**Austria – Upper Chamber (FederalCouncil)**

1. Website:

<https://www.parlament.gv.at/ENGL/index.shtml>

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

**1. Name:** Rules of Procedure of the Austrian Federal Council

**2. URL**:

<https://www.parlament.gv.at/ENGL/PERK/RGES/GOBR/>

**3. What is the date for the most recent revision on the rules of procedure?**

2015

**4. Is there a section of the rules of procedure that covers voting rules? If so, indicate the section.**

Yes.

The rules of procedures of the Austrian Federal Council is enumerated in one home website which is connected by different chapters’ links.

Under Chapter 1 session 1 and Chapter 5 session 53 – 55.

**5. If available, please list the rules governing the use of roll call votes.**

1. The President may, of his/her own accord or in order to clarify the result of a vote, order that the voting be by name. Voting shall also be by name if demanded by at least five Members prior to entry upon the voting procedure.
2. Voting by name upon the President’s order or following a demand on the part of Members shall only be permitted in the absence of a decision to vote by secret ballot
3. If voting by name is ordered or demanded with regard to a particular matter, voting by secret ballot on the same matter shall not be permitted.
4. If voting is by name, the Members shall, upon order of the President, be called by the secretary in alphabetical order. Voting is viva voce, the Members responding by “yes” or “no”. The names of the Members who have taken part in the voting shall be recorded in the Stenographic Record, which shall also show whether they have voted affirmatively or in the negative.
5. After consultation with the Vice-Presidents, the President may order that voting by name take place by the casting of ballots. Said ballots shall carry the imprint “Yes” or “No” as well as the name of the Member of the Federal Council and shall be printed in two different colors depending on whether their imprint is “Yes” or “No”.

**6. If the documents are available in multiple languages, does it seem like the same number of documents/files are available in the different languages?**

Austria’s official language is German. However, the rule of procedures does have an English version for reference purpose.

**7. How exactly did you locate these files? (i.e. if you were going to write instructions for someone else to find them, what would that look like?)**

[SO]

1. Google “The Austrian Parliament”

2. Go to ‘https://www.parlament.gv.at/ENGL/’

3. Click ‘Parliament Explained’ on the top menu bar

4. Click ‘Legal Basis and Laws’ on the left side menu bar

4. Under ‘Legal Basis and Laws’, you will find ‘Rules of Procedure of the Austrian Federal Council’

5. Click on it and you will see the document.

**8. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

Austria’s official language is German. However, the rule of procedures does have an English version for reference purpose.

**9. Is there anything else you think we should know?**

N/A

**10. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file for previous versions of the rules of procedure? If so, repeat questions 2-8.**

N/A

*B.RECORD OF LEGISLATIVE VOTING*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of votes as reported in the working language of the legislature (e.g., scrutin public ordinaire).**

The Speaker of the chamber would call for a sign of approval or dismissal, which indicates that they reach a voting session. Most of the voting results are determined by showing of signs.

I do find several cases in which more than 20 members requested a roll-call vote. Then, the voting was held by a roll-call vote and names of all legislators were listed beneath the voting breakdown.

e.g.

<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXVI/NRSITZ/NRSITZ_00072/A_-_13_21_49_00200400.html>

**2. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required? If so what are these?**

Austria uses German as its documenting language. German is required for comprehending the voting records.

**3. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the voting record online (separate from the plenary minute)?**

Yes! On the same webpage with ‘Preliminary Sten. Protocol’ ([Vorläufiges Sten. Protokoll](https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXVI/NRSITZ/NRSITZ_00087/index.shtml" \l "tab-VorlaeufigesSten.Protokoll)), there is a ‘decisions’ tile on the menu bar, in which you may find all the final decisions on one particular day.

However, I couldn’t make sure the information in the ‘decisions’ tile corresponds to the Minutes.

**If so:**

**-Where can one find these documents? Please provide instructions for how someone would find them.**

1. Go to the Republic of Austria Parliament page
   1. <https://www.parlament.gv.at/ENGL/>
   2. Then, on the top of the webpage, you need to change the language setting to ‘DEUTSCH’
2. Click ‘Parlament Aktiv’ on top menu bar and view the drop-down menu
3. Click ‘Stenographische Protokolle’
4. Then, you will see the Stenographic Protocol (minutes) listed chronologically.
5. Click ‘decisions’ on the top menu bar if you need only the final voting results and issues legislators voted upon.

**-What types of votes are reported (e.g., the roll call vote record for individual legislators)?**

Most voting is adopted by unanimous approval but there are cases when voting is done by the roll-call vote.

1. **If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

The official website provides documents from January 12th, 1920 to present.

1. **Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>

This URL contains HTML and PDF downloadable documents for each parliamentary session, which includes specific details on voting results.

1. **Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section? If not, please indicate which source and years we are missing.**

I believe we can download all the information we need from this website.

*C.MINUTES OF PLENARY SESSION*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

The minute of plenary session is referred to the ‘Preliminary Sten. Protocol’ ([Vorläufiges Sten. Protokoll](https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXVI/NRSITZ/NRSITZ_00087/index.shtml" \l "tab-VorlaeufigesSten.Protokoll)), in which it has the structured representation of Minutes on one specific date.

# The Minute also refers as ‘Stenographic Protocols’ (Stenographische Protokolle) on the website.

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide instructions for how one would find them)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

1. Go to the Republic of Austria Parliament page
   1. <https://www.parlament.gv.at/ENGL/>
   2. Then, on the top of the webpage, you need to change the language setting to ‘DEUTSCH’
2. Click ‘Parlament Aktiv’ on top menu bar and view the drop-down menu
3. Click ‘Stenographische Protokolle’
4. Click ‘Bunderat’ (Federal Council)
5. Then, you will see the Minutes listed chronologically.

<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>

**3. If you find on-line documents, does this seem to be all the relevant documents for a specific time period? If so, what is the time period? If not, can you describe what is missing?**

The official website provides documents from January 12nd, 1920 to present.

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

Austria uses German as its documenting language. German is required for comprehending the voting records. Fortunately, the website has already identified and differentiated each portion for every plenary session, so the voting record can be easily located.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

Yes.

*D. ATTENDANCE*

**1. Please indicate the terminology for the type of information as reported in the working language of the legislature:**

Unless otherwise stipulated in the Federal Constitutional Act or the Rules of Procedure, decisions by the Federal Council shall require the presence of at least one third of its Members and an absolute majority of the votes cast. In case of a tie, the motion (proposal) is rejected.

Pertaining to different procedural type of the vote, the different quorum is stipulated.

The further information about quorum can be found by this URL. <https://www.parlament.gv.at/ENGL/PERK/RGES/GOGNR/gog12_P82-88.shtml#P82>

**2. Does the legislature or an official source publish a document/file covering the specific information online? If so, where (please provide the URL)? If an official source is not available, please list any secondary sources**.

There is no official list of members in attendance on a given day unless a member orders a roll call vote.

**3. What years are available on this source?**

N/A

**4. Can one automate downloading of these files? If so, please provide any available computer code for that purpose.**

It isn’t automatic downloadable since this is a webpage.

URL: <https://www.parlament.gv.at/ENGL/PERK/RGES/GOBR/gog05_P35-65.shtml#P58>

**5. Looking at the documents available on-line, are there specific language skills you think would be required to code information of interest from them? If so what are these?**

The rules of Procedure of the Austrian National Council are written in both English and German. No specific language skill required.

**6. Did we download all the information available in the sources indicated in this section?**

Yes.

*E. ROLL CALL VOTE REQUEST*

**1. In the available on-line documents, can you identify a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the requester?**

Yes, I can find several cases when roll-call votes are brought by the legislators.

“Es ist hiezu **namentliche** Abstimmung verlangt worden.” (It was requested **by name** vote.) They will use ‘namentliche’ (by name) as a roll-call vote indication, followed by enumerating of legislators whom vote on this issue.

**2. Do the available on-line documents report a justification for a request for a roll-call vote? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify the justification?**

The minute or Stenographic protocol usually gives a short explanation for invoking the roll-call votes and the issue that legislators would be vote on.

The explanation usually comes before the roll-call vote indication word, “namentliche”.

**3. How is the decision to accept or deny the roll-call vote request made (this may be found in the rules of procedure)?**

The President may, of his/her own accord or in order to clarify the result of a vote, order that the voting be by name. Voting shall also be by name if demanded by at least five Members prior to entry upon the voting procedure.

According to the phrasing, I believe the roll-call vote will be automatically adopted if it is demanded.

1. **In the available on-line documents, can you identify whether the request was accepted? If so, are there specific words or other indications that systematically identify this?**

The request and approval for all roll-call votes are listed in the Stenographic Protocol. The specific word is “namentliche” (by name).

*F. DISCUSSION BEFORE THE VOTE*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the Stenographic Protocol, which you can find in “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the Stenographic Protocol, which you can find in “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”.

The length of a participant’s speech can be easily counted.

2. Indication Votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the names of participants who participated in discussion before a vote? If so, where can this be found?**

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the Stenographic Protocol, which you can find in “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”.

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the length (in words) of a participant’s speech? If so, where can this be found?**

All the speeches, debates, and dialogues taken before or after voting are recorded in the Stenographic Protocol, which you can find in “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”.

The length of a participant’s speech can be easily counted.

*G. VOTING*

1. Roll-call votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes, I do find several roll-call vote cases. The subject of the vote usually should be mentioned and recorded before roll-call vote started in the Stenographic Protocol.

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The procedural types and subjects of the vote are recorded ahead of the voting results in the Stenographic Protocol.

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. There are two ways to determine the result of the vote. First, you can check the voting portion in the detailed stenographic protocols. Second, on the same webpage, the ‘decisions’ tile gives you an overview on voting results. However, ‘decisions’ doesn’t give you the detailed information.

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, calling of names, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The methods of voting are recorded in the Stenographic Protocol. You may find out the methods of voting, which are usually listed above the vote outcome.

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? At the level of individual legislator? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. We can determine the vote outcome or breakdown of vote. Only if the vote is taken by name, we may conclude the voting breakdown at the level of individual legislator.

The vote outcome can be found in Stenographic Protocol

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

All speeches, arguments, and quick remarks delivered on the floor should be recorded in the Stenographic Protocol.

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

2. Indication votes:

**a. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the subject of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The subjects of the vote are written ahead of the voting records. Most voting in Austrian legislature is taken on indication basis.

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

**b. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the procedural type (motion/agenda/article of a bill/amendment/etc…) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

The procedural types and subjects of the vote are recorded ahead of the voting outcomes in the Stenographic Protocol.

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

**c. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the result of the vote (e.g., the motion passed)? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. There are two ways to determine the result of the vote. First, you can check the voting portion in the detailed stenographic protocols. Second, on the same webpage, the ‘decisions’ tile gives you ONLY an overview of voting results.

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

**d. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the method (electronic, raising of hands, etc..) of the vote? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. Most voting is done by showing signals. The methods of voting should be recorded in the Stenographic Protocol.

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

**e. In the available on-line documents, can you determine the breakdown of the vote outcome (e.g., yes/no/abstain) in the aggregate? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. We can determine the vote outcome but not the breakdown of votes. The indication vote usually doesn’t provide a breakdown of votes.

The vote outcome can be found in Stenographic Protocol

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

**f. In the available on-line documents, can you determine whether there were any arguments documented during the vote (e.g. , a protest over procedure)? If so, where can this be found?**

All speeches, arguments, and quick remarks delivered on the floor should be recorded in the Stenographic Protocol.

URL: “<https://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/STPROT/>”. (Stenographic Protocol)

*NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEVANT*