



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 7.2.2025  
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His Excellency  
Mag. Alexander Schallenberg  
Federal Chancellor and Federal Minister  
for European and International Affairs  
Minoritenplatz 8  
A - 1014 Vienna

Subject: **Notification No 2024/0627/AT**

**‘Act amending the Vienna Events Act 2020 (Wr. VG)’**

**Delivery of comments pursuant to Article 5(2) of Directive (EU)  
2015/1535 of 9 September 2015**

Dear Sir,

Within the framework of the notification procedure laid down in Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services <sup>(1)</sup>, on 19 November 2024 the Austrian authorities notified to the Commission the draft ‘Act amending the Vienna Events Act 2020 (Wr. VG)’ (hereinafter, ‘the notified draft’).

According to the notification message and impact assessment, the notified draft aims to lay down rules for certain public events in the Vienna region, for the purpose of the protection of the environment from negative influences, to protect visitors from harassment at certain events and for the protection of larger, long-standing, and significant venues for Vienna.

The examination of the notified draft has prompted the Commission to issue the following comments.

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<sup>1</sup> (1) Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services, OJ L 241, 17.9.2015, p. 1.

The notified draft introduces, among other amendments to the Vienna Events Act 2020 (hereinafter ‘the basic act’), a heading concerning ‘Environmentally friendly events’. Point 38 of the notified draft amends the basic act, introducing the requirement for the organiser of certain events to draw up an ‘environmental and waste concept’:

*‘(2) In the case of events that may be attended by more than 2,000 visitors in total, the organiser must draw up an environmental and waste concept and keep it available for inspection by the authorities and the Vienna Provincial Police Directorate at all times.*

*(3) In any case, the concept must include the following environmentally relevant aspects:*

- 1. Measures to incentivise the use of public transport or bicycles to travel to and from the event venue,*
- 2. Measures to reduce energy consumption,*
- 3. Measures for the careful use of water,*
- 4. Measures for the use of ecological materials,*
- 5. If necessary, use environmentally friendly giveaways,*
- 6. Protection of the soil and vegetation at outdoor events,*
- 7. Measures to save resources when serving food and drinks (e.g. no serving of portion packs or capsule systems, offering tap water).*

*(4) In any case, the concept must include the following waste-relevant aspects:*

- 1. A description of the type of event and a description of the waste-relevant processes, the number of people who can attend the event or, in the case of outdoor events, an indication of the area that is publicly accessible to visitors;*
- 2. details of the type, quantity and time to disposal of the waste expected to be produced at the event;*
- 3. measures for waste prevention (e.g. use of large containers), reuse (e.g. reusable packaging), separate collection and treatment;*
- 4. Organisational precautions for compliance with waste management legislation.’*

The Commission notes that Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives <sup>(2)</sup> includes, among its objectives the reduction of food waste. In particular Article 9(1)(g) of that Directive requires Member States to take measures to:

*‘reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households as a contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % the per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030’.*

The Commission notes that the reduction of food waste does not appear to be listed among the environmentally relevant aspects that are required to be included in the environmental and waste concepts.

In light of the above, the Austrian authorities are kindly invited to consider the inclusion of food waste aspects in the environmental and waste concepts required by point 38 of the notified draft for certain public events in the Vienna region.

The Commission invites the Austrian authorities to take into account the above comments.

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<sup>2</sup> (2) Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives, OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3.

The Commission furthermore recalls that once the definitive text has been adopted, it must be communicated to the Commission in accordance with Article 5(3) of Directive (EU) 2015/1535.

Yours faithfully,

For the Commission

Sandra GALLINA  
Directorate-General for Health and  
Food Safety