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Most honoured Strategy “Enthusiasts”,

providers of ideas and dear distinguished guests. In my opinion, it is you who constitute the creative core of the “Vienna Strategy Conference”! After having explored all possible alternatives, the subsequent events of the current infection-crisis have forced me to cancel the Vienna Strategy Conference 2020, respectively to move this year’s topic to the regular date of the Strategy Conference 2021 (21jun-25jun21).

I initially had intended to move the date to late fall. The ÖMZ-Team would have been ready to move ahead with this change of date even accounting for all resulting organisational hurdles. Yet, the development and forecast of the current crisis have made it clear that even if we were to move the conference to late fall international speakers would still have trouble getting flights or be bound by obligations that have arisen from postponing important national endeavours. Furthermore, a new date later than November 2020 would have been too close to the regular date of the 2021 conference.

In addition, I am considering to implement a proposal brought forward by our economy-panel. Under the condition that speakers will be available, we plan a one to two days virtual “online-seminar” in the course of which we would introduce the topics that are to be discussed during the conference 2021, both in general and within the panels, in order to widen the reach of our conferences. While this is currently intended to bridge the gap between the 2019 and the 2021 conference, I am also considering making this a permanent additional feature of the conference series.

Therefore, we would kindly ask you to save the date for our Vienna Strategy Conference 2021 (21jun-25jun21) and for your willingness to take part once again as an interested and active guest.

We would inform you in time regarding the project of a possible online-seminar, as soon as we have been able to assess whether the availability of speakers, the necessary technological, and logistical preconditions and the “state of command” will allow for the continuation of this approach.

I would therefore kindly ask for your understanding regarding the cancellation/postponement of the “Vienna Strategy Conference 2020”. As Friedrich Dürrenmatt stated in his tragicomedy “Die Physiker”: „The more human beings proceed

according to plan, the more effectively they may be affected by chance” – we will overcome this misfortune, according to our collectively developed understanding of strategy, by a long-term determination of goals and a firm will. God willing, and with your help we will resume and successfully continue our conference despite the cancellation of the event in June 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Wolfgang Peischel

**ÖSTERREICHISCHES BUNDESHEER**

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