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The Committees of the National Council

Functions and remit of the committees

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I. Purpose

This brochure provides information about the work of the National Council committees.

The subjects and topics that may be dealt with by each committee are listed below.

This brochure was published at the beginning of the XXVIIIth legislative term (24 October 2024). The items of business deliberated by the individual committees are presented on the basis of the last legislative term. The brochure in particular provides an overview of the reports submitted to Parliament by the Federal Government and its members. Examples of frequent legislative initiatives in the form of government bills that were assigned to the respective committees are also listed.

The list of items of business mentioned in this brochure is not exhaustive, nor is the list of committees conclusive. The National Council may elect new committees at any time.

In addition, the National Council may, by passing legislative amendments or adopting resolutions, change the reporting obligations during the course of the legislative term.

II. What are committees and why are they established?

Committees are parliamentary bodies responsible for preliminary deliberation of items of business to be subsequently considered by the plenary. The composition of the committees reflects the majorities in the National Council. In the committees, National Council Members with expertise in the relevant areas discuss the items of business. This division of labour enables Members to specialise in the matters dealt with by the committees to which they belong. With their expertise, they help shape opinion in their respective parliamentary groups in the relevant areas.

At the beginning of the legislative term, the committees are elected by the plenary assembly. Some committees are established because the law so requires, while others are set up on the basis of agreements between the parliamentary groups (§ 32 (1) of the Federal Act of 4 July 1975 on the Rules of Procedure of the National Council – Rules of Procedure Act 1975, usually referred to as “GOG” in Austrian parliamentary language, which is short for “Geschäftsordnungsgesetz”). A separate committee may be elected for each major subject area (optional committees, so-called “Fachausschüsse”, i.e. “specialised committees”). In addition, the National Council may set up special committees (“besondere Ausschüsse”) at



any time for preliminary deliberations on important individual items of business (§ 87 (1) of the Rules of Procedure Act).

For the preliminary treatment of extensive and difficult matters, a committee may also decide to set up a sub-committee, the deliberations of which shall as a rule be confidential (§ 35 of the Rules of Procedure Act).

III. Matters dealt with by the committees of the XXVIIth legislative term

1. Mandatory vs. optional committees

The following overview shows for each committee whether it is classified as “mandatory” or “optional”. Mandatory committees are established because the law so requires, e.g. the Federal Constitutional Law (“Bundes-Verfassungsgesetz”, “B-VG” for short) or the Rules of Procedure of the National Council. Optional committees are specialised committees (“Fachausschüsse”) which the National Council may choose to establish. The list of committees actually set up in a given legislative term reflects, to some degree, the departmental designations of the individual federal ministries and thus the comprehensive subject areas within their sphere of responsibility.

2. Standing vs. non-standing committees

It will also be specified whether the committee is a “standing” or “non-standing” committee. Standing committees may be convened at any time, i.e. even while the National Council is not in session, whenever the need arises. Non-standing committees hold their meetings during the time of the National Council’s ordinary session (see Art. 28 (1) of the Federal Constitutional Law).

3. Composition of the committees

For each committee established in the XXVIIIth legislative term, the brochure specifies the number of members and substitute members as well as the distribution of committee seats between the parliamentary groups. The parliamentary groups appoint the committee members and substitute members and communicate their names in writing to the President of the National Council. The overview of each committee also shows to which parliamentary group the committee chairperson belongs.



The complete list of committee officers (chairperson, deputy chairpersons and secretaries) is shown on the overview page of the respective committee on the Parliament's website (under "Recherchieren" > "Ausschüsse"), and a list of the committee members and substitute members is also available there.

4. Frequent subjects of the committees' deliberations

Below is a brief description of the key matters dealt with in the respective committees, with a particular focus on special functions in the case of mandatory committees.

5. Reports and frequent legislative initiatives

The individual committees dealt with the reports of the Federal Government and its members as well as the legislative initiatives submitted in the form of government bills as listed below.¹

The majority of the reports of the Federal Government and its members in the XXVIIth legislative term were submitted in compliance with statutory obligations. However, some recurring reports were also submitted in response to (legally non-binding) resolutions. Some reports were submitted to the National Council by the Federal Government and its members voluntarily or as a matter of custom. Reports that were requested and submitted only once, for example in response to a resolution, are not included in this list. Statutory reporting obligations that expired during the XXVIIth legislative term are also not listed.

To give a comprehensive insight into the activities of the respective committee, the most frequent legislative initiatives that were submitted in the form of government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term are also listed.

¹ The data refer to the last, i.e. XXVIIth, legislative term (23 October 2019 to 23 October 2024) and are based on research conducted on parliament.gv.at.



IV. Committees

1. Committee on Labour and Social Affairs

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

1.1 Composition of the Committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ² 7 (7)³, ÖVP⁴ 7 (7), SPÖ⁵ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: SPÖ

1.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Committee on Labour and Social Affairs deals with all legislative proposals and motions relating to labour and social law. In addition to employment, this also includes pension, health and accident insurance and unemployment insurance. The Committee on Labour and Social Affairs also deals with regulations concerning, and support for, people with disabilities and people in need of care.

1.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

monthly

- ◆ Reports pursuant to § 3 (5) of the COVID-19 Fund Act (e.g. for March 2020 to December 2023, III-1095 d. B.⁶)

annual

- ◆ Reports on the implementation of the inspection plan under § 69 of the Wage and Social Dumping Prevention Act (e.g. for the year 2023, III-1191 d. B.)

² Freedom Party of Austria

³ The numbers in brackets indicate the number of substitute members.

⁴ Austrian People's Party

⁵ Social Democratic Party of Austria

⁶ "d. B." is short for "der Beilagen" (i.e. der Beilagen zu den Stenographischen Protokollen), which is the numerical identifier assigned to a parliamentary document that is published as an annex to the Stenographic Reports in accordance with § 52 (4) of the Rules of Procedure Act.



- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for the year 2024, III-1107 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports of the Advocate for Equal Treatment for People with Disabilities in accordance with § 13b (7) of the Federal Disability Act (e.g. on activities in 2022, III-947 d. B.)

regular

- ◆ Reports on the activities of the labour inspectorate in accordance with § 19 (1) of the Labour Inspection Act 1993 and § 92 of the Federal Civil Servants Protection Act (e.g. in 2021 and 2022, III-1023 d. B.), every two years
- ◆ Reports on civilian service (Federal Law Gazette No 679/1986, as amended) and the related financial administration in accordance with § 57 (2) of the Civilian Service Act 1986 (e.g. for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022, III-920 d. B.), every three years for the past three years in the following year
- ◆ Social reports (e.g. 2024, III-1146 d. B.), customary or voluntary reporting
- ◆ Reports on the situation and prospects of voluntary commitment in Austria, "Volunteer Report", in accordance with § 4 (1) of the Volunteer Act (e.g. 3rd Volunteer Report 2019, III-85 d. B.), customary or voluntary reporting

1.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the General Social Insurance Act
eight government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act 1977
five government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Labour Constitution Act
three government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Income Tax Act 1988
two government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



2. Foreign Policy Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

2.1 Composition of the Committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: SPÖ

2.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Foreign Policy Committee deals with state treaties, legislative proposals and motions relating to Austrian foreign policy. This includes relations with neighbouring countries as well as European and international treaties, e.g. UN conventions. Development policy and development cooperation are also within the remit of the Foreign Policy Committee.

The Foreign Policy Committee may set up sub-committees in which Members discuss specific issues such as the development of autonomy in South Tyrol.

2.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

annual

- ◆ Foreign and European Policy Reports (e.g. for the year 2022, [III-1151 d. B.](#)),
customary or voluntary reporting
- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for the year 2024, [III-1109 d. B.](#))
- ◆ (partially updated) Reports on the three-year programme of Austrian development policy in accordance with § 23 of the Development Cooperation Act (e.g. for the years 2022–2024, update 2023, [III-1000 d. B.](#))
- ◆ South Tyrolean autonomy development (e.g. for the years 2018–2020, [III-147 d. B.](#)),
customary or voluntary reporting



The National Council committees

2.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Enactment of a federal law to strengthen Austria's position as an international seat and conference location (Headquarters Act)
- ◆ Amendment to the Federal Act on the Fund for the Support of Austrian Citizens Abroad
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Aliens Police Act 2005
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Citizenship Act 1985
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



3. Committee on Construction and Housing

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

3.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: SPÖ

3.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Committee on Construction and Housing deals with legislative proposals and motions relating to construction matters and housing. This includes regulations on the further development of tenancy law and on real estate agent fees. With regard to climate protection in the building sector, this committee also deals with general conditions for reducing energy consumption in multi-family houses and promoting zero-emission individual transportation.

3.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

regular

- ◆ Report on Quality and Culture in the Built Environment (“Baukultur” Report, e.g. Fourth “Baukultur” Report 2021, III-590 d. B.), submitted in response to resolutions (91/E of the XXIInd legislative term and 42/E of the XXIIIrd legislative term), every five years

3.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendment to the Heating Costs Billing Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Real Estate Agents Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Condominium Act 2002
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term



4. Education Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

4.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: FPÖ

4.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

An Education Committee designated as “Bildungsausschuss” was established for the first time in the XXVIIIth legislative term. In the previous (XXVIIth) legislative term, similar matters were dealt with by a committee designated as “Unterrichtsausschuss” (which would literally translate as “teaching committee” or “school instruction committee”). Further information, reporting obligations and frequent legislative initiatives listed below therefore relate to the former “Unterrichtsausschuss”.

The “Unterrichtsausschuss” dealt with all legislative proposals and motions relating to schools and teaching. This included school organisation and school administration, the service regulations for teachers and their training at teacher training colleges. Since the Ministry of Education is traditionally also in charge of matters relating to religious communities (the “Kultus”), the “Unterrichtsausschuss” also dealt with certain legal matters pertaining to them, such as funding and support. The “Unterrichtsausschuss” regularly set up sub-committees in which Members and experts engaged in detailed discussions on the current state of the Austrian school system as well as initiatives for its reform.



4.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

annual

- ◆ Work reports of the National Coordination Point for the National Qualifications Framework in accordance with § 4 (5) of the Federal Act on the National Qualifications Framework (e.g. for the year 2023, III-1160 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports of the Federal Pupils' Representative Council in accordance with § 33a of the Pupils' Representation Act (e.g. for the years 2022/23, III-1046 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for the year 2024, III-1101 d. B.)

regular

- ◆ National Education Reports Austria in accordance with § 5 (3) of the Education Directorates Establishment Act (e.g. for the first time for 2021, III-527 d. B.), every three years

4.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the School Education Act
eight government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the School Organisation Act
seven government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Act on Federal Schools for Agriculture and Forestry
five government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Compulsory Education Act 1985
five government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



5. Budget Committee

Mandatory committee established under Art. 51d of the Federal Constitutional Law and § 32a of the Rules of Procedure Act; standing committee

5.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: ÖVP

5.2 Matters dealt with by, and special functions of, the committee

The Budget Committee conducts preliminary deliberations on, among other matters, the Federal Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Act and the Federal Finance Act (see § 32a (1) of the Rules of Procedure Act). As part of these budget deliberations, a hearing of experts is held every year. Budget accompanying laws, which are needed for the implementation of federal finance laws, are also deliberated in the Budget Committee. The budget accompanying laws also amend laws whose content actually falls within the remit of other committees, such as the General Social Insurance Act.

During the preliminary deliberations on the draft Federal Finance Act in the Budget Committee, Members may submit up to five short written questions germane to the item of business under discussion to the members of the Federal Government whose budget chapter is being dealt with (so-called "budget questions", see § 32a (5) of the Rules of Procedure Act).

In addition, the Budget Committee is responsible for preliminary deliberations on the federal financial accounts prepared by the Court of Audit (§ 32a (1) of the Rules of Procedure Act). The federal financial accounts reflect the actual federal revenues and expenditures. This allows for a retrospective review to determine whether the respective Federal Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Act and the respective Federal Finance Act have been complied with. Final disposition in committee is not possible in the case of the federal financial accounts (although they are published as a series-III annex).⁷ Their approval takes the form of a bill to this effect being passed by the National Council (§ 79 (4) of the Rules of Procedure Act).

The Budget Committee is also responsible for participating in the budget management of the

⁷ § 28b of the Rules of Procedure Act stipulates that only reports of the Federal Government and its members and reports of Federal Ministers on EU matters in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law may be referred to a committee for final disposition.



Federal Government. Based on various statutory or constitutional provisions, the Federal Minister of Finance must submit reports in connection with the budget directly to the Budget Committee. These documents are referred to the Budget Committee ("Budgetausschuss") directly upon receipt (so-called "BA documents" – "BA" being short for "Budgetausschuss" –, see Arts. 51 (7), 51b (2), 51c (3) and 51d (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law and § 32a (1) of the Rules of Procedure Act).

As is usual for specialised committees, other items of business relating to the budget may also be referred to the Budget Committee.

5.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

annual

- ◆ Budget reports submitted in conjunction with the draft Federal Finance Act in accordance with § 42 (3) of the Federal Budgeting Act 2013
- ◆ Strategy reports submitted in conjunction with the draft Federal Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Act in accordance with § 14 of the Federal Budgeting Act 2013
- ◆ Reports on public finances in accordance with § 1 [6] of the Fiscal Advisory Council and Productivity Board Act 2021 (e.g. for the years 2022–2027, III-1149 d. B.)
- ◆ Subsidy reports in accordance with § 47 (3) of the Federal Budgeting Act 2013 (e.g. for the year 2022, III-1085 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports concerning the overview of Austrian budgetary planning in accordance with Art. 4 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 473/2013 (e.g. for the year 2024, III-1044 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports on Austria's competitiveness in accordance with § 5 [5] of the Fiscal Advisory Council and Productivity Board Act 2021 (e.g. First Productivity Report 2023, III-979 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports on the Austrian Stability Programme in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1466/97 as amended by Regulation No 1175/2011 (e.g. for the years 2022–2026, III-938 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports on the National Reform Programme Austria in accordance with Art. 23e (1) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for the year 2023, III-928 d. B.)



regular

- ◆ Reports in accordance with § 15 (2) in conjunction with (4) of the Federal Budgeting Act 2013 on the long-term budget forecast (e.g. long-term budget forecast 2022, III-840 d. B.), every three years

5.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Enactment of a Federal Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Act annually for the following financial year and the three subsequent financial years; nine government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term (including subsequent amendments to the law)
- ◆ Federal Act on the Approval of the Federal Budget Statement (Federal Finance Act) including annexes annually; five government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Income Tax Act 1988 three government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Federal Fiscal Code two government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



6. Committee on Family and Youth

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

6.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: ÖVP

6.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Committee on Family and Youth deals with all legislative proposals and motions relating to families, young people and children. This includes topics such as pregnancy, parental leave and family burden equalisation. The Committee on Family and Youth also deals with matters relating to children's rights, the fight against child abuse, and childcare services.

6.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

annual

- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for the year 2024, [III-1106 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Activity reports of the Federal Office for Sect Issues in accordance with § 10 (2) of Federal Office for Sect Issues (e.g. for the year 2023, [III-1166 d. B.](#))

regular

- ◆ Reports on the situation of young people in Austria (e.g. Eighth Report, 2023, [III-1083 d. B.](#)), customary or voluntary reporting
- ◆ Austrian family reports (e.g. 6th Austrian Family Report for the years 2009–2019, [III-296 d. B.](#)), customary or voluntary reporting



6.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the Family Burdens Equalisation Act 1967
two government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Labour Constitution Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Childcare Allowance Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Postal Labour Constitution Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term



7. Finance Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

7.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: ÖVP

7.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Finance Committee deals with all legislative proposals and motions relating to banks and public charges. This also includes the regulation of fees and taxes, exemptions and allowances. Pension funds and regulations for banks also fall within the remit of the Finance Committee. It should be noted, however, that the responsibility for oversight of the use of tax revenue lies with the Budget Committee and with the Court of Audit.

7.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

annual

- ◆ Progression reports in accordance with § 33a of the Income Tax Act 1988 (e.g. for the year 2024, III-1195 d. B.)
- ◆ Product piracy reports in accordance with § 7 (2) of the Product Piracy Act 2020 (e.g. for the year 2023, III-1139 d. B.)
- ◆ Progress reports on the National Financial Education Strategy (e.g. for the year 2023, III-1084 d. B.), customary or voluntary reporting
- ◆ Reports on the replenishment of the concessional windows of international financial institutions (IFIs) and their activities and results at mid-term and at the end of the relevant replenishment period in accordance with the respective federal law on Austrian contributions to international financial institutions (IFI Contribution Act, e.g. February 2024, III-1124 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for the year 2024, III-1110 d. B.)



regular

- ◆ Reports of the Expert Group for the Observation and Analysis of Inflation Development in accordance with the proposal submitted to the Austrian Council of Ministers 12/17 of 30 March 2022 (e.g. Fourth Report, May 2024, III-1183 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports on the management of the fund in accordance with § 1 (2) of the Disaster Relief Fund Act 1996 (e.g. 15th Report in 2022 and 2023, III-1137 d. B.), every two years by 31 March of the following year
- ◆ Reports on donations made by licensees and authorisation holders in accordance with §§ 5, 14 and 21 of the Gambling Act and on the activities of the tax authorities in the area of prohibited gambling, as well as in accordance with § 31b (1) of the Gambling Act (e.g. for the years 2019–2021, III-839 d. B.), every three years

7.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the Financial Market Authority Act
20 government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Federal Fiscal Code
ten government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Investment Fund Act 2011
nine government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Securities Supervision Act 2018
eight government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



8. Rules of Procedure Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
standing committee⁸

8.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: ÖVP

8.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Rules of Procedure Committee deals with all members' bills and motions relating to the Rules of Procedure Act of the National Council. This also includes the Rules of Procedure for Parliamentary Investigating Committees.

⁸ Cf. § 33 (6) in conjunction with (10) of the Rules of Procedure Act.



9. Health Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

9.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: FPÖ

9.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Health Committee deals with all legislative proposals, motions and reports relating to health and illness. This covers the entire field of medicine, including nursing, psychotherapy, pharmacies, health promotion and prevention. The Health Committee also deals with animal welfare, food safety and genetic engineering.

9.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

monthly

- ◆ Reports pursuant to § 3 (5) of the COVID-19 Fund Act (e.g. for the calendar year 2024, January to June 2024, [III-1229 d. B.](#))

annual

- ◆ Reports on developments in the areas of food, animal health and animal welfare in accordance with § 11 of the Inspection and Digitisation Implementation Act (for the first time in 2024, [III-1220 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Food safety reports in accordance with § 32 of the Food Safety and Consumer Protection Act (e.g. for the year 2022, [III-971 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Monitoring of financial target management; short reports including the opinions of the state-level steering commissions for target management (e.g. for 2023, [III-1125 d. B.](#)), submitted in response to Resolution 301/E of the XXIVth legislative term
- ◆ Monitoring reports on health-care target management, including the opinions of the state-level steering commissions for target management (e.g. for 2022, [III-1002 d. B.](#)), submitted in response to Resolution 301/E of the XXIVth legislative term



regular

- ◆ Animal welfare reports in accordance with § 41a (9) of the Animal Welfare Act (e.g. for the year 2023, III-1182 d. B.), every two years
- ◆ Reports of the Genetic Engineering Commission in accordance with § 99 (5) in conjunction with § 102 of the Genetic Engineering Act (e.g. 8th Report, 2021, III-411 d. B.), every three years
- ◆ Women's health reports (e.g. for the year 2022, III-953 d. B.), in response to resolutions (249/E and 321/E of the XXVIIth legislative term)

9.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the General Social Insurance Act
six government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Pharmacy Act
six government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Medical Practitioners Act 1998
four government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Health Telematics Act
four government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



10. Equal Treatment Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

10.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: SPÖ

10.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Equal Treatment Committee deals with all legislative proposals, motions and reports relating to equal treatment of women and men and equal treatment of persons who are discriminated against on grounds of ethnic origin, age, religion or belief, or sexual orientation. This includes, in particular, the promotion of women and men, the fight against discrimination and inequality, and the promotion of de facto equality in all policy areas.

10.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

annual

- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for the year 2021, III-228 d. B.)

regular

- ◆ Federal equal treatment reports in accordance with § 12a of the Federal Equal Treatment Act (e.g. 15th Report for the year 2024, III-1227 d. B.), every two years
- ◆ Equal treatment reports for the private sector of the economy in accordance with § 24 of the Federal Act on the Equal Treatment Commission and the Ombud for Equal Treatment (e.g. for the years 2020 and 2021, III-785 d. B.), every two years



11. Main Committee

Mandatory committee established under Art. 55 (1) of the Federal Constitutional Law and § 29 of the Rules of Procedure Act; standing committee

11.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members: 23

FPÖ 7, ÖVP 7, SPÖ 5, NEOS 2, Greens 2

Chair: FPÖ

11.2 Matters dealt with by, and special functions of, the committee

The responsibilities of the Main Committee are regulated in the Federal Constitution. These consist largely in participating in the federal executive function. For certain regulations enacted by the Federal Government to enter into force, they require the approval of the Main Committee (Art. 55 of the Federal Constitutional Law; § 29 (2) (g) of the Rules of Procedure Act).

The Main Committee makes proposals for the election of the President of the Court of Audit, the members of the Ombudsman Board, the chairpersons of the Parliamentary Commission for the Federal Armed Forces and the independent Control Commission for the Protection of the Constitution (§ 29 (2) (i) to (l) of the Rules of Procedure Act).

Furthermore, agreement must be reached with the Main Committee on the dispatch of soldiers and police officers abroad, for example to UN missions.

The Main Committee also performs an important function in its role as "EU Main Committee" by exercising rights of the Austrian Parliament to participate in the legislative process of the European Union. The Main Committee entrusts certain duties, such as exercising the right to issue opinions on EU projects, to its Standing Sub-Committee on European Union Affairs.

The Main Committee is traditionally chaired by the President, the Second or Third President of the National Council and their deputies. The leaders of the parliamentary groups are also usually members of the Main Committee.

The Main Committee elects its Standing Sub-Committee, which must be able to convene at any time. If the National Council is dissolved under Art. 29 (1) Federal Constitutional Law, it continues to exist in place of the Main Committee. In this case, the Sub-Committee shall assume the tasks of the Main Committee until a newly elected National Council convenes (Art. 55 (3) of the Federal Constitutional Law, § 6 (1) of the Rules of Procedure Act).



12. Immunity Committee

Mandatory committee established under Art. 57 of the Federal Constitutional Law and §§ 10 (1) and 80 of the Rules of Procedure Act; standing committee

12.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 13

FPÖ 4 (4), ÖVP 4 (4), SPÖ 3 (3), NEOS 1 (1), Greens 1 (1)

Chair: SPÖ

12.2 Matters dealt with by, and special functions of, the committee

The Immunity Committee deals with requests from authorities, such as public prosecutor's offices or federal police directorates, for approval of the prosecution of a Member.

It deliberates on whether there is a connection between the alleged criminal offence and the political activities of the Member concerned and whether approval should be given for prosecution. The Immunity Committee may recommend that the National Council hold that no connection exists. This means that prosecution by the authorities is possible. If, on the other hand, the committee is of the opinion that there is a connection between the alleged criminal offence and the political activity of the Member (e.g. in the case of alleged participation in an unauthorised demonstration), the Immunity Committee generally recommends that public prosecution not be approved. The Immunity Committee also deals with notifications from authorities in cases where a Member is caught in the act of committing a felony (§§ 10 (2), (3) and (5) and 80 of the Rules of Procedure Act).

In addition, the Immunity Committee deliberates on requests by authorities for approval of the prosecution of the Federal President in accordance with Art. 63 (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law and on requests for the authority to prosecute persons for insulting the National Council (§ 80 of the Rules of Procedure Act).



13. Committee on Interior Affairs

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

13.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: ÖVP

13.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Committee on Interior Affairs deals with legislative proposals and motions concerning security and crime, citizenship, immigration and integration, and civil protection.

The Committee on Interior Affairs also deals with matters relating to civilian service and elections. A Standing Sub-Committee of the Committee on Interior Affairs is set up for the purpose of reviewing measures for the protection of the institutions provided for by the constitution and their ability to act.

13.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

monthly

- ◆ Reports pursuant to § 3 (5) of the COVID-19 Fund Act (e.g. for February to December 2023, III-1094 d. B.)

annual

- ◆ Reports on internal security in Austria in accordance with § 93 of the Security Police Act (Security reports, e.g. for the year 2022, III-1150 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports concerning the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for the year 2024, III-1103 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports on the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the United States of America on Enhancing Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Serious Crime (PCSC, e.g. covering the period from 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024, III-1222 d. B.), submitted in response to Resolution 232/E of the XXIVth legislative term



13.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the Residence Registration Act 1991
three government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Security Police Act
three government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Act concerning Police Protection of the State
two government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Citizenship Act 1985
two government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



14. Justice Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

14.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: ÖVP

14.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Justice Committee deals with legislative proposals, motions and reports concerning matters such as civil and criminal law and procedural law. The organisation of courts of law and legal professions also falls within the remit of the Justice Committee.

14.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

monthly

- ◆ Reports pursuant to § 3 (5) of the COVID-19 Fund Act (e.g. for December 2023, III-1089 d. B.)

annual

- ◆ Comprehensive reports on the use of special investigative measures in accordance with § 10a (4) of the Public Prosecution Act (e.g. in 2023, III-1240 d. B.)
- ◆ Data protection reports in accordance with § 23 (1) of the Data Protection Act (e.g. for 2023, III-1153 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for 2024, III-1102 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports in accordance with § 29a (3) of the Public Prosecution Act on the instructions issued by the Federal Minister of Justice after the proceedings underlying the instruction have been terminated, and in accordance with § 29c (3) second sentence of the Public Prosecution Act on proceedings in which the opinion of the Advisory Council for Ministerial Instructions was not taken into account in the final decision (Reports on instructions, e.g. for the years 2016–2022, III-1169 d. B.)



regular

- ◆ Reports pursuant to § 30 of the Nuclear Liability Act 1999 on the development of international liability instruments for nuclear damage, in particular on the extent of compensation available at international level (e.g. seventh report, 2017–2019, III-168 d. B.), every three years

14.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the Criminal Code
nine government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Court Fees Act
eight government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure 1975
seven government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Austrian Civil Code
five government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



15. Committee on Consumer Protection

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

15.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: FPÖ

15.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Consumer Protection Committee deals with legislative proposals and motions relating to the protection of consumer interests. These range from rights of withdrawal from contracts to quality labels and safety regulations. Provisions on food safety are also debated in the Consumer Protection Committee.

15.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

annual

- ◆ Reports in accordance with § 1 (5) of the Federal Act on the Financing of the Association for Consumer Information (VKI) in 2023 (e.g. August 2024, III-1219 d. B.)

15.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Enactment of a federal law on a specialist agency representing the interests of consumers and people with disabilities in standardisation (Act Establishing a Specialist Agency Ensuring Participation in Standardisation)
- ◆ Amendment to the Telecommunications Act 2003
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Consumer Authorities Cooperation Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Competition Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term



16. Culture Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

16.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: FPÖ

16.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Culture Committee deals with government bills, legislative proposals and reports on arts and cultural policy. This includes topics such as film funding, museums policy and the restitution of works of art from federal museums. Support measures for artists are discussed in the annual arts report prepared by the responsible ministry and submitted to Parliament. Funding for federal cultural institutions such as museums, galleries and theatres is addressed in the annual culture report.

16.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

monthly

- ◆ Reports pursuant to § 3 (5) of the COVID-19 Fund Act (e.g. for July 2024, III-1211 d. B.)

annual

- ◆ Arts and culture reports in accordance with § 10 of the Arts Promotion Act (e.g. for the year 2022, III-991 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for the year 2024, III-1108 d. B.)



16.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Enactment of a Film Production Location Act 2023
- ◆ Amendment to the Monument Protection Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Film Funding Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the KommAustria Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



17. National Defence Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

17.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: FPÖ

17.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The National Defence Committee deals with all legislative proposals and motions relating to military national defence and the Austrian Armed Forces. This includes Austria's security and defence doctrine, military service and the entire organisation of the Armed Forces.

The National Defence Committee discusses the facilities and equipment of the Armed Forces, from barracks and military training areas to military aircraft and combat uniforms.

The employment of women in the Armed Forces is also a topic discussed by the committee.

A standing sub-committee of the National Defence Committee is set up to monitor the intelligence services of the Armed Forces: the Military Counterintelligence Service ("Abwehramt") and the Military Intelligence Service ("Heeresnachrichtenamt").

17.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

monthly

- ◆ Reports pursuant to § 3 (5) of the COVID-19 Fund Act (e.g. for June 2022, III-706 d. B.)

annual

- ◆ National defence reports in accordance with § 1 (2) of the National Defence Financing Act (e.g. for the year 2023, III-1043 and Zu III-1043 d. B.)
- ◆ Annual reports of the Parliamentary Commission for the Federal Armed Forces (tasked with reviewing complaints) in accordance with § 4 (5) of the Defence Act 2001 (e.g. for the year 2023, III-1174 d. B.)
- ◆ Annual reports of the Procurement Review Commission in accordance with § 2 (3) of the National Defence Financing Act in conjunction with § 1 (3) of the Rules of



Procedure of the Procurement Review Commission, VBI I No 51/2023 (e.g. for the year 2023, III-1128 d. B.)

- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for the year 2024, III-1100 d. B.)

regular

- ◆ Reports on military service by women in accordance with § 38a (5) of the Defence Act 2001 (e.g. in 2021 and 2022, III-914 d. B.), every two years
- ◆ Reports concerning the Austrian Security Strategy (e.g. for the year 2024, III-1214 d. B.), customary or voluntary reporting

17.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the Military Disciplinary Act 2014
three government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Military Remuneration Act 2001
three government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Defence Act 2001
two government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Foreign Deployment Act 2001
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



18. Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

18.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: ÖVP

18.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry deals with all legislative proposals and motions relating to farming and food. This also includes the Austrian Agricultural Market Agency (AMA), organic products and genetic engineering. The committee also deals with the future of agricultural policy, for example in the form of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

18.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

annual

- ◆ Wildlife damage reports in accordance with § 16 (6) of the Forestry Act 1975
(e.g. for the year 2024, [III-1218 d. B.](#))
- ◆ "Green Reports" in accordance with § 9 (1) of the Agriculture Act 1992
(e.g. for the year 2024, [III-1224 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Reports on the Forest Fund in accordance with § 7 of the Forest Fund Act (e.g. for the year 2023, [III-1163 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for 2024, [III-1113 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Reports on the activities of AMA-Marketing GesmbH (e.g. for the 2023 financial year, [III-1241 d. B.](#)), submitted in response to Resolution 29/E of the XXVth legislative term



18.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Enactment of a federal law on on-the-job vocational training in agriculture and forestry (Agricultural and Forestry Vocational Training Act 2024)
- ◆ Amendments to the AMA Act (Act on the Austrian Agricultural Market Agency)
two government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Forestry Act 1975
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Wine Act 2009
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



19. Committee on Human Rights and the Ombudsman Board

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act; non-standing committee

19.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: NEOS

19.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

A Committee on Human Rights and the Ombudsman Board was established for the first time in the XXVIIIth legislative term. In the previous (XXVIIth) legislative term, two committees were responsible for these areas, namely the Committee on Human Rights and the Ombudsman Board Committee. The further information, reporting obligations and frequent legislative initiatives therefore relate to the last legislative term.

The Committee on Human Rights dealt with all legislative proposals and motions as well as reports relating to fundamental rights. This included human rights policy, racism and xenophobia, and anti-discrimination in Austria and other countries. It also covered, for example, the asylum procedure and the conditions of detention pending deportation. The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and other international treaties were also recurring topics in the Committee on Human Rights.

The Ombudsman Board Committee dealt with the reports of the Ombudsman Board, in which the Ombudspersons reported annually on their activities. These reports (series-III annexes) cannot be finally dealt with in the Committee,⁹ but were considered in the plenary, where they were usually noted.

⁹ § 28b of the Rules of Procedure Act stipulates that only reports of the Federal Government and its members as well as reports of the Federal Ministers on EU matters in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law may be referred to a committee for final disposition.



19.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

regular

- ◆ Reports concerning the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (e.g. for the years 2021–2023, III-415 d. B.) as well as implementation reports, reports of the working group on human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, reports of the working group on child trafficking and reports of the working group on prostitution (e.g. for the years 2018–2020, III-415 d. B.), submitted in response to Resolution 297/E of the XXIVth legislative term



20. Committee on Petitions and Citizens' Initiatives

Mandatory committee established under §§ 100 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

20.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: NEOS

20.2 Matters dealt with by, and special functions of, the committee

The Committee on Petitions and Citizens' Initiatives deals with petitions and citizens' initiatives. The committee may request opinions from the Federal Government and the Ombudsman Board and hear experts. The committee may recommend to the President of the National Council that the matter be referred to a specialised committee for further consideration. The Committee on Petitions and Citizens' Initiatives usually submits to the National Council a report covering several petitions and/or citizens' initiatives. In this report, the committee moves that the matter be referred to the Federal Government or the Ombudsman Board or that the petition or citizens' initiative be taken note of.



21. Court of Audit Committee

Mandatory committee established under Art. 126d (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law and § 79 (2) of the Rules of Procedure Act; standing committee

21.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: NEOS

21.2 Matters dealt with by, and special functions of, the committee

The Court of Audit reviews the financial administration of the federal (and other) authorities and institutions on the basis of the adopted budget (supervision of the administration of public funds). The reports (series-III annexes) of the Court of Audit are dealt with in the Court of Audit Committee (cf. § 79 (2) of the Rules of Procedure Act). The Court of Audit submits to the National Council annual reports on its activities in the preceding year. In addition, it reports on audits of special acts of the administration of public funds (cf. § 99 of the Rules of Procedure Act). The Court of Audit may also carry out audits on its own initiative and report to the National Council about specific findings at any time (cf. § 79 of the Rules of Procedure Act, Art. 126d of the Federal Constitutional Law). The aforementioned reports are not dealt with in a final disposition procedure in the Court of Audit Committee.¹⁰ As a rule, reports of the Court of Audit are noted by the National Council.

The Court of Audit Committee also deliberates on all legislative proposals and motions relating to the Court of Audit and its powers.

The National Council may instruct the Standing Sub-Committee of the Court of Audit Committee to investigate a specific transaction in the area of federal administration. (The Sub-Committee is therefore informally termed as "small investigating committee"). Such an investigation must also be conducted at the request of one quarter of the members of the National Council (see Art. 52b of the Federal Constitutional Law and § 32e of the Rules of Procedure Act).

¹⁰ § 28b of the Rules of Procedure Act stipulates that only reports of the Federal Government and its members as well as reports of the Federal Ministers on EU matters in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law may be referred to a committee for final disposition.



22. Sports Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

22.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: Greens

22.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Sports Committee deals with all legislative proposals and motions relating to the promotion and security of recreational and high-performance sports. This includes a sports promotion concept and the funding available for it, as well as safety regulations to prevent accidents, and anti-doping provisions. The Committee on Sports also deals with the promotion of women in sport.

22.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

annual

- ◆ Sports reports (e.g. for the year 2022, III-1056 d. B.), customary reporting or in response to resolutions (177/E of the XXVIIth legislative term)
- ◆ Annual reports of NADA Austria GmbH (Austrian National Anti-Doping Agency), in accordance with § 11 of the Federal Anti-Doping Act (e.g. for the year 2022, III-1015 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports of the Bundes-Sport GmbH (Federal Sports Agency) on the funding measures in accordance with § 40 of the Federal Sports Promotion Act 2017 (e.g. for 2019, III-484 d. B.), partially contained in the sports reports

22.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Enactment of a federal law on prevention of doping in sport (Federal Anti-Doping Act 2021)
- ◆ Amendment to the Federal Act on the Promotion of Sports (Federal Sports Promotion Act 2017)
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term



23. Tourism Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

23.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: FPÖ

23.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Tourism Committee deals with all legislative proposals and motions as well as reports relating to the tourism and leisure industry. This includes the travel industry, the economic situation of tourism businesses (taxation and subsidies) and the Austrian National Tourist Office. The Tourism Committee also deals with the tourism labour market and domestic infrastructure, e.g. for cycling holidays, as well as transport to and from other countries, e.g. by air.

23.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

annual

- ◆ Reports on tourism in Austria (e.g. for the year 2023, III-1176 d. B.), voluntary reporting (based on a working agreement of the Federal Government dated 17 December 1990)



24. Environment Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

24.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: Greens

24.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Environment Committee deals with all legislative proposals and motions relating to nature conservation, climate protection and ecology. This ranges from waste collection and recycling to the use of renewable energies such as solar energy or hydropower and efficient energy use. Animal welfare and food transport are also topics dealt with by the Environment Committee.

24.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

monthly

- ◆ Reports pursuant to § 3 (5) of the COVID-19 Fund Act – Chapter 43 Climate, Environment and Energy (e.g. for July 2024, III-1216 d. B.)

annual

- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for 2024, III-1104 d. B.)
- ◆ Progress reports pursuant to § 6 of the Climate Protection Act (e.g. for the year 2023, III-1054 d. B.)
- ◆ Monitoring reports on climate and energy targets in accordance with § 7 of the Federal Energy Efficiency Act (e.g. for the reporting year 2021, III-534 d. B.)



regular

- ◆ Reports on the progress, findings and activities of the “Human Biomonitoring” advisory board (e.g. for 2022, III-817 d. B.), in response to Resolution 193/E of the XXVth legislative term, every two years
- ◆ Reports on the evaluation of the Federal Government’s environmental subsidies in accordance with § 14 of the Environmental Subsidies Act (e.g. for the years 2020–2022, III-1092 d. B.), at regular intervals, at least every three years
- ◆ Reports on environmental subsidies in the area of water management – evaluation by the Federal Government in accordance with § 14 of the Environmental Subsidies Act in conjunction with § 3c of the Water Engineering Subsidies Act 1985 (e.g. for the years 2017–2019 and 2020–2022, III-1081 d. B.), at regular intervals, at least every three years
- ◆ Reports in accordance with § 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act 2000 on the implementation of environmental impact assessments in Austria (e.g. 9th EIA Report in 2024, III-1152 d. B.), every three years
- ◆ Reports in accordance with § 23 of the Air Pollution Control Act (e.g. for the years 2018–2020, III-747 d. B.), every three years
- ◆ Reports in accordance with § 12 (1) of the Ozone Act (e.g. Ozone Report 2018–2020, III-748 d. B.), every three years
- ◆ Environmental monitoring reports in accordance with §§ 3 and 17 (3) of the Environmental Monitoring Act (e.g. 13th Environmental Monitoring Report 2022, III-752 d. B.), every three years
- ◆ Reports on the application of the EMAS Regulation and the implementation of the Environmental Management Act in accordance with § 28 of the Environmental Management Act (e.g. for the year 2021, III-535 d. B.), every five years
- ◆ Reports concerning the Federal Waste Management Plan in accordance with § 8 (1) and (4) of the Waste Management Act 2002 (e.g. for the year 2023, III-867 d. B.), at least every six years



24.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the Environmental Subsidies Act
three government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Waste Management Act 2002
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Contaminated Sites Remediation Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendment to the Environmental Impact Assessment Act
one government bill in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



25. Incompatibility Committee

Mandatory committee established under § 6 (1) of the Incompatibility and Transparency Act; non-standing committee

25.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 13

FPÖ 4 (4), ÖVP 4 (4), SPÖ 3 (3), NEOS 1 (1), Greens 1 (1)

Chair: FPÖ

25.2 Matters dealt with by, and special functions of, the committee

The Incompatibility Committee deliberates on notifications submitted to it by Members of the National Council, members of the Government and State Secretaries in accordance with the Incompatibility and Transparency Act. Members of the Government and State Secretaries must declare ownership of or shareholdings in enterprises, as the enterprise is excluded from public contracts above a certain equity stake. Members of the National Council must disclose leading positions in public limited companies, limited liability companies, foundations and savings banks. Members of the National Council working in the public service must report their exact area of activity, as an objective and unbiased performance of duties must be ensured (§§ 2, 4 and 6 (2) of the Incompatibility and Transparency Act).

On the basis of the notifications received, the Incompatibility Committee rules on the compatibility of positions held in the economy with the mandate. The notifications are dealt with in the form of final disposition by the committee. The decisions taken by the Incompatibility Committee and the measures taken by the President of the National Council on the basis of these decisions are notified to the National Council by the President (§ 13 (4) of the Rules of Procedure Act). If a decision of the committee is not complied with, the representative body or, in the case of the National Council, the Incompatibility Committee may file an application with the Constitutional Court for a ruling on the loss of office or seat (§ 10 (1) of the Incompatibility and Transparency Act).



26. Constitution Committee

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

26.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: SPÖ

26.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Constitution Committee deliberates on amendments to the Federal Constitutional Law, but it can also deal with the enshrinement of children's rights in the constitution, a reform of administrative adjudication, the Political Parties Act or an amendment to the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation Act. The Constitution Committee regularly sets up sub-committees to discuss constitutional amendments, e.g. concerning the audit powers of the Court of Audit.

26.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

annual

- ◆ Reports of the Staff Representation Supervisory Authority on its activities and its findings in accordance with § 41f of the Federal Staff Representation Act (e.g. in 2023, [III-1147 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for the year 2024, [III-1112 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) annual reports and Austrian Broadcasting Corporation transparency reports in accordance with §§ 7 and 7a of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation Act (e.g. for the year 2023, [III-1145 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Communication reports of KommAustria, the Telekom Control Commission and RTR-GmbH (Broadcasting and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority) in accordance with § 19 (4) of the KommAustria Act (e.g. for the year 2023, [III-1221 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Implementation reports concerning the National Strategy against Antisemitism (e.g. for the year 2022, [III-880 d. B.](#)), annual reporting in accordance with Measure No 38 of the National Strategy



- ◆ Activity reports of the Statistics Council in accordance with § 47 (3) of the Federal Statistics Act 2000 (e.g. on its activities in the year 2023, [III-1187 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Activity reports of the Constitutional Court in accordance with § 14 (3) of the Constitutional Court Act 1953 (e.g. for the year 2022, [III-1115 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Activity reports of the Supreme Administrative Court in accordance with § 20 of the Supreme Administrative Court Act 1985 (e.g. for the year 2022, [III-1114 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Reports on the promotion of ethnic groups by the Federal Chancellery in accordance with § 9 (7) of the Ethnic Groups Act (e.g. for the year 2022, [III-1129 d. B.](#))

regular

- ◆ “Austria and the 2030 Agenda”, voluntary national reports on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals/SDGs in and by Austria (e.g. 2nd Report, published in 2024, [III-1180 d. B.](#)), customary or voluntary reporting
- ◆ Reports on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in and by Austria (e.g. for the years 2020–2022, [III-939 d. B.](#)), customary or voluntary reporting

26.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the KommAustria Act
five government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Advertisement of Vacancies Act 1989
three government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Civil Servants' Employment Act 1979
three government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Contractual Public Employees Act 1948
three government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



27. Committee on Transport and Mobility

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

27.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: SPÖ

27.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Committee on Transport and Mobility was established for the first time in the XXVIIIth legislative term. The Transport Committee dealt with similar issues in the previous (XXVIIth) legislative term. Further information, reporting requirements and frequent legislative initiatives therefore relate to the former Transport Committee.

The Transport Committee dealt with all legislative proposals and motions relating to infrastructure, means of transport and transport safety. This included topics such as road construction and maintenance, local public transport and regional transport. The committee discussed, for example, regulations relating to motor vehicle taxes, truck tolls and protection against aircraft noise. The Transport Committee also dealt with postal services, telephone and mobile phone networks, radio and television.

27.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

monthly

- ◆ Reports pursuant to § 3 (5) of the COVID-19 Fund Act – Chapter 41 Mobility
(e.g. for July 2024, [III-1052 d. B.](#))

annual

- ◆ Reports on technical roadside inspections in accordance with § 58a (4) of the Motor Vehicles Act 1967 (e.g. in 2022, [III-966 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Reports on the implementation of the provisions of the Airport Charges Act in accordance with § 2 (2) of the Airport Charges Act (e.g. in 2023, [III-1200 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Reports on services of general economic interest commissioned by the Federal Government from railway undertakings in accordance with § 49 of the Federal



Railways Act and § 3 of the Private Railways Act 2004 (Services of General Economic Interest Reports, e.g. for 2021, [III-1059 d. B.](#))

- ◆ Annual reports of the Agency for Passenger Rights in accordance with § 9 of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act and § 8 (2) of the Federal Act on the Agency for Passenger Rights (e.g. for the year 2023, [III-1143 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Reports concerning the Austrian Federal Railways Framework Plan in accordance with § 42 (7) of the Federal Railways Act (e.g. for the years 2024–2029, [III-1049 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Safety reports in accordance with § 19 of the Accident Investigation Act (e.g. for the year 2022, [III-1036 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Activity reports of Schienen-Control GmbH (Austrian Rail Regulatory Authority) in accordance with § 78c of the Railway Act 1957 (e.g. for the year 2023, [III-1193 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Traffic telematics reports in accordance with § 12 (1) of the Intelligent Traffic Systems Act (e.g. for the year 2024, [III-1190 d. B.](#))

27.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the Railway Act 1957
four government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act 1967
four government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Road Traffic Act 1960
four government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Federal Roads Toll Act 2002
three government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



28. Committee on Economy, Industry and Energy

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

28.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: ÖVP

28.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Committee on Economy, Industry and Energy deals with all legislative proposals and motions relating to the economy, climate protection and energy. With regard to Austrian economic growth, the committee deliberates on the general legal framework for trade relations, export, import and investment activities of enterprises. This includes issues relating to the financing of SMEs and start-ups, as well as competition rules. Regulations governing access to professions and apprenticeship training are also on the committee's agenda.

The Committee on Economy, Industry and Energy also focuses on energy policy in Austria, including alternative energy production and related climate protection issues aimed at reducing greenhouse gases.

28.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

monthly

- ◆ Reports pursuant to § 3 (5) of the COVID-19 Fund Act and § 1 (5) of the Hardship Relief Fund Act (e.g. for December 2023, III-1105 d. B.)

annual

- ◆ Reports concerning the annual outlook based on the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme in accordance with Art. 23f (2) of the Federal Constitutional Law (e.g. for 2024, III-1111 d. B.)
- ◆ Reports on the situation and development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Austrian economy (e.g. "SMEs in Focus 2023", III-1123 d. B.), voluntary reporting (after abolition of the legal basis)



- ◆ Activity reports of the investment screening authority in accordance with § 23 (5) of the Federal Act on the Screening of Foreign Direct Investments (Investment Control Act, e.g. for the period from 25 July 2021 to 31 December 2022, [III-1136 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Activity reports of Energy Control Austria in accordance with § 28 of the Energy Control Act (e.g. for the year 2024, [III-1162 d. B.](#))

regular

- ◆ Reports in accordance with § 5 (5) of the Energy Emergency Powers Act 2012 regarding the release of mandatory emergency reserves as provided in the Regulation issued by the Federal Minister for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology on intervention measures for solid and liquid energy sources (Energy Intervention Measures Regulation for Petroleum), Federal Law Gazette II No 349/2022 (e.g. in the regulation of 23 September 2022, [III-837 d. B.](#)), for the first time within three months of the adoption of intervention measures, and subsequently at two-month intervals
- ◆ Activity reports of the Federal Competition Authority in accordance with § 2 (4) of the Competition Act (e.g. for the year 2023, [III-1178 d. B.](#)), at regular intervals, but at least once a year
- ◆ Annual reports of the ERP Fund and public corporate governance reports in accordance with § 22 of the ERP Fund Act (e.g. for the years 2022 and 2023, [III-1188 d. B.](#)), every two years
- ◆ Reports on the situation of youth employment and apprenticeship training in Austria in accordance with § 15b of the Vocational Training Act (e.g. for 2022–2023, [III-1189 d. B.](#)), every two years
- ◆ Evaluation reports in accordance with § 4 of the Federal Act on the Prohibition of Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide (e.g. August 2024, [III-1210 d. B.](#)), every five years

28.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the Trade Act 1994
four government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Vocational Training Act
two government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Energy Control Act
two government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Public Accountants and Tax Advisors Act 2017
two government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term



29. Committee on Science, Research and Digitalisation

Optional committee established under §§ 32 et seq. of the Rules of Procedure Act;
non-standing committee

29.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 23

FPÖ 7 (7), ÖVP 7 (7), SPÖ 5 (5), NEOS 2 (2), Greens 2 (2)

Chair: FPÖ

29.2 Matters dealt with by the committee

The Committee on Science, Research and Digitalisation was established for the first time in the XXVIIIth legislative term. In the previous (XXVIIth) legislative term, two committees were responsible for these areas, namely the Committee on Research, Innovation and Digitalisation and the Science Committee. The further information, reporting obligations and frequent legislative initiatives therefore relate to the last legislative term.

The Committee on Research, Innovation and Digitalisation dealt with all legislative proposals and motions as well as reports relating to research, innovation, technology and digitalisation. This included regulations designed to make Austria an attractive business location for research and development, especially in the field of artificial intelligence. This included both the promotion and funding of research and the creation of general conditions for the efficient processing of funding applications. The Committee on Research, Innovation and Digitalisation also dealt with regulations providing for investment in telecommunications infrastructure or improvements in access to telecommunications services.

The Science Committee dealt with all legislative proposals and motions relating to higher education policy. This included universities and universities of applied sciences, human resources and students, teaching and research, access, quality and funding. The committee often deliberated on agreements concerning scientific cooperation. Animal testing also fell within the remit of the Science Committee.



29.3 Reports of the Federal Government and its members

monthly

- ◆ Reports pursuant to § 3 (5) of the COVID-19 Fund Act – Chapter 34 Innovation and Technology (Research) (e.g. for August 2024, [III-1232 d. B.](#))

annual

- ◆ Austrian Research and Technology Reports, status reports in accordance with § 8 (1) of the Research Organisation Act on federally funded research, technology and innovation in Austria (e.g. for the year 2024, [III-1170 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Activity reports of the Council for Research and Technology Development (e.g. for the year 2022, [III-1001 d. B.](#)), customary or voluntary reporting
- ◆ Reports of the Quality Assurance Council for Teacher Training in accordance with § 74a of the University Colleges of Teacher Education Act 2005 and § 30a of the Higher Education Quality Assurance Act (e.g. reporting period 2023, [III-1235 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Activity reports for 2022 from the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria in accordance with § 28 (1) of the Higher Education Quality Assurance Act (e.g. for the year 2022, [III-1026 d. B.](#))
- ◆ Activity reports of the Student Ombuds Office in accordance with § 31 (7) of the Higher Education Quality Assurance Act (e.g. academic year 2022/2023, [III-1073 d. B.](#))

regular

- ◆ Activity reports of the Austrian Student Union in accordance with § 22 of the Student Union Act 2014 (e.g. for the years 2022/23, [III-1025 d. B.](#)), at least every two years
- ◆ University reports in accordance with § 11 of the Universities Act 2002 (e.g. for the year 2023, [III-1238 d. B.](#)), at least every three years
- ◆ Reports of the Biopatent Monitoring Committee in accordance with § 166 (3) of the Patent Act 1970 (e.g. Seventh Report for the years 2021–2023, [III-1181 d. B.](#)), every three years
- ◆ Reports on the evaluation of the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (IST Austria) in accordance with § 5 (2) of the IST-Austria Act (e.g. for the year 2019, [III-146 d. B.](#)), every four years



29.4 Recurring legislative initiatives in government bills

- ◆ Amendments to the Research Organisation Act
five government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Enactment of and amendments to the Federal Act on Private Higher Education Institutions (Private Higher Education Act – PrivHG)
four government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the University Colleges of Teacher Education Act 2005
four government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ Amendments to the Higher Education Quality Assurance Act
four government bills in the XXVIIth legislative term
- ◆ among others



The National Council committees

30. Standing Joint Committee under Section 9 of the Financial Constitution Act 1948

Mandatory committee in accordance with § 9 (5) of the Financial Constitution Act 1948;
non-standing committee

30.1 Composition of the committee

Number of members and substitute members: 13

FPÖ 4 (4), ÖVP 4 (4), SPÖ 3 (3), NEOS 1 (1), Greens 1 (1)

30.2 Matters dealt with by, and special functions of, the committee

The Standing Joint Committee under § 9 of the Financial Constitution Act (i.e. the constitutional law governing financial relations between the federation and other territorial bodies) is composed of Members of the National Council and Members of the Federal Council. It serves to clarify certain disagreements between the federal and provincial levels of government: When the Federal Government has vetoed a bill adopted by a state parliament concerning public charges to be levied by the state or by the municipalities, the Committee decides whether the Government's veto remains valid or whether the state law can be promulgated. The Standing Joint Committee has its own Rules of Procedure.



The National Council committees

Notes

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