

Privatisation 1

Mandate

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The current privatisation mandate

Privatisation mandate allocated by the Austrian federal government in accordance with § 7 Section 1 ÖIAG Act 2000

In accordance with a cabinet resolution from April 1, 2003, the Managing Board of Österreichische Industrieholding Aktiengesellschaft was allocated the following privatisation mandate:

Privatisations should lead to the maximum possible increase in corporate values and revenues for the owner. In addition, the following Austrian interests are to be protected:

- Creation and retention of safe employment in Austria.
- Wherever possible, the decision-making bodies of the companies to be privatised should continue to be located in Austria through the creation of Austrian core shareholder structures by means of syndicates with industrial partners, banks, insurance companies, pension funds, retirement funds, funds, etc.
- The retention and expansion of existing research and development capacity.
- The taking into consideration of the Austrian capital market.

Complete privatisation is envisaged for the following companies and interests:

- BÖHLER-UDDEHOLM AG
- VA Technologie AG
- voestalpine AG
- ÖIAG-Bergbauholding AG

Privatisation of up to 100% is planned for Telekom Austria AG. A strategic partner is being sought for Österreichische Post AG as an initial step towards privatisation subject to the precondition that in the interests of taxpayers and consumers, full coverage service quality be maintained and an improvement in the corporate structure be undertaken.

Following the sale of 100% of Österreichische Postbus AG stock to ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railways), the completion of the fair trading examination process and the fulfilment of any anti-trust stipulations, a large part of Österreichische Postbus AG is to be sold to private investors.

The preparation of concrete privatisation concepts by ÖIAG for the individual investments takes place in close co-operation with the Federal Minister of Finance.

Allocated during the Extraordinary General Meeting of ÖIAG on May 9, 2003

Definition of the privatisation mandate allocated by the federal government to Österreichische Industrieholding AG (ÖIAG) on April 1, 2003 for the privatisation of voestalpine AG

In accordance with the decision passed during the cabinet meeting on April 1, 2003, at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on May 9, 2003, the Managing Board of Österreichische Industrieholding Aktiengesellschaft was allocated the following privatisation mandate.

Privatisations should lead to the maximum possible increase in corporate values and revenues for the owner. In addition, the following Austrian interests are to be protected:

- Creation and retention of safe employment in Austria.
- Wherever possible, the decision-making bodies of the companies to be privatised should continue to be located in Austria through the creation of Austrian core shareholder structures by means of syndicates with industrial partners, banks, insurance companies, pension funds, retirement funds, funds, etc.
- The retention and expansion of existing research and development capacity.
- The taking into consideration of the Austrian capital market.

The privatisation mandate also stipulates that the 100% privatisation of voestalpine AG should be strived for.

In the more concrete definition of the privatisation mandate, ÖIAG has now been commissioned to examine two privatisation options for voestalpine AG, namely through the stock market and the acquisition of company stock by financial investors.

The objective is that:

1. The company maintains an Austrian core shareholder structure.
2. The unity of the company is maintained.
3. The research and development capacities are maintained and expanded.
4. The decision-making bodies continue to be located in Austria.

Allocated during the Extraordinary General Meeting of ÖIAG on July 4, 2003.

Definition of the privatisation mandate from the federal government regarding VA Technologie AG

In accordance with the decision passed during the cabinet meeting on April 1, 2003, at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on May 9, 2003, the Managing Board of Österreichische Industrieholding Aktiengesellschaft was allocated the following privatisation mandate.

The privatisation projects to be completed by ÖIAG in accordance with the mandate from the federal government should lead to the maximum possible increase in corporate values and revenues for the owner. In addition, the following Austrian interests are to be protected:

- Creation and retention of safe employment in Austria.
- Wherever possible, the decision-making bodies of the companies to be privatised should continue to be located in Austria through the creation of Austrian core shareholder structures by means of syndicates with industrial partners, banks, insurance companies, pension funds, retirement funds, funds, etc.
- The retention and expansion of existing research and development capacity.
- The taking into consideration of the Austrian capital market.

The preceding privatisation mandate remains valid and was defined in more concrete terms with regard to VA TECH as follows. ÖIAG is empowered to undertake the requires company law and financial measures required to facilitate the fulfilment of a stabilising role in line with the interests of the company, the employees and the location. ÖIAG is expressly authorised to participate in capital increases, in order to fulfil the goals of the federal government mandate.

The objective is that:

1. The company maintains an Austrian core shareholder structure.
2. The unity of the company is maintained.
3. The research and development capacities are maintained and expanded.
4. The decision-making bodies continue to be located in Austria.

Allocated during the Extraordinary General Meeting of ÖIAG on September 17, 2004.

Definition of the privatisation mandate from the federal government regarding Österreichische Post AG

In accordance with the decision passed during the cabinet meeting on April 1, 2003, at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on May 9, 2003, the Managing Board of Österreichische Industrieholding Aktiengesellschaft was allocated the following privatisation mandate.

Privatisations should lead to the maximum possible increase in corporate values and revenues for the owner. In addition, the following Austrian interests are to be protected:

- Creation and retention of safe employment in Austria.
- Wherever possible, the decision-making bodies of the companies to be privatised should continue to be located in Austria through the creation of Austrian core shareholder structures by means of syndicates with industrial partners, banks, insurance companies, pension funds, retirement funds, funds, etc.
- The retention and expansion of existing research and development capacity.
- The taking into consideration of the Austrian capital market.

Among other elements, the privatisation mandate foresees a search for a strategic partner for Österreichische Post AG as an initial step towards privatisation subject to the precondition that in the interests of taxpayers and consumers, full coverage service quality be maintained and an improvement in the corporate structure be undertaken.

Supplementary to the privatisation mandate, ÖIAG is also authorised to complete an IPO involving up to 49% of Österreichische Post AG stock at the most opportune moment possible.

Allocated during the Extraordinary General Meeting of ÖIAG on January 30, 2006.

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This Annual Report was prepared with the greatest possible care and the data presented thoroughly checked. However, errors relating to rounding, transmission, typesetting, translation or printing cannot be excluded.

