

Consul General of Austria Mr. Thomas Schnoell



Thomas Schnoell is a career diplomat and was appointed Consul General of Austria in Chicago in January 2010. Mr. Schnoell earned a Masters Degree in Law from Johannes Kepler University in Linz before joining the Austrian Foreign Ministry in 1997.

From 2007-2009, Mr. Schnoell attended the prestigious French graduate school *Ecole nationale d'administration*. Notable alumni of the school include some of France's most important political and economic leaders, such as former presidents Jacques Chirac and François Mitterrand.

In 1998 he was posted to the Austrian Embassy in Paris, where he dealt with French internal politics and consular affairs. He also worked to bolster the tense bilateral relations between Austria and France resulting from the formation of a new Austrian coalition government that included Joerg Haider's Freedom Party in 2000.

In 2001 he was posted to the Permanent Representation of Austria to the European Union in Brussels, where he was responsible for the Western Balkans and covered most of the Successor States of the former Yugoslavia. This region is a foreign policy priority for Austria, which has special cultural, political and economic ties to these states.

Mr. Schnoell returned to Vienna in 2004, where he was appointed Head of Unit for the Western Balkans. His tenure was particularly challenging as, during this period, Montenegro became an independent country and negotiations concerning the status of Kosovo took place partly in Vienna, leading also to the independence of this former region of Serbia.

After his experience in Europe, notably in the EU and South Eastern Europe, Mr. Schnoell now faces a completely different challenge with his appointment as Head of Mission in Chicago.