are seeking information on the expected attendees. We understand most Ministers will not take part in the dinner and attendees will mainly have an academic or business background. However, Ms Barbara Schwarz, President of the Europa Forum and Minister for Education in the Government of Lower Austria, as well as Mrs Gudrun Mosler-Törnström, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, will be present. You met Mrs Mosler-Törnström in Edinburgh in October 2016.

9. Your key-note speech is scheduled for Sunday morning. There will be a total of six talks, you are the third speaker. A first draft of the speech will follow tomorrow.