



In cooperation with:



Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia
to the Republic of Austria

Honorary Consulate of Slovenia
in Lower Austria

18th VIENNA ECONOMIC FORUM VIENNA FUTURE DIALOGUE 2021

Economy meets Politics in a Digital World

During the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2021

Energy Transition
Infrastructure and Financial Challenges
for the Countries of the VEF Region

Monday, 22 November 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (CET)
House of Industry (Federation of Austrian Industries), Vienna



Mag. Thomas ARNOLDNER

CEO, A1 Telekom Austria Group



Member of the Board of
Vienna Economic Forum

Digital infrastructure is the key for future growth, competitiveness and prosperity of our societies.

As **A1 Telekom Austria Group** we are a proud provider of digital tools and infrastructure. We are active in 7 CEE countries together with our 18.000 employees and 25 million customers trusting the A1 brand.

Especially during challenging times of COVID-19 restrictions, telecommunication networks enable us to communicate remotely and work or learn from home. Imagine how we would have coped with this crisis 20- 30 years ago.

In order to enhance the coverage and quality of our networks, we are **investing more than 800 million euros annually** in the expansion. There are rarely other infrastructures where the share of private investment is so high, and the technological evolution is so challenging.

Therefore, an investment friendly regulatory framework is of utmost importance for us.

Recent **5G auctions in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia and Slovenia**, where infrastructure build out obligations were prioritized over the price of the spectrum, are a blueprint for other countries. Providing state of the art 5G networks for its businesses and citizens must be of highest concern for all countries within the region. **Within an investment friendly environment, we are committed to continue investing and offering our customers highest quality networks.**