

Dr. Barbara Kolm



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Kolm Barbara, Mag. Dr., Secretary General of the Friedrich August v. Hayek Institute in Vienna, Austria.

Having studied business administration she started working in her family's firm which she left in 1994 being the head of administration and acquisition to become an assistant professor at the Department of Tourism and Service Economics at the University of Innsbruck. In her thesis she dealt with labour market economics. At the same time she started her own business consultancy and, finally, left the University in 1997. Having always been interested in free market and liberal ideas she accepted an invitation to join the F. A. v. Hayek Institute in fall 2000. She expanded the activities of the Institute and restructured them by laying emphasis on fundraising, reorganizing and by making more people acquainted with the Institute.

The revival of the Austrian School of Economics in its native country, where it had meanwhile been forgotten and neglected for a long time, is the mission of the Institute.

She concentrated her work on three fields of interest. First: classic think-tank-work and publishing, e.g. the Institute publishes "The National Library of Austrian Economics". Second: teaching and students' activities. The Institute takes pride in the world's first endowed Hayek chair, held by Prof. Watrin, followed by Prof. Vanberg and Prof. Vaughn et al.

Third: events, such as workshops, international conferences, and discussion sessions with the goal of enlightening the public and promoting the ideas of free market economics. Within the past two years her work has twice been recognized by the Atlas Economic Research Foundation, as the Hayek Institute took home the prestigious Templeton Freedom Award in both 2005 and 2006.

Being a worldwide networker she uses these abilities to promote free market policies; in addition she is a frequent speaker on public policy related issues, especially on deregulation and competition topics, and Austrian Economics at universities and international conferences. Details www.hayek-institut.at

Barbara Kolm is a member of the Board of Business Consultants of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, responsible for new market approaches and questions of training and a Member of the Mont Pélerin Society. She is President of the European Center of Economic Growth.