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Dear readers, Dear visitors to Vienna,

Hundred years after the outbreak of World War I the former enemies elect a joint European Parliament. Though we tend to forget it after the difficult developments of the past years, we should be aware that the European Union has been very successful indeed. The EU is a peace project that has brought the citizens of the various European countries closer together. Vienna, too, has benefited from the EU both economically and individually, in spite of all challenges posed by the economic crisis. Many problems cannot be solved at the national level. The Vienna City Government is committed to convincing the European partners that a strong public sector providing services of general economic interest is of key importance when it comes to guaranteeing high quality of life for all citizens.

Thanks to the EU, Vienna has become even more colourful and vibrant. By now it has some 217,000 residents born in other EU member states. Their dreams and ideas, their concerns and issues contribute to and inspire our city's development.

On occasion of the EU elections on 25 May 2014, City of Vienna Department for Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics (MA 23) has decided to compile relevant data on Vienna in a European context. The present publication compares different EU capitals in terms of demographic data (such as population density, age, education levels), general attractiveness, and economic situation (e.g. purchasing power, labour market statistics). As a whole, Vienna scores remarkably well here. Further statistics focus on economic relations (foreign trade) and research cooperation projects by businesses and organisations based in Vienna with partners in other EU countries.

In brief, the data compiled here provide an insight into Vienna's mutual contacts to other EU member states, and illustrate the performance of the Austrian federal capital in comparison with other EU capital cities.

I am confident it will make interesting and enjoyable reading.



