**Austria – Lower Chamber (National Council)**

1. Website:

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

2. Locating Relevant Documents/Files On-line:

*A.RULES OF PROCEDURE*

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

**2. URL**:

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

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

2016

**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 National Council is enumerated in one home website which is connected by different chapters’ links.

Under Chapter 2 session 9 and Chapter 9 session 64 – 68.

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

1. If an electronic voting system is available, the President may use the same for elections and voting and determine with its help the results of said election(s) and voting. In the case of electronic voting the votes cast by each individual Member are displayed. Each Member shall upon request receive a printout of the voting record.

2. If the President so orders prior to the voting or at least 20 Members so request in writing before the end of the sitting, the names of the Members and the votes they have cast shall be reflected in the Stenographic Record.

3. Any Member may, before any vote is taken, demand that the President announce the numbers of those voting "for" or "against" an issue. However, the President may, at his/her discretion, rule from the start or if the result of a vote appears doubtful to him/her, that voting be by name.

4. The President may also decide to have the voting by name take the form of the names of the Members being called up in their alphabetical order and the vote being cast viva voce by the Members responding by "yes" or "no".

5. If at least 20 Members demand in writing before the voting procedure is commenced that voting be by name, the demand shall be granted without delay. Unless voting by name has been demanded, the National Council may decide, upon the proposal of the President or upon a motion of 20 Members, that a secret ballot be held.

**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?**

No. Austrian legislature chose English as its official working language.

**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 ‘Federal law on the Rules of Procedure of the Austrian National 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?**

Since English is the co-official language of Austria, all the legal documents are written in English. Because of that, specific language skills are not required.

**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.

**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.

**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)?**

I assume all types of votes are reported but most voting is indication 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 October 21st, 1918 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 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. 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 October 21st, 1918 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. However, the website has already identified and differentiated each portion for one 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:**

The presence of a quorum shall be required only for the purposes of votes and elections.

Quorum differs from procedural types of the vote. In most cases, decisions of the National Council shall require the presence of one third of the Members and the absolute majority of the votes cast.

The further information pertaining to quorum can be found by clicking <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 or notifies that a quorum is not present.

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

2015

**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/GOGNR/gog12_P82-88.shtml#P82>

**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?**

I didn’t find any roll-call vote request that I could refer. However, the rules of procedure states “If the President so orders prior to the voting or at least 20 Members so request in writing before the end of the sitting, the names of the Members and the votes they have cast shall be reflected in the Stenographic Record”. According to that, the detailed voting record shall be posted online though it isn’t a standard procedure in Austrian legislatures.

**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?**

I didn’t find any roll-call vote request that I could refer. If 20 or more members requested a written vote, I am convinced that their proposition should be recorded in the Stenographic Protocols, which you may find these in the link below.

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

If the President so orders prior to the voting or at least 20 Members so request in writing before the end of the sitting, the names of the Members and the votes they have cast shall be reflected in the Stenographic Record.

If at least 20 Members demand in writing before the voting procedure is commenced that voting be by name, the demand shall be granted without delay. Unless voting by name has been demanded, the National Council may decide, upon the proposal of the President or upon a motion of 20 Members, that a secret ballot be held.

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?**

I didn’t find any roll-call vote request that I could refer. If 20 or more members requested a written vote, the roll-call vote should be automatically adopted/accepted without delay.

*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?**

I didn’t find any roll-call vote request that I could refer. However, 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?**

I didn’t find any roll-call vote request that I could refer. However, all subjects of the vote are written ahead of the voting records. If the documentation of roll-call votes does follow the rules of procedure, you should find the subject of the vote in the right place.

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.

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?**

Yes. Most voting is done by showing of signals. The method 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? At the level of individual legislator? If so, where can this be found?**

Yes. We can determine the vote outcome but not the breakdown of vote. If the vote isn’t taken by name, we can’t 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 all 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 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.

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 of signals. The method 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 vote. If the vote isn’t taken by name, we can’t 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)

*NOTES ON ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEVANT*