



Austria and the EU

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Overview

Profile of Austria

- Place on the map
- Size
- Economy
- Type of government
- Current government and elections
- History
- Neutrality

Relationship with the EU

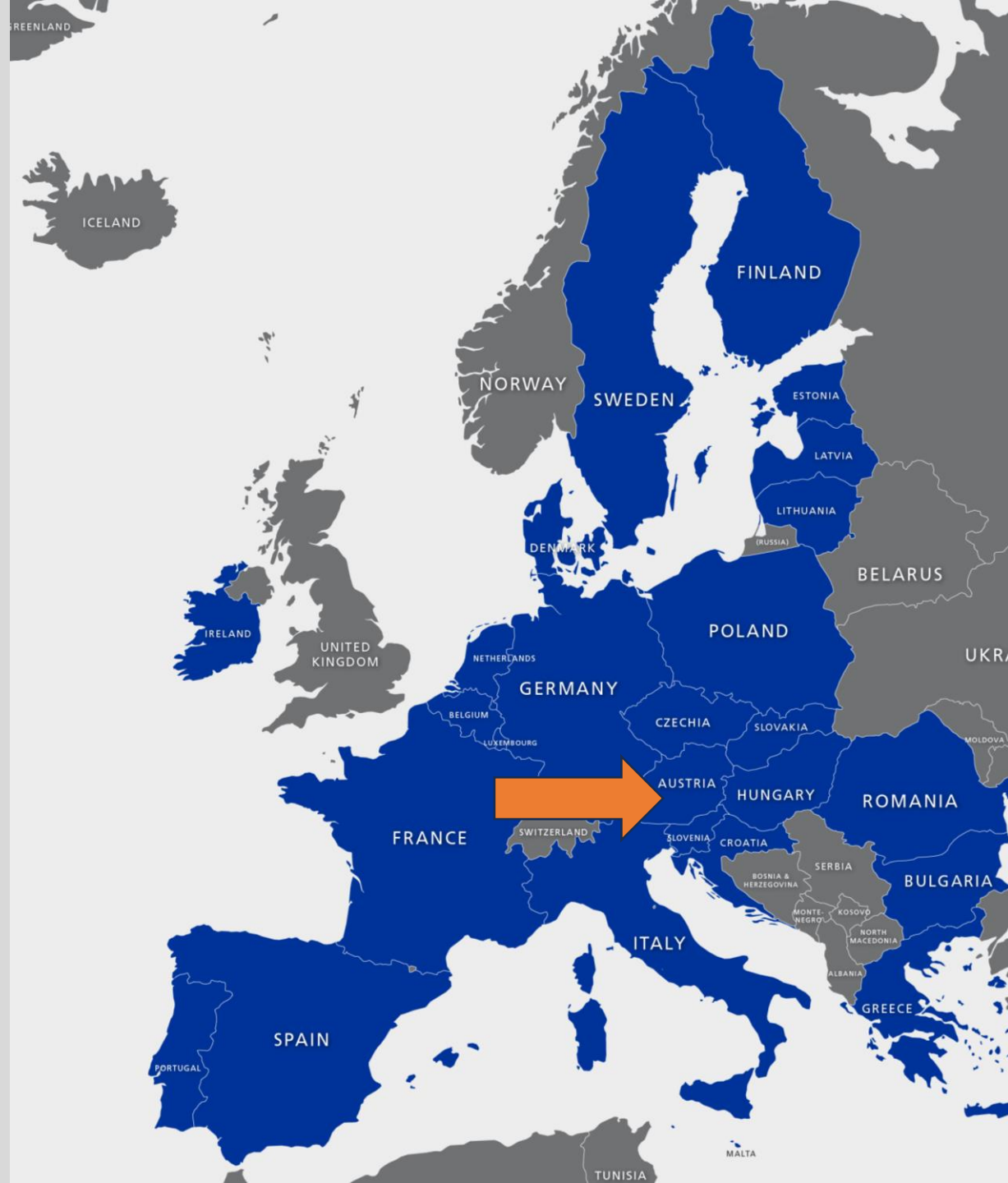
- Why did Austria join the EU when it did?
- What Europe does Austria want?
- EU “sanctions” against Austria

Euroscepticism in Austria

Rule of law crisis

Ukraine

Place on
the map





GERMANY

POLAND

CZECH
REPUBLIC

SLOVAKIA

VIENNA

AUSTRIA

SWITZERLAND

HUNGARY

SLOVENIA

CROATIA

ITALY

ADRIATIC SEA

Size

Small member state



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graph TD; A[Small member state] --> B[9,6 Million inhabitants]; B --> C[2% of EU population]; C --> D[Population continuously rising since 2014]
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9,6 Million inhabitants

2% of EU population

Population continuously rising since 2014

Economy

GDP per capita: 46 200 € / 5th in the EU

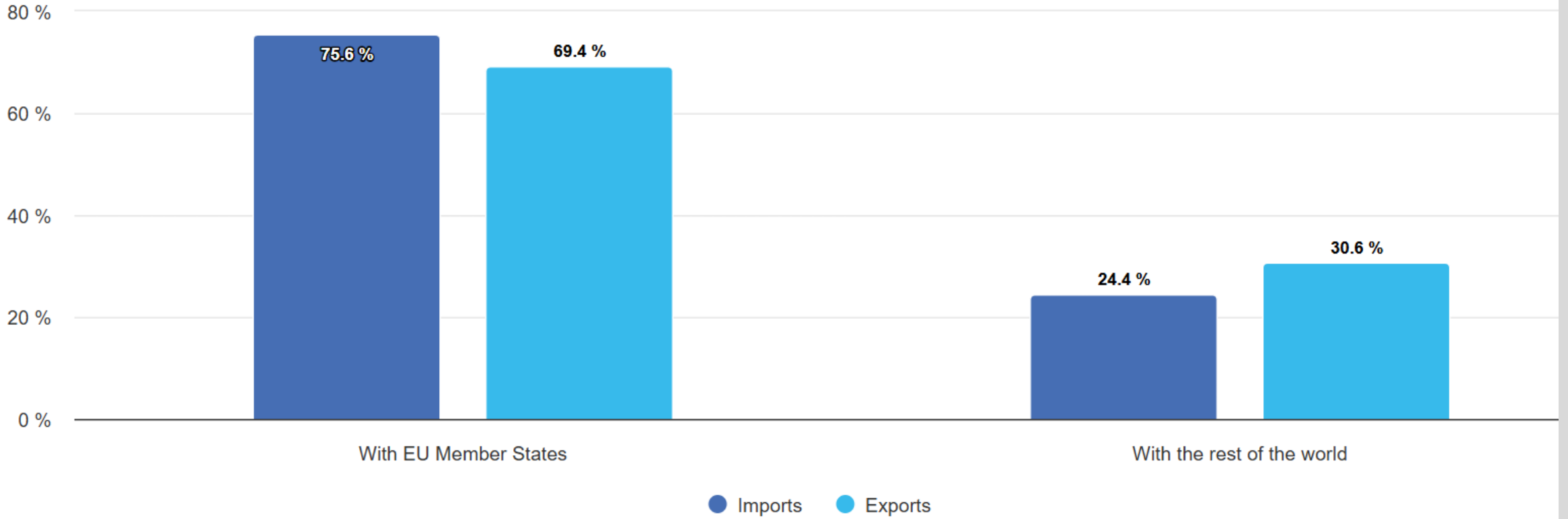
GDP is 123% of EU average

Debts: 78% of its GDP, between Portugal and Cyprus

Economic profit from the European membership

- Economic profit from the integration of eastern Europe into the EU

Austria's imports and exports in 2023



Type of government

Federal republic with 9 states (Bundesländer)

2 houses

- The directly elected upper house (Nationalrat)
- The lower house (Bundesrat) elected by regional governments

Semi presidential/ parliamentary democracy

- Chancellor - head of government
- President - head of state
- President is directly elected every six years by the people and appoints the government and the chancellor

Multi-party system with coalitions

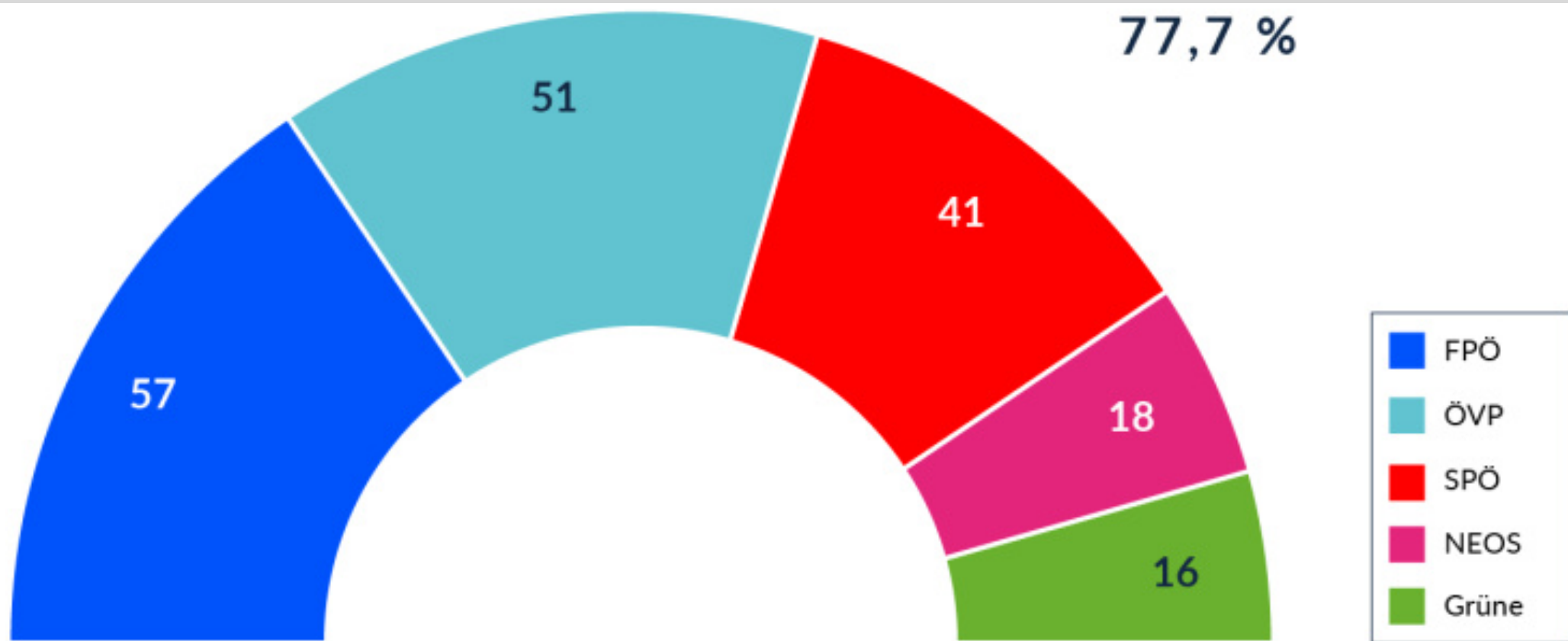
Current government and elections

Karl Nehammer = Chancellor, ÖVP

Coalition with the green party

Parliamentary election in October 2024

- The radical right party FPÖ got the most votes
- No other party wants to form a coalition with the head of the FPÖ as chancellor (Kickl)
- The current president has assigned Nehammer with the forming of a government



Wahlergebnis



Stand 4.10.2024, eigene Darstellung.

History

Austria-Hungary
empire from 1867-
1918

Austrofashism
1933 -1938

German annexation
1938-1945

- Participation in war and
Holocaust

Occupation by the
allies after WWII

Full sovereignty in
1955

1995: Signing of
neutrality
agreement

Neutrality

Especially important during th cold war

Former meaning: not joning any organisations that could be linked to one of the blocks

Non-alignment today

- Unprecise definition
- Still no NATO member, but different treatment of conflicting parties
- Participation in peace operations by the UN
- Neutrality enjoys high support by the public and is not questioned

Why and when did Austria join the European Union?

Application of entrance was sent 1989 to Brussels

1 January of 1995 Austria becomes a member state

- Following a positive referendum
- After Maastricht treaty (goal for monetary union and the perspective of a shared defence policy are established)
- Time of constraining dissensus

Why at this point?

- The neutrality agreement stopped Austria to join prior European Organizations
- Economic reasons (Uk leaving EFTA in 1973)
 - Stronger position towards third countries and increased security

What Europe does Austria want?

Time of joining

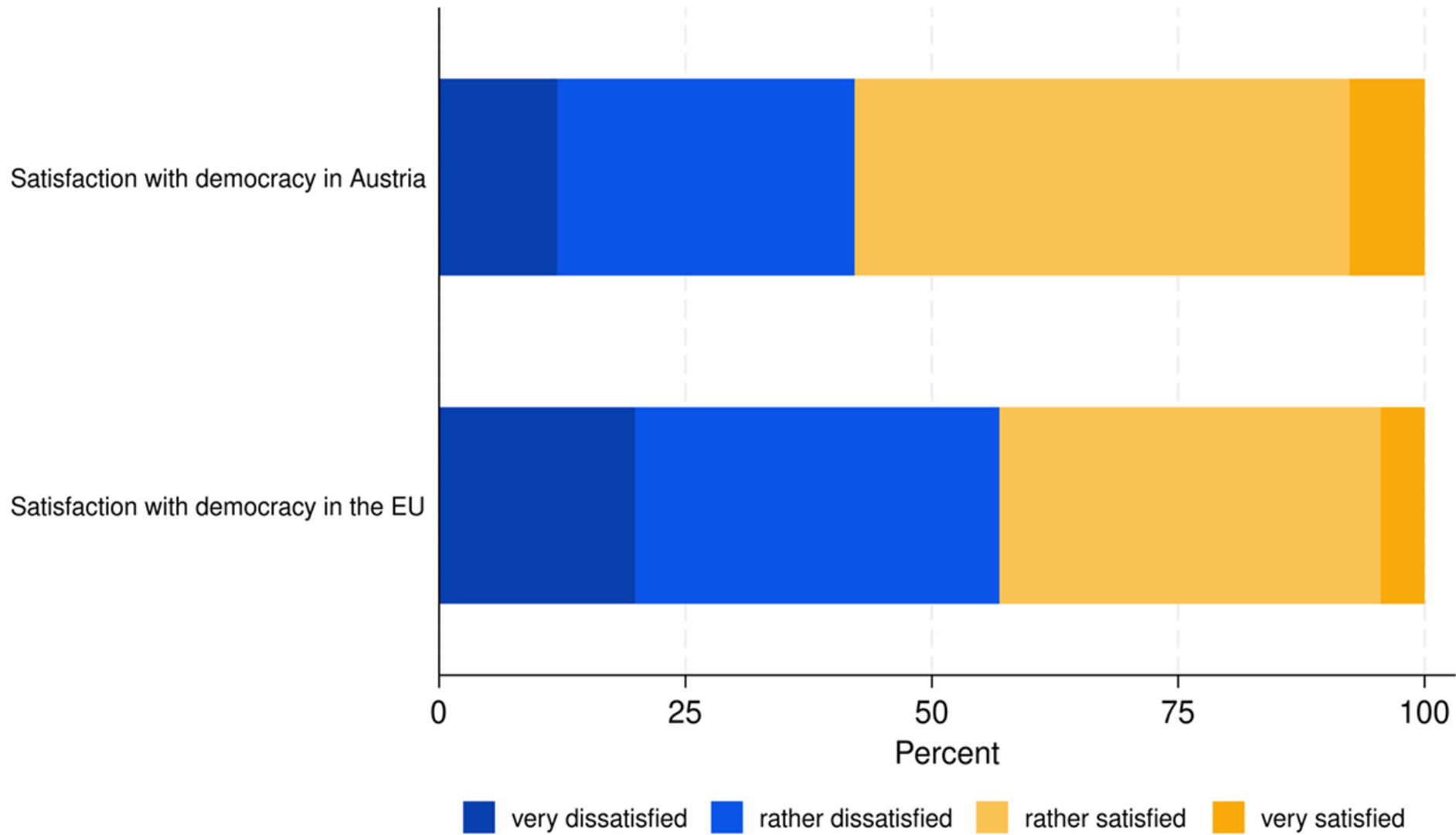
- Promised to take an active role, pushing further integration

Current government

- In favor of increased Re-nationalization in migration law
- Enlargement
 - Support for Bosnia Herzegovina's candidate status, green light for accession negotiations with Northern Macedonia and Albania
 - Reluctant towards negotiations with Ukraine and Moldow, against starting negotiations with Turkey

Public

- Support for enlargement has long been negative
- Only 26% want further unification of the EU



Source: ÖGfE Policy Brief 05/2024

EU „sanctions“ against Austria

Coalition between ÖVP and FPÖ (2000-2005)

- A coalition between SPÖ and ÖVP would have had enough seats, but negotiations failed

Bilateral sanctions by 14 member states

- No support for Austrian candidates for positions in IOs
- Austrian Ambassadors in EU capitals were only received on a technical level
- Were lifted only a few months later after a report of three „wise persons“

Effects

- No obvious harm to the government
- FPÖ and other populist parties did not experience a loss of popularity

COUNTRY	% AGREE	% DISAGREE
POLAND	47	45
ITALY	42	51
CROATIA	41	51
AUSTRIA	41	50
ROMANIA	39	55
SLOVENIA	37	58
BULGARIA	35	46
CYPRUS	35	59
BELGIUM	34	63
CZECH REPUBLIC	32	61
HUNGARY	32	62
FRANCE	31	57
EU-27 AVERAGE	30	63

Source: OGTÉ Policy Briet 05/2024

Rule of law crisis

Close geographical and economical relationships with countries affected by the crisis

- Close historical ties with Hungary and until today third largest investor in Hungary

Austria fears crisis in rule of law and corruption will lead to change in the fiscal policy and the economic relationships

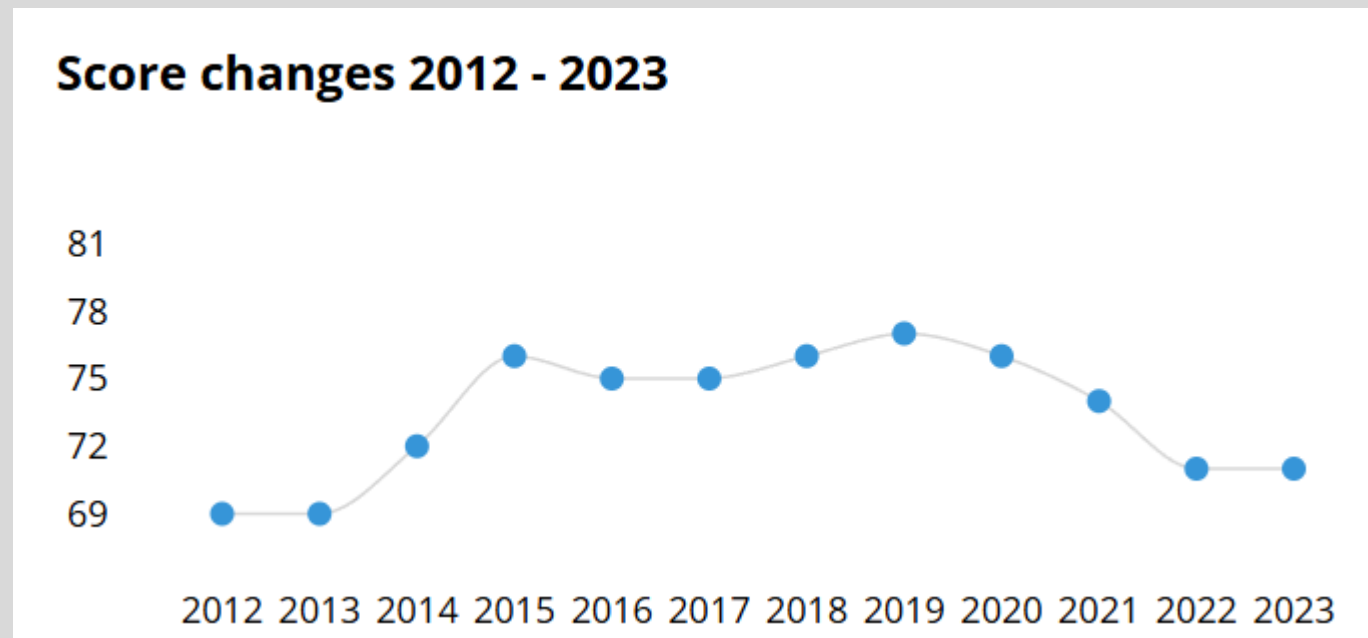
Demands EU budget to be closely linked to rule of law criteria

At the same time wants to keep friendly and economic relationships with the concerned states

- Austria did not join statement from EU member states to the emergency laws of Orban that gave him extensive power in 2020

Rule of law crisis

- Austria experiences a rise in populism (FPÖ)
- Corruption



100 is no corruption
0 highest amount of corruption

Ukraine

Neutrality – no weapons are sent but support through money and goods


FPÖ demands less support for Ukraine

- Criticises EU sanctions
- Protest against Zelensky speaking in parliament

Russia has stopped sending gas to Austria in mid-November 2024

Austria is against security guarantees for Ukraine after the end of the war



A scenic mountain landscape. In the foreground, there are green plants with pink and white flowers. In the middle ground, a small building with a grey roof is visible in a valley. The background features a range of blue mountains under a clear sky. A rocky cliffside is visible on the right side of the image.

Thank you for your
attention!

-any Questions?

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