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Karin Kneissl who holds a Ph.D in international law (on the notion of borders in the Middle East) studied law and oriental languages at Vienna University 1983-87.

She completed her postgraduate diplomas at various universities in the Middle East, and was Fulbright scholar at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Ecole Nationale d'Administration ENA in Paris. Furthermore she studied in Urbino/Italy.

From 1989 to 1998 she served in the Austrian Foreign Service (Middle East Desk, Cabinet of the Minister, Office of the Legal Advisor, posted in Paris and Madrid).

Since 1999 she has been an independent researcher and lecturer. The focus of her teaching and publishing encompasses the Middle East, energy issues and international law. She regularly lectures at the Université Saint Joseph in Beirut, at the European Business School in Hessen/Germany, the Diplomatic Academy Vienna as well as the National Defence College.

Ever since 2002 she has been commenting for the Austrian radio and TV broadcaster ORF, whenever political developments in the Middle and the events in the energy market require it. Ms. Kneissl has authored numerous books on the Middle East. For details see www.kkneissl.com

Karin Kneissl is Vice-President of the Austrian Society for Politico-Military Studies, STRATEG; she was on the scientific board of the European Forum Alpbach, was an elected municipal counsellor of her community Seibersdorf and holds various positions in non-profit organizations; inter alia he co-founded whistleblowing Austria and Médecins Sans Frontières Austria. She lives and works south of Vienna where she runs a tiny farm.