**Special Newsletter – HC of Austira in Seattle:**

 Austria has a new government!

After 7 months of the well-respected Interim Government under the leadership of Brigitte Bierlein, on January 7, 2020, Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen swore in a new Austrian Federal Government formed by the conservative Austrian People’s Party (ÖVP) and the ecologist Green Party. He demanded a governing in the spirit of “rot-weiss-rot”. The new Government is once again led by Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, who already served in this capacity from 2017 to 2019. Werner Kogler of the Green Party was appointed Vice-Chancellor. Alexander Schallenberg was reappointed Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. The hopes and expectations for this constellation are high and the Austrian public is expecting a forward-thinking government confronting the most pressing issues including the economic, social and environmental welfare of the people. It's a government of two firsts: 1st conservative-green coalition and 1st time women as a majority among cabinet ministers!

Herzlichst,

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