

**MEMORY OF THE WORLD INTERNATIONAL REGISTER
NOMINATION FORM**

Austria - Final Document of the Congress of Vienna

PART A - ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Abstract:

The Congress of Vienna had a major influence on the history of the world, transcending the boundaries of a national culture. It decided upon a new political settlement for Europe after the Napoleonic wars which determined the political system for over half a century and whose impact in some aspects is still discernible. It provided the conditions for a long period of peace in Europe and redefined the political relations between the major European powers on an equal footing.

1. Identity and Location:

Name of the Documentary Heritage: Final document of the Congress of Vienna (Acte final du Congrès de Vienne), 1815 June 9 (Austrian copy)

Country: Austria

State, Province or Region: Vienna

Address: A-1030 Wien, Nottendorfgasser 2/ A-1010 Wien, Minoritenplatz 1

Name of Institution: Austrian State Archives (Österreichisches Staatsarchiv)/ Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv

2. Legal information:

Owner: Federal Republic of Austria

Custodian: Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv

Legal Status:

- *Category of ownership:* public
- *Details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage:* provisions customary for the preservation of archival holdings
- *Accessibility:* for reasons of preservation only restricted accessibility (scholarly research, exhibitions)
- *Copyright status:* copyright with the owner resp. Austrian State Archives/ Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv
- *Responsible administration:* Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv

3. Identification:

Description: Paper, 220 folios, with red velvet binding and gilded clasps showing the coat of arms of the eight main signatories (Austria, Great Britain, Russia, Prussia, France, Spain, Sweden, Portugal), 38: 25 cm
Inventory: Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv, Allgemeine Urkundenreihe 1815 VI 9

Bibliographic details: 150 Jahre Wiener Kongreß (Catalogue), Vienna 1965, p.175, V Nr. 7

History: Quellen zur Geschichte des Wiener Kongresses 1814/15, ed by Klaus Müller, Darmstadt 1986

Bibliography: as history

4. Management plan:

Statement of the significance of the documentary heritage: The Final Document of the Congress of Vienna : The Congress of Vienna 1814-1815 settled the political map of Europe after the Napoleonic wars and created a new balance between the political powers which provided the continent with a period of stability lasting for more than three decades. The Congress convened, with many European monarchs and heads of state, in the city of Vienna, and for its duration the city became the centre of international diplomacy. It was organised, and to some extent dominated, by the personality of Prince Clemens Wenzel Lothar Metternich, who was later to become Austrian State Chancellor. The most important results of the negotiations were the establishment of a new political order in central Europe and Italy and the formation of the German League (Deutscher Bund). The Congress also dealt with a series of important international issues, ranging from the regulation of international naval traffic to the abolition of slavery. The neutrality of Switzerland was also prepared by the Congress and remains one of its lasting contributions to the political geography of Europe. Talleyrand's flippant bon mot, "Le Congrès ne marche pas, il danse" casually glosses over the capacity of this assembly of industrious diplomats, who, during this theatrical occasion, worked with great success behind the spectacular scenery, to achieve their respective aims.

The final document of the congress dates from the 9th June 1815 and is preserved in the Wiener Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv which is a department of the Austrian State Archives. The complete document comprises over one hundred articles and represents the deliberations and outcomes of one of the most important events of the previous century, the resolutions of which were to have major ramifications for the subsequent history of the entire world. The Austrian copy, which is one of eight presented to the signatory powers - Austria, France, Great Britain, Portugal, Prussia, Russia, Spain and Sweden - is of particular aesthetic interest. It is made up of 220 folios elegantly bound into a red, plush velvet binding, bearing ornamental gilded clasps in the form of the coats of arms of the above mentioned, eight main signatory countries. Austria, as the country which hosted this momentous occasion, feels obliged to propose the inclusion of this important document for registration within the International Register of UNESCO's "Memory of the World" Programme.

Access policy and procedures: restricted access to minimize risks of handling by staff and users (see above)

Preservation procedures: control of temperature and humidity according to the required levels; the document is only exposed to light when on display for exhibitions or when used for scholarly research. The document is in very good condition, only the sealing wax might need repair in the future for which a special research would be necessary.

Preservation facilities: Restoration workshop staffed with persons and equipped with the usual necessary equipment.

5. Assessment against the Selection Criteria:

- **Influence:** The Congress of Vienna had a major influence on the history of the world, transcending the boundaries of a national culture. It decided upon a new political settlement for Europe after the Napoleonic wars which determined the political system for over half a century and whose impact in some aspects is still discernible. It provided the conditions for a long period of peace in Europe and redefined the political relations between the major European powers on an equal footing.

- **Time:** The Congress of Vienna being a starting point for the shaping of Europe and for some aspects of world-wide relations in the 19th century, its final document reflects in an outstanding way a period of important change in European and World history.

- **Place:** The Vienna Congress brought together a large number of European monarchs and statesmen. For more than a year Vienna became the capital of European diplomacy. Therefore the final document has a special association with the life and work of all these monarchs and statesmen which is also indicated by the signatures and seals of such important statesmen as Metternich, Talleyrand or Hardenberg.

- **Subject/Theme:** The document reflects in an outstanding way important subjects of world history and culture. Its more than one hundred articles and annexes cover a wide range of issues including free navigation and the abolition of slave trade.

- **Form and Style:** With its velvet binding and its gilded clasps the document is also significant for its aesthetic value. The document is one of eight originals (each for one signatory) of which it is not certain whether they are still all existing.

6. Consultation:

Consultation with the institution in charge of custody (Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv)

7. Nominator:

Name: Prof. Dr. Lorenz Mikoletzky

Relationship to the documentary heritage: Director general of the Austrian State Archives

PART B - SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

8. Assessment of risk:

- Nature and scope of threats to the documentary heritage:

Because of its outstanding value the document has always been handled with utmost care and is, on the whole, not endangered. A future problem might be constituted by the fragility of the sealing wax for which until now no methods of adequate restoration are known. Progress in this field of conservation would demand a specific research programme.