

## **AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT: Climate Conference sets new standards**

**On September 17th the fourth AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT will take place at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna followed by the Climate Kirtag at the Heldenplatz. The largest international climate conference in the year 2020 will be a mixture of analogue and virtual highlights and set new standards.**

(Vienna, 17 September 2020)

The AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT will take place for the fourth time on September 17th - this year for the first time at the Spanish Riding School in Vienna and under different circumstances, as host Arnold Schwarzenegger explains: "We have seen that major events and political congresses can be successful online. I will therefore take this opportunity to make our summit in Vienna the biggest environmental conference of the year". He himself will participate virtually at the Summit this year, as Monika Langthaler, organiser of the event, explains: "We will be connected to Arnold Schwarzenegger live from LA for the entire three-hour conference. He will be the host, give a speech and take part in the discussion, making him more present than ever before.

### **Support from all over the world**

"Climate change is still happening and there is no vaccine against the climate crisis," Langthaler emphasises. The director of the Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative is particularly impressed by the broad international support. She will not only welcome Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen and Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, but also Croatian President Zoran Milanović and Slovakian President Zuzana Čaputová to the Spanish Riding School. There will be statements from climate protection activists around the globe - including Prince Charles, behavioral scientist Jane Goodall, UN Secretary General António Guterres, John Kerry (former US Secretary of State), Frans Timmermans (Vice-President of the European Commission), Pedro Sánchez (Prime Minister of Spain), Carlos Alvarado Quesada (President of Costa Rica), Imran Khan (Prime Minister of Pakistan) and Kevin Faulconer (Mayor of San Diego). As prominent "Climate Action Heroes" they all want to show how important climate protection and join in according to the motto "Be Part of the Solution".

A special highlight will be an interview by Arnold Schwarzenegger with the successful director James Cameron about the state of our planet. Is reality already catching up with fiction?

### **Analogue and virtual highlights**

While designing the program the team of the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT set a new standard including a mixture of local highlights, live broadcasts and video messages: "This year we are reaching more people worldwide and are more international than ever before. A nice side effect is that we are also showing how to hold conferences in the future after Corona without people flying all over the world causing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions," says Langthaler.

The AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT will be streamed via Schwarzenegger's Facebook account (23 million followers), broadcast on ORF III and on the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT homepage as well as shown via ORF TVthek.

This year's AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT is supported by the two leading partners For Forest and the Hallmann Corporate Group as well as many other business partners; mobility partners are the ÖBB.

### **Climate Kirtag: colourful programme**

After the climate conference, the Climate Kirtag will continue in the afternoon from 1 p.m. on Vienna's Heldenplatz, where visitors can look forward too many musicians, actors and celebrities with free admission. Alongside Erich Altenkopf, Philipp Hochmair and Lilian Klebow, ex-skiing star Felix Neureuther, weather presenter Marcus Wadsak and musicians such as Lemo and Folkshife will be live on stage. Presenter duo Tom Walek and Barbara Meier will lead through the main programme. Several "Kirtag" stalls will also provide information on climate protection projects.

The Climate Kirtag will also be broadcast via live stream from 3 pm to allow as many people as possible to take part in this colourful programme.

### **Safety first**

In order to guarantee safety on site, a comprehensive corona safety concept was developed especially for both events in collaboration with Dr. Hans-Peter Hutter from MedUni Vienna.

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