



NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN AUSTRIA

Nr. 03/15

UPCOMING EVENTS

AMCHAM TALKS

Friday, April 24th 2015

08.15 a.m.

Hilton Vienna Plaza
1010 Vienna

**The Strong and Slow Drilling of
Hard Boards: Reform Politics in
Austria**

Speaker

Dkfm. Dr. Claus J. Raidl,

President, Oesterreichische

*Nationalbank and Spokesperson of
21st Austria*

AMCHAMS IN EUROPE CALL FOR INCREASED FOCUS ON MEMBER STATE ENGAGEMENT ON TTIP AT EU TRADE MINISTERS MEETING IN RIGA

We believe Member States must do more to engage with civil society and communicate to citizens the potential benefits of a transatlantic trade and investment agreement

We, the undersigned American Chambers of Commerce (AmChams) in Europe, welcome the discussion on more efficient Member State engagement on TTIP at the Informal Meeting of EU Trade Ministers in Riga, Latvia, on 24 March, 2015. We call for EU ministers to explore tangible steps to increase engagement with civil society and enhance the domestic debate on TTIP.

National governments have a key role to play in contributing to the EU-wide debate on TTIP. Efficient EU Member State engagement with the public on the benefits of a transatlantic agreement will allay stakeholder concerns on transparency, dispel myths that currently persist in the domestic and EU-wide debate, and ultimately lead to the emergence of a broad, fact-based discussion at all levels.

At the EU Trade Ministers meeting, ministers should identify concrete measures for Member States to:

- Communicate the benefits of TTIP to their citizens;
- Highlight measures already taken by Member States to increase transparency in the negotiation process – such as in making the negotiating mandate public –, as well as next steps;
- Improve dialogue with stakeholders at all levels on the key issues surrounding the debate, including by confronting the sensitive issues that are key to the agreement.

Member States should highlight to citizens the efforts already made on transparency, such as in the recent decision to make the negotiating mandate public. EU governments should also look to explain the scope and limitations of TTIP, as well as the negotiating process. Member States have collectively given the European Commission the mandate to negotiate with the US on their behalf and are being kept informed of its progress in regular meetings with the European Commission. It is important that this information finds its way back to your constituencies.

As a part of such an information campaign, Member States should continue to hold regular and active public consultations with domestic stakeholders across the board on key issues that surround TTIP. They should find ways of communicating more efficiently the potential benefits a TTIP agreement can bring; such as greater consumer choice, a more efficient business environment including specific gains for SMEs, and the strengthening of EU-US ties at a time of geopolitical uncertainty in Europe.

Member States should build on the positive efforts of the European Commission to implement a “fresh start” to TTIP negotiations – one based on increased transparency and improved civil dialogue. To maximise TTIP’s potential, EU countries must confront head-on the sensitive issues essential to an ambitious and comprehensive agreement. Only a comprehensive EU-wide approach to TTIP based on transparency, active stakeholder engagement and a commitment to high standards will produce an agreement that delivers the greatest value to EU citizens.

The undersigned AmCham’s in Europe are ready and committed to engage with their respective governments and with all domestic stakeholders to advance the debate on TTIP in the coming months.

Signed by 28 European AmChams



GOODS AND SERVICES DEFICIT

DOWN

The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, through the Department of Commerce, announced that the goods and services deficit was \$41.8 billion in January, down \$3.8 billion from \$45.6 billion in December, revised.

January exports were \$189.4 billion, down \$5.6 billion from December. January imports were \$231.2 billion, down \$9.4 billion from December. ■

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX DOWN

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the Producer Price Index for final demand fell 0.5 percent in February, seasonally adjusted.

Final demand prices moved down 0.8 percent in January and 0.2 percent in December. ■

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION UP

Industrial production increased 0.1 percent in February after decreasing 0.3 percent in January.

In February, manufacturing output moved down 0.2 percent, its third consecutive monthly decline. The rates of change for the total index in January and for manufacturing in both December and January are lower than previously reported. ■

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

DOWN

Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 295,000 in February, and the unemployment rate edged down to 5.5 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Job gains occurred in food services and drinking places, professional and business services, construction, health care, and in transportation and warehousing. ■

GDP INCREASED

Real gross domestic product - the value of the production of goods and services in the United States, adjusted for price changes - increased at an annual rate of 2.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014, according to the „second“ estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

In the third quarter, real GDP increased 5.0 percent. ■

CONSUMER PRICE INCREASED

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.2 percent in February on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Over the last 12 months, the all items index was unchanged before seasonal adjustment. ■

THE CONFERENCE BOARD

LEADING ECONOMIC INDEX®

The Conference Board Leading Economic Index® (LEI) for the U.S. increased 0.2 percent in February to 121.4 (2010 = 100), following a 0.2 percent increase in January, and a 0.4 percent increase in December.

“Widespread gains among the leading indicators continue to point to short-term growth,” said Ataman Ozyildirim, Economist at The Conference Board. “However, easing in the LEI’s six-month change suggests that we may be entering a period of more moderate expansion. With the February increase, the LEI remains in growth territory, but weakness in the industrial sector and business investment is holding economic growth back, despite improvements in labor markets and consumer confidence.” ■

UNITED STATES ECONOMIC DATA	%*	Period
GDP	+2.2	Q4 14
Industrial Prod.	+0.1	Feb. 15
Consumer Prices	+0.2	Feb. 15
Producer Prices	-0.5	Feb. 15
Leading Indicators	+0.2	Feb. 15
Unemployment	-0.2	Feb. 15
Def. bn \$	41.8	Jan. 15

*change previous period



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

3M

3M Named as a World's Most Ethical Company for Second Consecutive Year

In the fast-paced world of global business, it takes more than a written compliance policy to keep a company doing business the right way. That is why Ethisphere Institute, the global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practices, has named 3M as a 2015 World's Most Ethical Company® for the second time. The designation recognizes 3M's impact on the way business is conducted through its efforts of fostering a culture of ethics and transparency at every level of the company. "At 3M, living by our Code of Conduct is a team effort and a responsibility we uphold for our customers, for our shareholders and for each other," said Jim Zappa, 3M's chief compliance officer. "The commitment of our people to the highest ethical standard and to doing business the right way promotes trust with our customers and in the quality of our products. Furthermore, it gives us confidence to grow our business anywhere in the world." ■

AGRANA

AGRANA Successfully Concludes its Longest Ever Sugar Beet Processing Campaign

AGRANA successfully concluded its processing of sugar beet from the 2014/15 harvest at its sugar mills in Leopoldsdorf and Tulln. With processing periods of 176 days in Tulln and 177 days in Leopoldsdorf, these were AGRANA's longest ever campaigns in Austria. Despite the particularly high quantities of beet, which represented new challenges in terms of storage, logistics and technology in 2014/15, it was possible

to successfully overcome these in the course of this year's sugar beet processing campaign. In total, around one million tonnes of sugar, of which around 500,000 tonnes in Austria, were produced from 7.7 million tonnes of sugar beet. ■

DHL

DHL Certified as Top Employer Global 2015

DHL Express has been named as one of the first five companies in the world to be certified as a Top Employer Global 2015 and the only company to be certified in every continent around the world. The Top Employers Global Certification is a program organized by the Top Employers Institute, designed to recognize employers that globally create the optimal conditions for their employees to develop, professionally and personally. Employers are increasingly harmonizing their development conditions on a global scale and the new certification program aims to accelerate the creation of optimal employee conditions for employees, wherever they work.

DHL Express CEO Ken Allen said "We are delighted to receive this recognition from Top Employers Institute, which underscores DHL's dedication to creating outstanding employee conditions." ■

DLA PIPER

DLA Piper and the ECLA Launch the 3rd Edition of the Legal Professional Privilege Global Guide

Legal professional privilege, known as „attorney-client privilege“ in the US, protects the confidentiality of communications between lawyers and their clients and its scope and limitation varies greatly around the world. With companies more global

than ever before, it is of utmost importance that they are aware of the law in every country in which they operate, as well as how their interests can be protected by the lawyers they consult. The Legal Professional Privilege Global Guide comprises a thorough country by country panorama that shows where legal professional privilege exists, helping companies to understand the national and EU rules. The Guide explains when and what communication is protected and when it is not, allowing companies to negotiate the legal landscape and make informed decisions about the markets in which they operate. Edited by DLA Piper lawyer Michael Marelus, it also contrasts the different types of privilege available under competition law, civil procedure and criminal law. ■

SCHOENHERR

Schoenherr named Austrian Law Firm of the Year (2015) by The Lawyer

Schoenherr was recognized as "Law Firm of the Year: Austria (2015)" by The Lawyer at the renowned legal industry publication's European Awards in London.

„Top quality, speed and a solutions-oriented approach form the very core of our corporate philosophy. We are very pleased that our work is also receiving recognition and accolades at the international level,“ says Christoph Lindinger, Schoenherr's managing partner. The Lawyer's independent jury of 26 senior in-house counsels and senior partners from UK law firms selected Schoenherr as Austria's leading law firm, marking the third time in five years that Schoenherr has won this prestigious distinction. In addition to winning the "Best Law Firm of the Year" title for Austria, Schoenherr had also been shortlisted in four additional categories: Central Europe, Eastern Europe and the Balkans, Poland and Romania. ■

Warhol to Richter - Albertina

until April 12th, 2015

Albertina

1010 Vienna

The current Albertina Contemporary presentation highlights a small selection from the Albertina's ample holdings of contemporary art, which comprise some 20,000 works. Four positions are being addressed: The Impasto and Deformation after World War II – from Francis Bacon to Karel Appel; Comics and Celebrities – Prints and Paintings of American Pop; Gerhard Richter – Irony and Emancipation; Sigmar Polke and Maria Lassnig.



Since its foundation in 1776, art of the relevant period has always found a place at the centre of new acquisitions. In continuation of the tradition established at the very outset and observed by the collection's initiator, Albert von Sachsen-Teschen, contemporary works on paper are an essential ingredient of museum policy governing collections and exhibitions. The exhibition of the museum's own items of contemporary art, allowing insights into the most recent period of art history, is thus a core task for the Albertina and one which adheres closely to tradition. ■

Still Alice

now

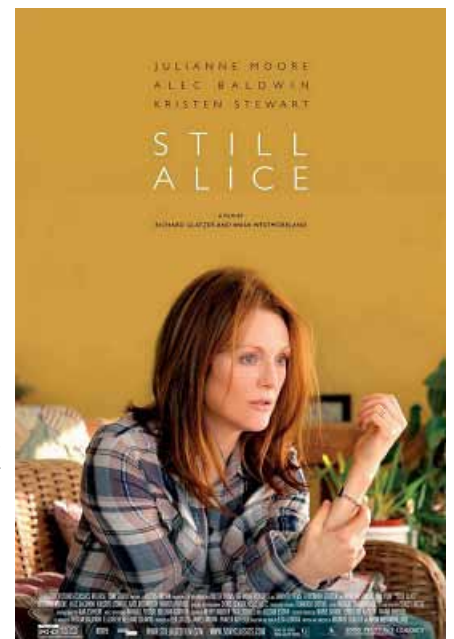
Artis International, Burg Kino, English Cinema Haydn, Votivkino OV

1010 Vienna

Still Alice is a 2014 American drama written and directed by Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland and based on Lisa Genova's 2007 bestselling novel of the same name.

Julianne Moore, who won the Oscar for best leading role, plays Dr. Alice Howland, a professor of linguistics at Columbia University, mother of three children and wife to John Howland (Alec Baldwin), learns that she is suffering from early onset Alzheimer's disease. After discovering it was genetically inherited from her father, her children test themselves to see if the disease has been passed to them. The eldest daughter, Anna (Kate Bosworth), tests positive. Anna is having twins, but they prove not to have the mutated gene. Her only son, Tom, a junior Doctor proves to be negative and her youngest daughter, Lydia (Kristen Stewart), decides not to be tested.

Alice's disease progresses, while relations with her family are strained from many separate directions, including the loss of her academic position, her husband's work demands, her continually increasing needs, and Lydia's elusive acting career. ■





PAST EVENTS GALLERY

THE 39 STEPS - JOHN BUCHAN AND ALFRED HITCHCOCK
AT THE VIENNA'S ENGLISH THEATRE ON MARCH 25TH



AMCHAM TALKS GESPONSERT VON PFIZER AM 27. MÄRZ MIT
DR. HARALD PICHLER, VIKTOR FRANKL ZENTRUM WIEN,

"Wirtschaft, Arbeit und die Frage nach dem Sinn - Motivation jenseits von Bonus & Status"



||| MARCELA CERNICKA



verstärkt als CEE Financial Controller das Gewerbeimmobilien-Unternehmen CBRE Österreich.

||| HEIDEMARIE PAULITSCH



wurde zur Rechtsberaterin bei Schoenherr befördert. Sie ist Spezialistin im Bereich Wirtschaftskriminalität und Compliance.

||| HERMANN ERLACH



ist neuer Leiter des Geschäftsbereichs Enterprise Services von Microsoft Österreich und neues Mitglied der Geschäftsleitung des Hard- und Software-Herstellers.

||| JÜRGEN REIMANN



verstärkt die Unternehmenskommunikation von Backaldrin The Kornspitz Company. Er war hier schon von 2006 bis 2011 tätig und dazwischen bei Doka für die PR verantwortlich.

||| SUSANNE JETSCHGO



Rechtsanwältin und langjährige Assistentin am Institut für Finanzrecht der Universität Wien, verstärkt seit 1. März die Steuerrechtspraxis bei DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach.

||| GÜNTHER STRENN



Geschäftsführer von USG Professionals ist nun auch Geschäftsführer von Secretary Plus Österreich. USG Professionals und Secretary Plus vereinen ab sofort ihre Leistungen unter einem gemeinsamen Dach.

||| MARCELL NÉMETH



ehemaliger Vice President Corporate & Investment Banking bei UniCredit Bank Austria, verstärkt zukünftig das Banking & Finance Team von Wolf Theiss in Wien.

||| ANNE WAHL



ist neue PR-Managerin des Palais Hansen Kempinski. In dieser Position verantwortet sie die gesamte Kommunikation des 5-Sterne-Hotels.

IMPRESSUM

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