

ANNUAL REPORT 2007



Our Mandate and Responsibilities

Mandate

The Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB) is the central bank of the Republic of Austria and, as such, an integral part of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB). In this capacity, the OeNB acts on the basis of full personal, financial and institutional independence.

The OeNB's aims and actions are guided by the fundamental principles security, stability and trust. The primary objective of the Eurosystem, and hence of the OeNB, is to maintain price stability in the euro area and thus to safeguard the euro's purchasing power.

Responsibilities

Contribution to Monetary Policymaking within the Eurosystem

- Participation of the OeNB's Governor in decision-making within the Governing Council and General Council of the European Central Bank (ECB)
- Conduct of extensive economic analysis and research

Monetary Policy Operations – Reserve Management

- Conduct of monetary policy operations with Austrian banks
- Participation in Eurosystem foreign exchange interventions
- Management of the OeNB's own reserve assets and of the reserves transferred to the ECB
- Conduct of minimum reserve operations and monitoring of Austrian banks' minimum reserve holdings

Financial Stability and Banking Supervision

- Conduct of banking supervision in cooperation with the Financial Market Authority and of payment systems oversight with a view to securing financial stability
- Risk analysis of financial markets and banks

Provision of Statistics

- Compilation of conclusive, high-quality statistics, above all monetary, interest rate and prudential statistics as well as external trade statistics (e.g. balance of payments and financial accounts)

Cash Supply

- Provision of Austrian businesses and consumers with secure banknotes and coins and ensuring of smooth cash circulation

Payment Systems

- Provision and promotion of smoothly operating payment systems in Austria and their cross-border integration

National and International Cooperation

- Close cooperation with national bodies, e.g. Financial Market Authority, the Government Debt Committee and the Statistics Advisory Board (Statistikrat)
- Representation in a wide range of bodies of the Eurosystem, the ESCB and the EU
- International monetary policy cooperation and participation in international financial institutions (IMF, BIS)

Consultancy

- Drafting of laws and opinions

Our Mission Statement

In 2005, the national central banks of the independent Eurosystem (including the OeNB) published a joint mission statement that enshrines the following key objectives and values:

We in the Eurosystem have as our primary objective the maintenance of price stability for the common good. Acting also as a leading financial authority, we aim to safeguard financial stability and promote European financial integration.

In pursuing our objectives, we attach utmost importance to credibility, trust, transparency and accountability. We aim for effective communication with the citizens of Europe and the media. We are committed to conducting our relations with European and national authorities in full accordance with the Treaty provisions and with due regard to the principle of independence.

We jointly contribute, strategically and operationally, to attaining our common goals, with due respect to the principle of decentralisation. We are committed to good governance and to performing our tasks effectively and efficiently, in a spirit of cooperation and teamwork. Drawing on the breadth and depth of our experiences as well as on the exchange of know-how, we aim to strengthen our shared identity, speak with a single voice and exploit synergies, within a framework of clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all members of the Eurosystem.

The OeNB's mission statement complements the Eurosystem's mission statement and transposes it to Austrian requirements. The main messages are:

As the central bank of the Republic of Austria, the OeNB serves the Austrian and European public.

To build and maintain trust in the OeNB, we take pride in performing our tasks professionally, drawing on the high competence and motivation of our employees.

Our products and services are customer oriented to ensure their value to our customers and partners.

Ongoing market-oriented product and process innovation ensures the efficient and cost-effective provision of services in line with sustainability and in particular environmental protection.

We are cooperative, solution-oriented and reliable partners in our relations with customers and associates.

Our employees' commitment, motivation, creativity, willingness to learn, team spirit and mobility – the success factors of our work now and in the future – are the hallmarks of our working style.

