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**August 2007**

**Austria**

**N.8**

## MEPs back European organic logo



With sales of organic goods growing by 30% a year and production expanding dramatically, MEPs have supported the creation of a

European "organics logo" which would protect the special nature of organic food. Meeting last week, Parliament's Agriculture committee backed a report calling for a European logo for foods containing 95% organic ingredients. It also calls for organic food to be completely free of GMOs - current rules say that 0.9% of the product can be of GMO origin.

[Read more»](#)

## Wine Reform

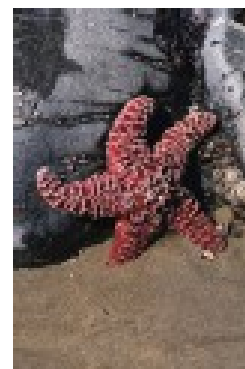
MEPs from all sides have backed a report that aims to protect the historical and cultural position of European wine production. The report also calls for cautious reform of the EU's €1.3 billion a year wine regime and proposes the 1.5 billion litre wine lake be "abolished" through a combination of voluntary and compulsory distillation of surplus wine. Roughly €500 million a year is currently spent turning surplus quality wine into either ethanol or vinegar.



Parliament's Transport committee - calls for the national monopoly on letters below 50 grams to end. Whether this move will bring more competition and a faster, cheaper postal service or whether it will lead to job cuts and less service will be debated by MEPs

## Seas and Coasts under threats

Protecting the delicate ecosystem of Europe's seas and coastal regions was the subject of a recent hearing in Parliament. A Commission Green paper last year identified the threat to Europe's coast of rising sea levels, pollution and over fishing. This is not a small problem - the EU has a coastline longer than Africa and the EU's sea area (territorial waters of members) is larger than its land mass.



## Energy and Climate changes

The overwhelming majority of EU citizens are concerned about climate change. Europeans are well aware of the impact of energy production and consumption on climate change and global warming, while a majority feel that the best way to tackle energy-related issues would be at EU level. [Press release](#)

## Digital Literacy

Skills for the Information Society A digital world needs digital skills. And so do we... [Click here to read more](#)

## Opening EU postal services

Ongoing debate on a report calling for postal monopolies in Europe to end by the start of 2011. The report - backed by



## What is Euro Satellite?

What is Europe by Satellite? The European Union's TV Information service Europe by Satellite (EbS) was launched in 1995 and provides TV and radio stations with EU related pictures and sound in up to **22 or more languages**. The programming consists of a mix of live events, stock shots and finished programmes on EU subjects produced by various



EU Institutions and Directorates as well as other broadcasters. [Read more here](#)

## Mobile TV great opportunity for EU!

Mobile television: "A tremendous opportunity for Europe"



In its strategy for mobile television the Commission urges Member States and industry to facilitate and accelerate the deployment of mobile TV across Europe and to encourage the use of DVB-H as the single European standard for mobile TV. "Mobile broadcasting is a tremendous opportunity for Europe to maintain and expand its leadership in mobile technology and audiovisual services," said Commissioner Viviane Reding. [more](#)

## Dieser Monat ist es über Österreich

(This month it's about Austria) Every month the United Euro Bridge will issue a newsletter customised to a different European Country. If you like to contribute with the editing, email us: [info@unitedeurobridge.org](mailto:info@unitedeurobridge.org)

## Natürliche Schönheiten von Österreich

(Natural beauties of Austria) In the middle of Europe there is a small country called Austria. In Austria there are six National Parks and one of them is known as Gesaeuse.

The Gesaeuse National Park with its mountainous landscape is an area of



breath-taking beauty. It is the most recent of the Austrian National Parks and, with an area of about 11,000 hectares, the third largest of them. Its landscape is characterised by rock, woodland and water. Because of the great range of altitude differences in the Gesaeuse National Park, there is a dense concentration of extremely diverse habitats and, consequently, of species of animals and plants. [Click here to see more](#)



On the sunny side of the Alps, Austria's Little Canada has a lot to offer. One National Park and proximity to a second,

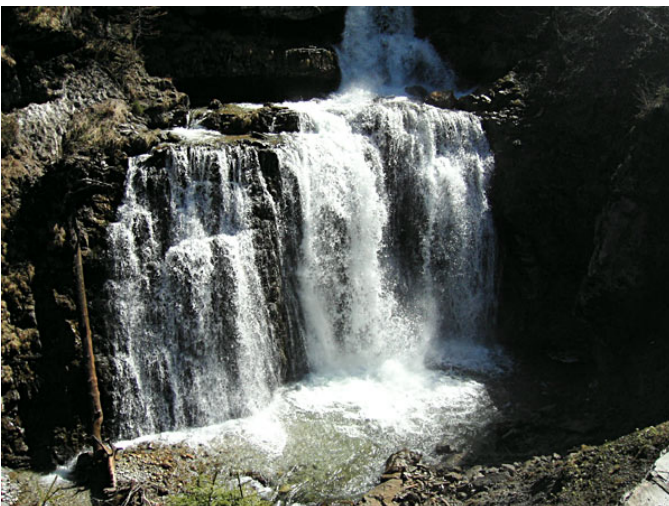


one Nature Park, three major geological zones and many minor varieties, unspoilt nature, small villages and towns, an undisturbed traditional life and friendly people.

## National Park Hohe Tauern



## Niedere Tauern



Only two villages in Austria's Little Canada maintain this unique tradition of worship: Muhr and Zederhaus. Apparently this tradition lies in a vow made in the 15th century: The villagers promised to carry these flower decorated poles to the honour of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary to be saved from a threatening locust epidemic. Only young single men have the honour of carrying these heavy poles. The whole community takes part in the flower decorating, picking only wildflowers of the region. Preparations start during in the first weeks of June. Up to 50,000 flowers (daisies, gentians, peonies, wild

carnations) are gathered and bound into flower garlands to decorate one pole. Two young men proudly carry one pole; a symbol of their honourable duty is a sash placed over their left shoulder and a fresh twig of rosemary on the hat. After the procession the poles are carried into the church, where they remain until the feast of Assumption (August 15th) as a symbol of life. The withered flowers are carefully removed and used as incense at Christmas.



[read more](#)

## Berühmte österreichische Leute

(Famous Austrian People) [Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart](#) - Austrian composer (1756 - 1791)

[Ludwig Wittgenstein](#) - Austrian-English philosopher (1889 - 1951)

[Joe Zawinul](#) - Austrian musician and composer (1932 - )

[Carl Zeller](#) - Austrian composer (1842 - 1898)

[Alexander von Zemlinsky](#) - Austrian composer, conductor, and teacher (1871 - 1942)

[Carl Michael Ziehrer](#) - Austrian composer (1843 - 1922)

## Merkwürdige Tatsachen über Österreich

(Strange facts about Austria) Modern Austria is the German-speaking part of the Austrian (later Austro-Hungarian) Empire ruled by the Habsburg family from 1526 to 1918. The oldest zoological garden in the world is the [Tiergarten Schönbrunn](#) in Vienna, founded in 1752. The Austrian flag is one of the oldest national flag in the world. It dates from 1191, when Duke



Leopold V fought in the Battle of Acre during the Third Crusade. 62% of Austria's total land area is covered by the Austrian Alps. Europe's second highest peak in order of prominence, Großglockner (3,798m, with a prominence of 2,423m) is located in Austria. Austria has 13 peaks above 3000m, and 34 above 2000m. The Krimml Falls (*Krimmler Wasserfalle*), in the state of Salzburg, are Europe's tallest waterfalls, with a height of 380 meters. About one fourth of the population of Austria lives in the capital, Vienna. Austria is the only continental EU country that is not a member of NATO.

## Und jetzt für den Gaumen

(And now for the palate)

### Sacher Torte, Viennese chocolate cake

Total time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Preparation time: 15 minutes

Baking time: 60 minutes

Oven temperature: 180° C (350° F)

#### Chef's

**Note** The history of the world famous Sacher Torte dates back to



1832, when the still omnipotent "Coachman of Europe," Wenzel Clemens Prince Metternich, gave the order to create a particularly delicious dessert for his pampered aristocratic guests. "And don't disgrace me tonight!" he told sixteen-year-old apprentice Franz Sacher, who created this delicacy while covering for the chef who was on his sickbed. His efforts proved a huge success, the beginning of what is perhaps the world's most famous cake. Original Sacher Torte is at its best when served with unsweetened whipped cream and a cup of Original Sacher coffee or tea.

#### Ingredients for 12 servings

- 130 g (1/2 cup) butter
- 110 g (4 oz.) icing sugar

- 6 egg yolks
- 130 g (4.5 oz.) [chocolate](#)
- 130 g (4.5 oz.) flour
- 6 [eggwhites](#)
- 100 g (1/2 cup) granulated sugar
- Apricot jam

#### Method

1. Beat together the butter and icing sugar; gradually add in the egg yolks and the melted chocolate, stirring constantly.
2. Beat the egg whites with the granulated sugar to stiff peaks and mix them into the chocolate batter. Gently fold in the flour.
3. Place in a buttered tart mould and bake for 60 minutes at 180° C (350° F).
4. Let cool, remove from the mould, slice through the centre and fill with a layer of good apricot jam. Glaze with chocolate

## Anything to share? Anything to advertise?

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The information in this newsletter is, to our knowledge, correct at the time of issue.