

PRESS RELEASE

Podcast: The new Freedom of Information Act (IFG) in practice

In the eleventh episode of the legal podcast “Wo Recht lebt” (Where Law Lives), Georg Miernitzki and Christian F. Schneider discuss the far-reaching implications of the new Freedom of Information Act (IFG) on administration and legal protection with host Roman Tronner.

21 November 2025. The discussion focuses on the implementation of the constitutional right of access to government information, the handling of trade and business secrets, and questions of legal protection for third parties whose confidentiality interests are affected. Special attention is also given to the challenges for municipalities, outsourced institutions, and private entities, which may also be subject to disclosure requirements in the future.

The two experts critically examine those aspects that are already considered particularly sensitive in practice: the lack of legal standing of affected third parties, the influence of existing confidentiality agreements, and several enforcement issues that remain unsolved. The podcast episode thus offers a concise guide for anyone who wants to understand how transparency should be implemented after the abolition of the official secrecy.

About the experts:

Dr. Georg Miernitzki is deputy head of the Municipalities Department at the Lower Austrian State Government. He publishes regularly on constitutional and administrative law topics, in particular on the right of access to information, and is the author of the commentary *IFG – Freedom of Information Act* (NWV/Verlag Österreich 2024). His statements in the podcast reflect his personal opinion only.

Priv.-Doz. DDr. Christian F. Schneider is a partner and head of the Public Economic Law department at bpv Hugel. His areas of expertise include energy, telecommunications, environmental, and public procurement law, as well as European law. He has also published a commentary on the Freedom of Information Act (IFG) (Verlag Österreich, 2025).

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ00NzNmLFQ&list=PLMHCnPBq42M-e-cZg3W70pvwb4CJ-2IUx&index=3>

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About bpv Huegel

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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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