

Europa-Forum Wachau 2013

(Abbey of Göttweig, 15 – 16 June)

Originally launched to commemorate the successful referendum on Austria's EU membership on 12 June 1994, the Europa-Forum Wachau (EFW) is an annual conference on issues related to European integration taking place at the Abbey of Göttweig in the Wachau region. It is organized by the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and the Government of Lower Austria.

The Europa-Forum Wachau, which in 2013 will take place for the 18th time, has established itself as one of the leading conferences on EU affairs. It serves as a platform for prominent personalities in the fields of politics, business, academia and the media from countries of the European Union and the neighbouring regions.

The conference is hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria, Michael Spindelegger, and the Governor of Lower Austria, Erwin Pröll. President of the Europa-Forum Wachau is Barbara Schwarz, Minister for Employment, Family, Social Matters and EU Affairs of Lower Austria.

The format of the EFW is the following:

- first day: plenary session with keynote speakers, press conference, followed by 4 panels
- second day: plenary session with reports of the 4 panels, keynote speakers, press conference.

Europa-Forum Wachau 2013

The main topic of this year's debate is

“Beyond the Crisis- Outlines of a New Europe”

European politicians will speak to the Europa-Forum in the high-level segments of the two plenary sessions. After the plenary session on Saturday 15 June, high-ranking international guests will participate in one of the four panels (with chair, four introductory statements and rapporteur) on the following topics

Panel 1 Common Foreign and Security Policy

“10 Years of common Security and Defence Policy- Which Way Forward”

Panel 2 Regions

“Subsidiarity- Solidarity”

Panel 3 Economics

“Growth and Budget Consolidation”

Panel 4 Culture

“More Europe Through More Culture:
The Role of Culture in European Integration and in EU External Relations”