

Global Career Council meeting on 10th May at 18:30 EDL time

Dear colleagues, I am looking forward to talking to you in about an hour

1. What is happening in your country in the economy, politically and labour market: Austria

As I write this (I am a German citizen living here since 1992) the Austrian chancellor Werner Faymann has just stepped down (actually yesterday).

As he said yesterday, he felt he had lost the support of his party, the Socialdemocrat Party of Austria (SPÖ). As I see it, a significant part of the membership of his party was opposed to his Anti-Merkel course in the so called „refugee-crisis“ (the crisis is actually perceived by more and more people as being rather about „enforced immigration“) since his government started to join forces with those countries that actively and effectively block the so called „Balkan route“ on the Greek-Macedonian border.

Last year Austria welcomed around 90000 persons and the general feeling is that this amount is already more than a fair share of the overall intake of the European Union.

The unrest in the Social Democrat Party had been growing since Faymann`s candidate Mr. Hundstorfer (the Social Minister) had suffered from a crushing defeat in the first round of the presidential election a few weeks ago. (11,3%) First came the candidate of the Liberal Party with around 35,1% of votes.

Second candidate in the run-off election will be Vanderbellen from the Green party who got 21,3% of the votes in the first round.

The next general election is due in 2017 and the coalition in power (Social Democratic Party and People`s Party) seems rather at a loss as to how they can possibly prevent the victory of the right-wing „Liberals“. (Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs - FPÖ).

The governing coalition is held responsible for the continuing rise of unemployment (from 400000 persons last year to 425000 in 2016 so far) This is officially 9,1% unemployment out of the labour force of 3.548000. (don`t make me explain this „national“ calculation of the figures – Eurostat figure is 5,8% unemployment).

GDP growth has been 0,9% in 2015. That is regarded as unsatisfactory as well.

Investment (Bruttoanlageinvestitionen) was at 0,4% in 2015. The Maastricht Debt-Quota has risen to 86,5% of BIP in 2015 (64,8% in 2008).

2. What is our company – placementgroup - about?

As you might know my company – placementgroup- is only a small outplacement and career coaching boutique. www.placementgroup.at

We still do mostly 1:1 coaching and internationally are a partner of the OIGP network; and we have seen some referrals from the network last year.

We are also a member of ACF – Europe (Association of Career Firms) as well as of ACF – Austria (www.acf-austria.org).

We have clients from long-standing customers (banks and IT) and see more and more contacts being made based on internet research by a new generation of HR professionals. Our main marketing approach is individual networking in meetings and seminars and writing articles for newspapers with an Austrian coverage.

We also have a presence in a start-up portal for online-consulting. www.ifeelgood.at This is an experiment. In any case it has drawn some attention and brought us one customer – company so far.

We are also told that recruiters use linkedin and xing more and more and believe this is true. We must state however that so far only one of our clients got a job after being approached via these channels. Of course we help our clients optimize their presence on these portals.

3. What is happening in the profession of career coaching and what is going on in professional career coaching organizations?

Last year I have gathered some information about career organizations and coaching organizations.

For the time being I can not tell you anything more about our professional environment in the career field.

Our headlights illuminate only a small part of the road ahead of us, generally just enough to continue our professional travel.

