

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

OCTOBER 26, 1955—AUSTRIAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 1918—AUSTRIAN HISTORICAL HOLIDAY

der 26. Oktober: Austria’s Independence Day / Österreichs Staatsfeiertag

- National Holiday in Austria, when it declared its neutrality.
• This day commemorates the founding of the Republic of Austria in 1955, when the country became physically free of foreign occupation.
• Last Allied soldiers left the country on the night of 10/25, ending 17 years of foreign occupation, first by Germany and then the 4 Allied countries.

Declaration of Neutrality

The Declaration of Neutrality was a declaration by the Austrian Parliament declaring the country permanently neutral. It was enacted on 26 October 1955 as a constitutional act of parliament, i.e., as part of the Constitution of Austria. Pursuant to resolution of the Federal Assembly of Parliament following the State Treaty, Austria declared "its permanent neutrality of its own accord."

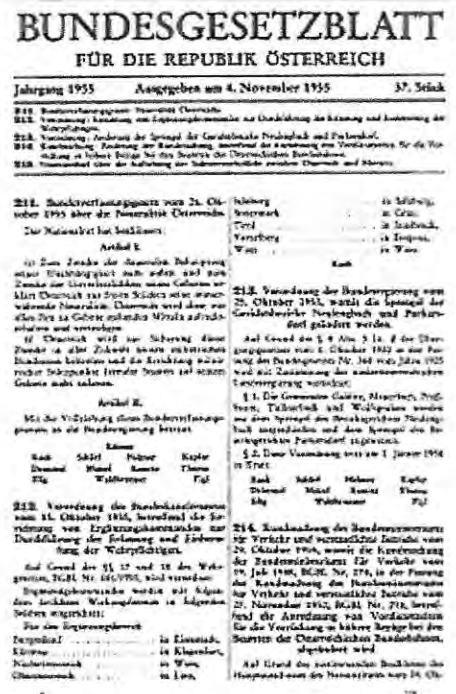
Formally, the declaration was promulgated voluntarily by the Republic of Austria. Politically, it was the direct consequence of the allied occupation by the Soviet Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France between 1945 and 1955, from which the country was freed by the Austrian State Treaty of 15 May the same year.

Since 1955, neutrality has become a deeply ingrained element of Austrian identity. Legally, Austrian neutrality is both part of the Austrian constitution and of international law. There is an ongoing debate among legal scholars whether Austria could change this neutral status on its own account.

Collaboration

Austria engages in UN-led peacekeeping and other humanitarian missions. It participates in:

- KFOR, with up to 561 soldiers. This mission is alongside NATO forces. Other countries in this mission include Switzerland, also famous for its neutrality.
• EUFOR (former SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, since 2 December 2004 under European Union Command
• United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in Lebanon.



The Bundesgesetzblatt containing the Federal Constitutional Law on the Neutrality of Austria.