



European  
Social  
Charter

Charte  
sociale  
européenne



30/11/2025

RAP/ RCha /AUT/12(2024)

## **EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER**

**Comments submitted by the Austrian Federal  
Economic Chamber concerning the**

12<sup>th</sup> National Report on the implementation of  
the European Social Charter

submitted by

**THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA**

Articles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 20

**CYCLE 2024**

## Comments of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber concerning the additional questions concerning Austria's 12<sup>th</sup> report

### Article 3.2

Please provide information on:

- *the measures taken to ensure that self-employed workers are protected by occupational health and safety regulations;*
- *the number of domestic workers classified as self-employed under national law and the extent to which they are protected by occupational health and safety regulations (also in light of discussion on this point in Conclusions 2021, Austria).*

With regard to the question on **employee protection for self-employed persons**, the **Austrian Federal Economic Chamber** referred to its response to the same question last year and noted the following in particular:

“With regard to health and safety for self-employed persons (Art. 3 (2) and (3)), we would like to point out, as in previous statements, that interference in the working conditions of self-employed persons would be contrary to freedom of occupation and the nature of self-employment.

Furthermore, there is no counterpart that could act as an employer counterpart.

In order to appeal to the personal responsibility of self-employed persons, we would like to draw attention to the following offers from the Social Insurance Institution for Trade and Industry (SVA), which contribute to maintaining and improving the health of self-employed persons:

The SVA promotes prevention among self-employed persons through the following measures:

#### Healthy and independent

Insured persons who actively contribute to maintaining their health pay only half the deductible – i.e., 10 percent instead of 20 percent for all medical and dental treatment. Five values that everyone can influence through their lifestyle are at the heart of this program:

- Blood pressure
- Weight
- Exercise
- Tobacco
- Alcohol

Based on these values, the family doctor works with the insured person to set personal health goals as part of a health check. If all values are normal, the health goal is simply “maintain health.” If the results indicate a need for action, the goal is “improve health.” If the goal is to improve health, the doctor and patient work together to determine how to improve one or more values.

A deadline for achieving success is also set. Measures to improve individual values can include, for example, more exercise, quitting smoking, or adopting a lifestyle that lowers blood pressure. The SVA's health and prevention programs can provide support in implementing individual goals. At the end of the agreed period (at least six months), there is another consultation with the doctor. This meeting is used to check whether the health goals have been achieved (“evaluation meeting”). If the personal health goals have been achieved, the eligibility requirements for a 50% reduction in the deductible are met. The deductible for all medical and dental services is then only 10% instead of 20%. New health goals are

also defined during this consultation. Offers from the SVA to support self-employed persons in achieving their health goals can be found here:

[SVS-Gesundheitswochen](#)

The SVA Gesundheitshunderter: [Themen und Programme](#) supports self-employed persons in health-promoting activities in the following areas:

- Exercise (e.g., strength training, back strengthening, personal training, Pilates, etc.)

Nutrition (e.g., weight loss, sports nutrition, nutrition in old age, support for food intolerances, etc.)

Stress/burnout (e.g., coaching and counseling, diagnosis of stress, etc.)

Relaxation/bodywork (e.g., yoga, tai chi, massage, shiatsu, etc.)

Smoking cessation – counseling and support during withdrawal

After successfully participating in a quality-assured program (e.g. no-smoking camps) or an individual program (independent health promotion measures worth at least €150), you can apply for the SVA health hundred at the relevant state office. Up to four health vouchers can be claimed per year.

### Mental health

The SVA also offers special support for maintaining mental health, which you can find here:

[Seelische Gesundheit](#)”

Regarding the question of **domestic workers**, the **Austrian Federal Economic Chamber** provided a link to statistics on personal advisors and caregivers:

[Link zur Statistik zu den Personenberatern und Personenbetreuern.](#)