



Burg Schlaining, June 30 – July 3: “Peace in Crisis”

The Austrian Forum for Peace 2025 explores challenges and opportunities in a world in upheaval – with guests including Yair Hirschfeld, Wolfgang Petritsch, Oliver P. Richmond, and Ursula Plassnik

On June 30, 2025, the third **Austrian Forum for Peace** will begin. Under the theme “**Peace in Crisis – Challenges and Opportunities in a World in Upheaval**,” the **Austrian Center for Peace (ACP)** is hosting its annual conference for the third time at **Friedensburg Schlaining**. Against the backdrop of dramatic developments in the Middle East, ongoing wars in Ukraine and Sudan, and instability in the Sahel region, the conference will explore new paths for peacebuilding.

“We are placing particular emphasis on the impact of the Trump presidency on Europe and digital disinformation,” says Tobias **Lang**, Director of the ACP.

Opening Keynote by Yair Hirschfeld

At the ceremonial opening, high-level guests from politics, diplomacy, business, civil society, and academia are expected – including the ambassadors of Australia and Turkey.

Yair **Hirschfeld**, historian and chief negotiator of the Oslo Accords between Israel and the PLO, will focus in his keynote on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process – between failure and progress.

Critical Dialogue Instead of Isolation

In a time of increasing fragmentation, the conference aims to create space for critical dialogue, cooperation,

and civic engagement. The program includes keynotes, panels, and workshops.

On the second day (July 1), Wolfgang **Petritsch**, former ambassador and President of the Austrian Institute for International Affairs, and leading peace researcher Oliver P. **Richmond** will discuss: “*Transatlantic Drift – Who Will Lead on Peace and Human Security?*”

In the afternoon, a public panel discussion in German titled “*Europe Without Washington?*” will address new strategies for dealing with Russia from a peace policy perspective. One of the panelists will be former Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula **Plassnik**.

ACP President Norbert **Darabos** explains: “With the public panel on July 1, we want to involve people from the local region. A special highlight is the Burgfest on July 2, where attendees can connect with international conference participants in a unique setting.”

Before the Burgfest on the third day (July 2), there will be a free public screening of the documentary “*How to Build a Truth Engine*” (Executive Producer: George Clooney). Afterwards, director Friedrich **Moser** will be available for a Q&A session.

Registration for public events of the conference is still possible.

The **Austrian Forum for Peace 2025** is an invitation to rethink peace: through dialogue, inclusion, solution-oriented approaches – and with urgency.



**Austrian
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