

PRESS RELEASE

Book Launch “Freedom of Information Act” at bpv Huegel

Recently, a new publication by bpv Huegel partner Priv.-Doz. DDr. Christian F. Schneider was released.

Vienna, 03 July 2025. On 25 June 2025, bpv Huegel hosted the book launch of the newly published commentary on the Freedom of Information Act (IFG), authored by partner Priv.-Doz. DDr. Christian F. Schneider. The event took place at the firm’s premises and brought together numerous guests from the legal profession, universities, administration and the courts.

The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Albert Posch, Head of the Austrian Federal Chancellery’s Constitutional Service and future President of the Supreme Administrative Court. He emphasized the central role of freedom of information for the transparency of government action and provided insight into the legislative process.

Published by Verlag Österreich, the book focuses on the new freedom of information package, which will enter into force on 1 September 2025. This reform introduces significant changes: the current provisions on official secrecy and the duty to provide information will be repealed and replaced by a constitutional right to freedom of information and a proactive obligation for public authorities to disclose information of general interest.

In contrast to the current legal framework, individuals will in general have the right to access original documents in the future. Moreover, nearly all entities subject to the control by the Austrian Court of Audit will fall under the scope of the new law. Nevertheless, certain confidentiality interests – such as national security or privacy concerns – must still be weighed against the public’s right to information. As a result, there is an increased need for legal guidance, both for entities obligated to provide information and for those seeking access thereto, and also for third parties whose rights may be affected by disclosure.

Schneider, FOIA – Freedom of Information Act. Commentary.

339 pages, hardcover.

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About bpv Huegel

As one of Austria's leading law firms, bpv Huegel advises national and international clients in all sectors. It is regarded as the first address for highly complex mandates, the handling of which requires specialised tax and legal knowledge, many years of experience and economic understanding.

With its Brussels office, bpv Huegel has a competence centre for EU law, European merger and antitrust law as well as regulatory and public procurement law located directly at the European institutions. bpv Huegel is a member of the "bpv LEGAL" alliance with offices in Bratislava, Bucharest, Budapest and Prague and thus offers tailor-made solutions throughout CEE. In addition, the firm has long-standing cooperation agreements with leading international law firms worldwide. The full-service law firm was founded in 1979 and is represented in Austria by offices in Vienna, Baden and Salzburg, where it employs around 100 staff, including around 50 lawyers.

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