



Völkerrechtsbüro

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Betreff: CRPD „F“ gegen Ö. ; Zusatzfragen des CRPD, Antwort Österreichs

Die Vertretung wird eingeladen, die beigeschlossene österreichische Stellungnahme zu den Zusatzfragen des CRPD umgehend unter Ergänzung des Übermittlungsdatums im Stellungnahme Dokument an den OHCHR weiterzuleiten. Die Frist für die Stellungnahme ist der **28. Jänner 2017**.

Wien, am 17. Jänner 2017  
Für den Bundesminister:  
i.A. Jankovic  
(elektronisch gefertigt)

Anlage:

**Follow-up to the Views adopted by the Committee on the Rights of  
Persons with Disabilities on communication No. 21/2014  
Austrian reply to the Committee's request for additional information  
submitted on xx January 2017**

The Austrian authorities have taken note of the comments contained in the Special Rapporteur's letter Ref. Nr. G/SO/214/48 AUT (1) FU SP/CE/APP/mbe 21/2014 of 5 December 2016 relating to Austria's follow-up observations of 21 February 2016 in the case of F v. Austria.

In reply to the Committee's request for additional information Austria states the following:

**1. The measures taken by the State party to disseminate the Committee's Views in accessible format:**

The Committee's Views have been translated into German and published on the websites of the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection in a format accessible to blind and partially sighted persons. In addition, the websites are linked to the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights where the Views are published.

**2. The measures taken by the State party to comply with the Committee's Views to provide adequate compensation to the author for the legal costs incurred during domestic proceedings and the costs incurred in filing the present communication:**

As stated in Austria's observations of 21 February 2016, Austria, as a matter of principle, does not provide compensation to an applicant in treaty body procedures for costs incurred in the filing of communications. Additionally, in the present case the costs incurred by the author on the occasion of the domestic court proceedings have been the subject of a final decision of an independent Austrian court. Austria therefore cannot comply with this recommendation.

**3. Measures taken to remedy the lack of accessibility to the information visually available for persons with visual impairment, for all lines of the tram network:**

The Linz Linien GmbH, which runs the public transport in Linz, will continue its ongoing efforts aimed at further improving accessibility for persons with disabilities. This is being done in close cooperation with the Austrian Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted (Blinden- und Sehbehindertenverband Österreich - BSVÖ).

Presently, all ticketing machines of the Linz Linien GmbH are being equipped with "text to speak" functions. Moreover, the smartphone application "Qando", which provides information on Austrian public transport schedules, has been recently optimized for the use of the blind and partially sighted. Smartphone accessibility applications are gaining increasing importance in addition to the timetable information systems presently in use.

Among the reasons why the timetable information systems presently in use ("DISA" system) were not installed at all tram stations, especially those in the city centre, were complaints by residents about potential noise impacts, especially during the night hours. All relevant decisions were taken in close cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities.

Finally, it has to be pointed out that the Linz Linien GmbH was the first public transport company in Austria which allowed persons with disabilities to be accompanied by another person free of charge.

#### **4. Measures taken to guarantee that Austrian transport networks built in the future comply with the principle of universal design:**

Austria would like to reaffirm that the inclusion of persons with disabilities into all aspects of life is an important goal of the policy of the Austrian Federal Government.

Currently the Regulation of the Federal Minister competent for public transport regarding the building and operation of tramways, Federal Law Gazette II 76/2000 as amended, is under revision. The amendments will include a new wording relating to accessibility and up-to-date technical indications, which have been elaborated in close cooperation with the Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted's Working Group for Rehabilitation. An implementing decree will further specify these technical indications and adapt them to new developments.

In order to promote full accessibility of the Austrian railway system, the Austrian Federal Railways elaborated in 2006 a step-by-step plan on accessibility, in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities. By the end of 2015, already 75 per cent of Austria's railway passengers were able to benefit from railway stations fully in conformity with this plan's accessibility standards. By 2025, according to the plan's objectives, accessibility shall be provided for at least 90 per cent of all passengers. For this purpose almost 180 railway stations have been adapted until today. Accessibility is also continuously being improved by the acquisition of new accessible trains (lately "Cityjet" trains).

Finally, Austria informs that its federal, regional and local governments, in exercising their responsibilities in the field of public transport, give special attention to accessibility in public procurement proceedings, in accordance with the public procurement directives of the European Union.

