



## **Media Monitoring**

### **Situation Report January 23-25, 2010**

#### *1) The reception center in Eberau*

*Der Standard* publishes on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 an article with an interview to the representative to the legislative of Lower Austria Ms. Inge Posch-Gruska, Social-democrat, who has criticized her own party for the position concerning the center in Eberau, requesting a more humanitarian/human approach to the issue.

#### *2) Situation of asylum-seekers in Austria*

This weekend the Freedom's Party of Lower Austria has issued a press release on the cost of hosting asylum-seekers: 11 million of Euros per year. They are called "horrific costs for the tax payer of Lower Austria" according to the member of the provincial legislative, Mr. Edmund Tauchner.

In 2008, there were 3840 asylum-seekers in Lower Austria "how many of them in reality are here after the criteria of the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Refugees is not known....The costs are classified as follows: circa 6,8 millions were spent under the title of basic provisioning and further 3,9 millions as social help... Every person that comes to us and in reality he needs protection in the sense of the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Refugees should receive the necessary protection... Due to the Dublin II treaty (SIC) the asylum proceedings must be conducted in every country in which the foreigner enters the Schengen space. Austria is an internal Schengen country could consequently not have such high flux for asylum." Mr. Tauchner has recommended the reintroduction of border controls, as to avoid the "misuse of asylum" (SIC), as well as of refugees to Austria.



### 3) *"Foreign criminality" argument*

Mr. Mayerhofer, from the Freedom's Party, has issued a press release on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010, rejecting the idea of Ms. Fekter to send policemen to Afghanistan, asserting that "The criminal tourism (SIC), the acts of traffickers, and the unwished migration are sufficient reasons for that!."

### 4) *Discrimination against migrants and homosexuals*

Irene Brickner publishes on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 an article in *Der Standard* entitled "Mean and bold against migrants and homosexuals" "Two times in the last days there were known examples in Austria of the politically targeted and burocraticly implemented exclusion and identification of the so called minorities. First lesbian and gay couples, which had registered a partnership and wanted to have a double surname. They reported, irritated, that in the registration document a space appeared instead of the notorious hyphen: instead, for example –'Peter Huber-Bauer' the name is 'Peter Huber Bauer.' What appeared, at the beginning to smell to typing mistake or even a satire, it turned out to be serious. At the drafting of the registered partnerships the governmental partner People's Party had purposed, that lesbian and gay partnerships are not brought together with the notion of 'family'. Now the people's party ruled Home Ministry justifies the abandonment of the hyphen by written, with reference to the 'letter of the law': hyphens would only be possible in case of family names, lesbians and gays should be content legally with surnames. Consequently, no hyphen.

A bit later, from the politically blue corner in Upper Austria, an innovation in relation to migrants and immigrants. Information papers for petitioners of housing assistance in Serbian and Turkish were quickly eliminated from the server of the provincial government by the Freedom's Party member of the provincial highest administrative authority Mr. Manfred Haimbuchner. The reasoning: who wants to obtain housing assistance, must speak German. If he is not ale to fill up a form in German, he is not integrated enough as to apply for



housing assistance. There is still an information paper in English or French.

In place the equality for lesbian and gays, as the People's Party means: equality to the price of a new second-rating. There integration to the taste of the Freedom's Party: Integration that creates new barriers. All the opposite, what both political determination of goals in reality are supposed to do, they will often discriminate, mean, bold, no without malice. In Austria in 2010, that is possible."

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