

10 Proposals (demands) to the New Government

1. Independent authority (Weisungsspitze) on top for Public Prosecutors

- Introduction of a politically independent authority as head for public prosecutors ("Federal Public Prosecutor" or similar).
- Staggered terms of office in the case of a multi-member-head authority (12 years-term of office; at start: 4, 8, 12 years).
- Clear dismissal mechanism in case of abuse of power.

2. Strengthening of Public Prosecutors, in particular of the WKStA

- Reduction of reporting obligations to speed up proceedings.
- Shortening of the appeal stages: WKStA directly under an independent head authority.
- More resources for communication skills (e.g. event-related media training).
- Competence to investigate remains with the public prosecutor's office (no transfer to the Ministry for Internal Affairs).

3. Strengthening of the Principal Witness Regulation (Kronzeugenregelung)

- Strengthening the legal protection for potential principal witnesses.
- Reconsideration of consequences for principal witnesses in terms of liability.
- Establishment of an expert group to deal with the complex interests involved.

4. Strengthening Freedom of Information (Informationsfreiheit)

- Use the discretionary leeway in the legal framework in favor of the party that seeks information.
- Improvement of the legal framework, including the introduction of an information officer (Informationsbeauftragter) and a transparency requirement for all entities (including small municipalities).
- Transfer of legislative competence to the federal level.

5. Improvement of Whistleblower Protection

- Extension of the scope of application to all legal acts.
- Public visibility of enforcement: nationwide review of implementation accompanied by media announcement, starting with large corporations.
- Reporting obligations for auditors in case of inadequate or missing implementation.

6. Strengthening Media Independence

- Open media funding instead of "advertising policy": expand public funding and safeguard media diversity, no financial entanglement with editorial content.
- ORF reform: push back influence of political parties, strengthen independence and educational mandate.

7. Administrative Reform

- Tightening of rededication competence, also to reduce land sealing.
- Prohibit the use of insider information in public administration, punishable under criminal law.
- Clear rules on conflicts of interest and mandatory compliance training for mayors.
- Uniform compliance rules and training for all senior staff.
- Reducing the staff of cabinets in ministries, use of professional expertise in ministries.
- Anonymous 360-degree feedback for leadership positions.

8. Fighting Patronage (Postenschacher)

- Clear compliance requirements for members of political parties.
- Public administration academy with compliance training for leadership positions.
- Transparent, competence-based decisions about personnel and avoidance of "tailor-made" job descriptions.
- Cabinet staff to be employed in ministries only if qualified.
- Reform of the obligation to refill vacant positions (no keeping positions intentionally vacant for future pre-arranged applications).

9. Expansion of Ethical, Political and Business Education in Schools

- Raising awareness of corruption as a threat to democracy and the rule of law, and strengthening understanding of its significance.
- Sharpening political understanding, promoting financial and business education to fight demagoguery.

10. Introduction of a Corruption Register

- Collection of corruption convictions (including breach of trust under criminal law) in an own register to identify repeat offenders and ensure appropriate sentencing.
- Provide for an explicit statement in sentences in case of corruption-related offenses.