

[AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT 2020: Opportunity for a green economic recovery](#)

Arnold Schwarzenegger, host of the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT, says the economic recovery packages after the Corona crisis are a "a tremendous opportunity". Many prominent climate protectors emphasized this at the fourth AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT in Vienna.

(Vienna, September 17th 2020)

"Climate change is truly our planet's pandemic. It has spread to all the nations of the earth. And there is no vaccine except our own actions ", Arnold Schwarzenegger addressed the audience of the fourth AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT via livestream from L.A. People followed the opening speech of the former Governor of California both at the venue the Spanish Riding School and via livestream.

In view of the economic recovery packages due to the Corona crisis, Schwarzenegger urgently appealed: "Forward-looking decisions are needed right now, as trillions of dollars and trillions of euros are being poured into rebuilding economies and infrastructures in the wake of the coronavirus. These funds are so massive they are capable of remaking societies. We have a tremendous opportunity. All we have to do is pick it up."

President Van der Bellen: painting a positive picture of the future

The Austrian Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen, who was the patron of the conference for the fourth time, emphasized that above all, those who had not yet recognized the seriousness of the situation, had to be convinced: "It is much more difficult to awaken the interest of someone who has no interest. And yet we must succeed. But how?" He pleaded - keeping with this year's motto "Be Part of the Solution" in mind - for a common, positive approach: "Of course it is important that we humans know about the terrible, frightening consequences of a climate catastrophe. But it is more effective to paint a positive picture of the future. Something that can be our common goal. For only a common goal will motivate us to do what is necessary: to preserve our one earth," he said.

Chancellor Kurz: Billions invested in climate protection

Everyone agreed that it is essential, especially now, to set the course towards a sustainable and healthy development of our planet. In his speech, Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz also stressed: "We must implement the Paris Agreement in Europe and worldwide if we are to successfully combat climate change." The Chancellor also referred to those consequences of climate change which are already happening: "The massive forest fires on the US west coast once again show how important climate protection is. In Austria and the EU, we have therefore set very ambitious climate protection targets, and in Austria alone we will invest one billion each in 2021 and 2022 for climate protection measures".

Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz emphasized that economic growth and climate protection are not contradictory. Rather, it was a matter of sustainable economic activity. "A successful economy and climate protection go hand in hand. By promoting innovation, new opportunities are created and new jobs are created. This is why in Austria we massively promote research and innovation in the field of climate protection."

Messages from around the world

While designing the program the team of the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT set a new standard including a mixture of analog highlights, live broadcasts and video messages. The messages came from prominent climate change activists all 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 director James Cameron.

Decoration of honor for Arnold Schwarzenegger

At the end of the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT, there was another special highlight: the first transatlantic presentation of honorary decorations. On behalf of the Republic of Austria, Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen presented Arnold Schwarzenegger with the Grand Decoration of Honor in Gold with the star for his services to Austrian-American relations and his internationally outstanding commitment to one of the central issues of mankind - overcoming the climate crisis.

Photos and further information are available at: www.austrianworldsummit.com

For further questions:

Natascha Unger
The Schwarzenegger Climate Initiative
+43/664/8267897
natascha.unger@austrianworldsummit.com