

Nuclear Safety in Europe, First Regulatory Conference, Brussels 28-29 June 2011
Session 1: Achievement and assessment



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Austrian efforts to integrate the progress made at international level and to implement improvements at national level

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Nuclear Safety

- Austria's Policy Approach



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- >> International and European Safety Standards should be**
 - state-of-the-art;**
 - (legally) binding;**
 - monitored, including compliance procedures; and**
 - comprehensive, covering all types of nuclear installations.**

- >> Regulatory Organisations should be**
 - effectively independent;**
 - competent;**
 - well staffed; and**
 - have appropriate resources as well as**
 - the power to enforce.**

Improvements in Nuclear Safety - the national implementation



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- >> **Universal principles of nuclear safety and regulation apply**
but adapted to the scope of nuclear activities in Austria.

- >> **Process of Improvement started**
substantially triggered by European law and international developments.

- >> **Still a long way to go and major challenges to master**
e.g. late implementation of EU Nuclear Safety directive.

Legal Framework - the Constitution



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- >> The Constitutional Law on a „Nuclear Free“ Austria (dating from 1999) bans**
 - **the construction and operation of installations for the production of energy by means of nuclear fission**
 - **the transport of fissile material for the purpose of energy production**
 - **the existence of nuclear weapons in Austria**

- Only nuclear installations for research and development are allowed in Austria**

Nuclear Installations



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>> Austria has only one nuclear installation covered by the scope of EU Nuclear Safety Directive:

the

TRIGA

**research reactor
of the**

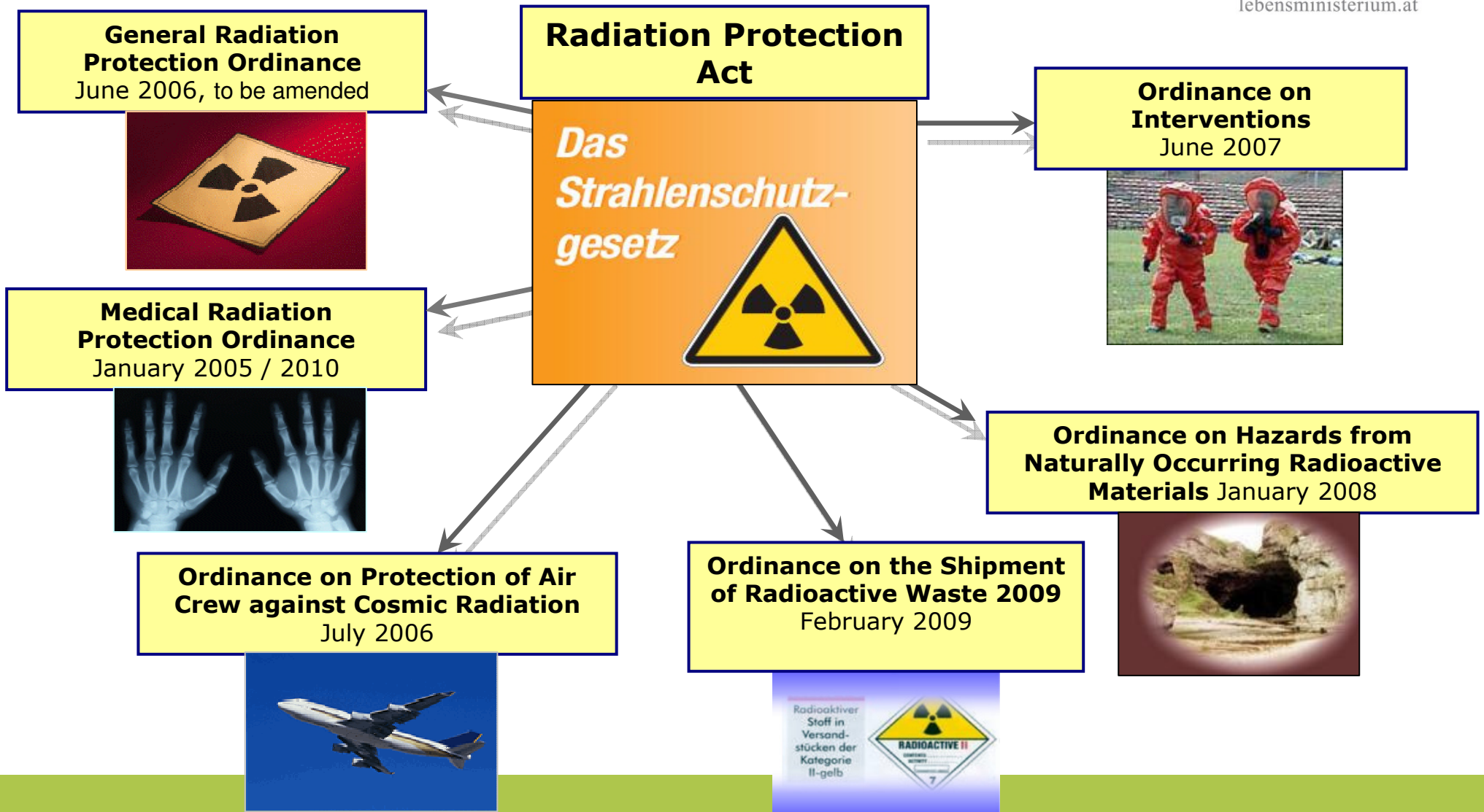
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Legal Framework continued





Competent Authorities

- **Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water**
Management: responsible for
 - radiation protection, with the exception of radiation matters in the medical field and foodstuff
 - issues relating to the long-term storage of radioactive waste, including the siting, construction and operation of storage facilities
 - general affairs of nuclear co-ordination
- **Federal Ministry for Science and Research: competent authority** for research reactors – cojointly with the „environment“ Ministry
- **Federal Ministry of Health: competent authority** for radiation matters in the medical field and with regard to foodstuff
- **Federal Ministry of the Interior: competent authority** for the supervision of nuclear facilities with regard to physical protection
- **Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth: competent authority** for safeguards
- **Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology: competent authority** for carriage of dangerous goods (including radioactive materials)

General Radiation Protection Ordinance - the Changes



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>> In substance, only minor changes of the existing regulation were necessary for the implementation of the EU Nuclear Safety Directive :

- **Periodic self assessment by license holder**
- **Introduction of term „Nuclear Safety“**
- **Introduction of a „Nuclear Safety Officer“ (similar to “Radiation Protection Officer“)**
- **Extended obligations for training and education**
- **Extended requirements for construction and decommissioning of nuclear installations**

Periodic Self Assessment



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>> Former regulation:

- Annual inspections of the installation by the licensing authority
- Authority may require additional measures to assure high safety standards

New regulation:

- Licence holder has to perform a comprehensive self assessment every 10 years
- Licensing Authority has to evaluate the results and to issue a decision on further operation



New Challenges for Austria

>> Further Development of the European legal and regulatory framework for the safety of nuclear installations

e.g.

- “Waste” Directive
- Revision of Nuclear Safety Directive
- Revision of Basic Safety Standards

>> will require a complete overhaul of Austria’s legal and regulatory framework.

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to integrate the progress made at
international level and to implement
improvements at national level**



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**Thank you for your
attention!**