

## ***Canners International Permanent Committee***

### UPR of Austria

Austria is one of the most successful democracies in the world. "Austria is a democratic republic. Its laws emanate from the people". Thus reads Article 1 of the Federal Constitutional Act. All citizens of Austria are equal before the law. There are no distinctions of birth, gender, status, class or religion. The Austrian Constitution is based on the principles of a republican, democratic and federal state, the principle of the rule of law, and the principle of the separation of legislative and executive powers and the separation of jurisdiction and administration. The basic rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Federal Constitution were first accorded more than a century ago. The provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms supplement Austria's constitutional law.

Austria is one of the developed economic nations with impressive indicators. The Austrian economy expanded by 0.3 per cent on quarter in the three months to December 2015, the same pace as in the previous period. The moderate rate growth was recorded in private consumption while public spending increased. Year-on-year, the GDP expanded by 1.1 per cent, accelerating from a 1.0 per cent growth in the previous period and reaching the highest annual growth rate since the last quarter of 2013. GDP Growth Rate in Austria averaged 0.45 per cent from 1996 until 2015, reaching an all-time high of 1.60 per cent in the third quarter of 1999 and a record low of -1.80 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2008. GDP Growth Rate in Austria is reported by the Oesterreichische National bank.

Austria's economy features a large service sector (63 per cent of total GDP), a solid industrial sector (25 per cent), and a small, but highly developed agricultural sector (1 per cent). On the expenditure side, household consumption is the main component of GDP and accounts for 54 per cent, followed by

gross fixed capital formation (22 per cent) and government expenditure (20 per cent). A net export of goods and services adds 3 per cent to the GDP as exports accounts for 53 per cent and imports for -50 per cent.

Austria is one of the top OECD spenders on pensions after Italy and France. Public social spending on pensions (old age and survivors) accounts for 13.5% of GDP whereas the OECD average stands at around 7.8% of GDP. Austria has been relatively less affected by the economic crisis in comparison to other OECD countries. The employment rate even slightly increased for both the native-born and foreign-born population by about 1 percentage point whereas the OECD area has seen a decrease in employment in many countries. Austria, with an annual education expenditure per student at USD 12500, belongs to the top 5 OECD countries after the United States, Switzerland, Norway and Denmark. The OECD average stands at around USD 9300.

The Australian Government has a steadfast and on-going commitment to be at the forefront of efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Half of the overall Austrian aid program is invested in activities that have either a principal or significant objective of promoting gender equality and empowering women. This investment is mostly in health and education, and also governance programs, rural development and other sectors. The Government has also set a target requiring that at least 80 per cent of all investments, regardless of their objectives, will effectively address gender issues in their implementation.