

Principle 1:

- Tax reform with tariff reduction and improvements for entrepreneurs, in particular SMEs (allowance 13 %).
- No taxes for business transfer, inheritance tax and gift tax abolished in 2008. Currently no wealth tax.
- Woman start-up-share of over 40%.
- Focus on creative economy and entrepreneurship at Kepler University Linz. Business Succession Check by Training Institutes WIFI.
- Enterprises with migration background become a political target group.
- The weak point is that entrepreneurship education has not improved yet.

Principle 2:

- The new insolvency law, providing for early restructuring, is still stuck in the political area.
- Banks lend to high risks even more reluctantly.

Principle 3:

- There is still no systematical SME-test. However, recently the test was introduced in the draft for an enterprise service portal law. There is still need for action.
- The new law would reduce reporting requirements, but the enterprise service portal law is stuck in the legislative process for data privacy reasons.
- Reducing cost for red tape by 25 % seems not high on the agenda at the moment.

Principle 4:

- The implementation of the service directive works satisfyingly, but there is still potential for improvement.
- The introduction of a “private limited company light” on national level is being discussed, but it is still not adopted.
- The “enterprises service portal law” would help a lot to put the “Only Once” principle into practice. (Savings of 170 Mio Euro per year can be expected for SMEs.)

Principle 5:

- Public procurement works quite well for SMEs (tools such as ANKÖ-register for bidders in public tenders). We have two electronic portals – liable to pay costs. There is still a necessity for improvement, such as for payments delays.
- On “state aid”, we will host an event for stakeholders in September in Vienna. Public services tend to be slow in using CIP-funds.

Principle 6:

- The economic stimulus packages 1 and 2 have envisaged corresponding means, but ramp-up is slow.
- SME financing institutions and business angels still don't have an attractive legal basis in Austria.
- There is again the possibility of early amortizations.
- Export credit and transport insurance are hard to get in spite of banks and insurance help packages.

Principle 7:

- Unsolved is the problem of costs for norms, which still increase. The composition of the standard-setting committees in Austria is a problem too.

Principle 8:

- The promotion of R&D is satisfying in Austria. Still there is further need for adaptation towards an increase of the research bonus.
- The "Go international"-initiative has just been prolonged.
- Clusters work quite well in Austria and have contributed to R&D. However, soft innovation must be still evaluated.
- The so called "creative-depot" as subcutaneous instrument for intellectual property rights should become operational this year.

Principle 9:

- There is a heat insulation initiative for SMEs, but it is way too small.
- Energy consulting for SMEs is being improved.
- "Austrian Trade" focuses on green technologies.

Principle 10:

- "Austrian Trade" focuses on green technologies.
- "Go international" - initiative has just been extended.

Action program:

See above

Late payment is well regulated in Austria. No paying delays, payments must be made at delivery – that means immediately.