

Austrian experiences with the new Parliamentary Budget Office

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Need for a Parliamentary Budget Office



- Strengthening of the parliamentary budgetary control
 - Additional reporting requirements for the Minister of Finance
- Comprehensive budget reform
 - Whole new system, new key-elements, New design of the budget documents, new information
- → Establishment of the new independent Parliamentary Budget Office

Establishment proceedings



- PBO shall
 - Work independently and ensure high-quality expertise
 - Submit analysis to all political parties
 - Ensure transparency and publish results on parliament's homepage
- unit of the Parliamentary Administration, within the Department of Legal, Legislative and Research Services, however the PBO has a specific mandate to support and consult Parliamentarians and especially the Budget Committee directly
- Main objectives:
 - To provide government-independent and objective analysis
 - To support Parliament, in particular the Budget Committee in budgetary matters

First experiences



- Good Relationship between PBO and MoF
- parliamentarians use the expertise intensively
- Provides great support
- Customer focus
- Direct access to MPs
- High quality performance, analysis are also useful for ministries
- Large interest
- Gives input for improvements and further development
- Equal treatment and equal distance to all political parties

Summary



- Parliamentary Budget Office left its start-up phase
- Very well established
- Ensuring independence
- Good reputation
- Vague ideas for further expanding



Thank you for your attention!

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