

## Christian Wehrschoetz CV (English)

Mag. Christian Wehrschütz, a "devoted Styrian" and Balkan expert, was born on October 9, 1961, in Graz. In November 1999, he was appointed as an ORF Correspondent in Belgrade and covers the entire former Yugoslavia and Albania.

He has been with ORF since 1991: first spending eight months in the "Teletext" editorial team, then seven years in ORF radio. In July 1999, he went to Brussels for a few months as the third correspondent. The trained lawyer and militia officer speaks 8 foreign languages (English, Russian, Ukrainian, Serbian (very well), French (well), Slovenian (well), Macedonian (passively very well), Albanian (good basic knowledge)).

ORF journalist Christian Wehrschütz sheds light on the bloody disintegration of Yugoslavia, particularly the developments after 2000, in his book *"Im Kreuzfeuer - Am Balkan zwischen Brüssel und Belgrad"* (Molden Verlag). In his 2013 book *"Brennpunkt Balkan - Blutige Vergangenheit, ungewisse Zukunft"*, he also examines the situation in the Balkans. In his 2014 book *"Brennpunkt Ukraine - Gespräche über ein gespaltenes Land"*, he speaks with influential politicians, political and military figures—on both the Ukrainian volunteer side and the pro-Russian rebels—as well as with "ordinary" people.

In 2014, Christian Wehrschütz was named "Journalist of the Year" by the editorial team of *Der österreichische Journalist*.

Source: <http://kundendienst.orf.at/orfstars/wehrschoetz.html>

Mag. Wehrschütz Ferdinand Christian

Born: October 9, 1961, in Graz

Correspondent for ORF covering the Balkans, based in Belgrade, and Ukraine, based in Kyiv; previously an editor in the Foreign Affairs editorial department of ORF's television service; from August to December 1999, served as the third correspondent for ORF in Brussels; previously worked for seven years in ORF radio's news editorial department.

Longstanding member of the IISS (International Institute for Strategic Studies) and the Royal United Services Institute in London.

Police officer in Austrian Army: holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the higher military specialist service.

Married, father of two adult daughters, Immanuela and Michaela. Wife: Elisabeth.

Language skills: English, Russian, Ukrainian, Serbian (very good), French (good), Slovenian (good), Macedonian (passively very good), Albanian (basic proficiency).

Professional Development:

- Completed four years of elementary school in July 1972.
- Graduated high school (Matura) on June 6, 1980, in Graz.
- 1980 to 1981: Trained as a police officer; served for several years as an information officer at Theresianum, a private high school in Vienna. Current rank: Major.

Participated in a special weapons training in Graz in 1994 and trained as a foreign language officer for Russian and Ukrainian.

- 1981 to 1985: Studied at the Faculty of Law and the Institute of Slavic Studies at the University of Graz.
- 1984: Four-week internship at the “Kleine Zeitung” in Graz.
- November 1985: Awarded the degree of Mag. Jur.; thesis titled “The Stock Corporation Act as an Analogy Basis for Savings Bank Organization Law.”
- 1985/86: Completed basic and advanced journalist training courses.
- 1986: (July to October), South Africa Foundation scholarship recipient; worked at the Johannesburg law firm Webber & Wentzel.
- 1987: (May 1), Appointed editor-in-chief of “Neue Freie Zeitung” (weekly).
- 1988: (March/April), Traveled to Great Britain and Hungary with the Austrian Journalists' Club and the Journalist Training Council.
- 1988: (July), Four-week internship at “Neue Zürcher Zeitung” in the foreign affairs and economic section (contributed book reviews regularly to the “Political Book” page).
- 1988: (September), One-week trip to NATO centers in Brussels, Frankfurt, and Naples at the invitation of the U.S. Embassy.
- 1989: (April), Four-day trip to Moscow, including meetings with the editor-in-chief of “Izvestia.”
- 1989: (June), One-week trip to Libya for the 20th anniversary of the revolution.
- 1989: (October), One-week stay in East Germany for the 40th anniversary celebrations.
- 1990: (April), Information trip to Japan with the Austrian Journalists' Club.
- 1990: (October), Political Club Berlin (PKB) meeting in Athens on EU southern expansion, Mediterranean policy, and NATO's southern flank.
- 1990: (November), PKB meeting in Paris at the Institut Français des Relations Internationales on the impact of German reunification on European security policy; one-week information trip to Cyprus at the invitation of the Cypriot government.
- 1990: (December), PKB conference in Berlin on European security policy.
- 1991: (January), One-week information trip to Hong Kong.
- 1991: (May 1), Joined ORF's Teletext editorial department.
- 1992: (January 1), Moved to ORF radio's current affairs service; responsible editor and on-air news editor for World News and Blue Danube Radio.
- 1992: (February), Annual conference of the Academy for Security and Cooperation (ASZE) in Berlin on the European integration process.
- 1992: (April), First information trip to Kyiv.
- 1992: (July/August), Three-week stay in southern Ukraine, working on a study on “Ukraine on the Path to Becoming an Eastern European Regional Power?”
- 1992: (September), ASZE conference in Sofia on the Balkans.
- 1992: (October), WEU Institute conference in Paris on Europe's military-political development, focusing on the Yugoslav crisis.
- 1993: (February), ASZE annual conference on European security.
- 1993: (June), Two-week French language course in Cannes.
- 1993: (August), Four-week study stay in southern Ukraine (Donetsk), focusing on Russian-Ukrainian relations.
- 1994: (Late March to mid-April), Three-week stay in western Ukraine (Chernivtsi) to deepen Ukrainian language skills.
- 1994: (June 6 to September 16), Stay with the military to complete military interpreter training for Russian and Ukrainian.
- 1995: (Late August to mid-September), Another three-week stay in Bukovina.

- January 22/23, 1996: Attended “Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Politik” conference in Ebenhausen on Russian foreign policy; presented on Russian-Ukrainian relations.
- August 1996: Voluntary military exercise at the Austrian Embassy in Kyiv.
- January 20/21, 1997: Attended “Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Politik” conference on German strategic interests amid global changes; presented on Ukraine's stability within European and U.S. interests.
- June 21 to August 17, 1997: Participated in the Ukrainian Summer School at Harvard University.
- September 10-14, 1997: Attended IISS annual conference in Singapore on “Security Challenges in the Rising Asia-Pacific.”
- November 13, 1997: Presented on “The Role of Media in International Crisis Situations” at a National Defense Academy event on “Armed Forces and International Crisis Management.”
- November 14-21, 1997: Invited by the “Center for Independent Journalism” (Soros Foundation) to Moldova; conducted a radio news seminar in Chisinau for 17 radio journalists.
- November 24, 1997: Moderated a one-day seminar on security policy and Austria's economic location, organized by the National Defense Academy and the Austrian Association of Small Business.
- August 1998: One-month stint in ORF radio's foreign affairs department.
- October 1998: One-week trip to central Ukraine with the head of the Franciscan Mission Center for Central and Eastern Europe; wrote about church conditions in Ukraine for “Die Furche.”
- October 25 to November 25, 1998: One-month fellowship at Duke University, North Carolina, invited by the Austrian-American Foundation; concluded with media visits in New York and Washington.
- December 20-23: Visited flood victims in Carpathian Ukraine with the Franciscan Mission Center head (article for “Kleine Zeitung”).
- March 1999: Ten-day Hungarian language course at Berlitz in Budapest.
- June 1999: Transferred to ORF television; trained for the role of third correspondent in Brussels, with one-month training in the Foreign Affairs department, “Zeit im Bild 1,” and “Zeit im Bild 2.”
- June 29: Presented the study “Ukraine and the European Union” at a National Defense Academy roundtable.
- Late August to early December 1999: Third correspondent in Brussels; traveled frequently to the European Parliament in Strasbourg and Luxembourg (ECJ, Council meetings, WEU Foreign and Defense Ministers meetings); produced 15 TV and 65 radio pieces.
- December 6/7, 1999: Intensive seminar at the National Defense Academy for foreign language officers on news analysis; guest lecturer on ORF media and war reporting for radio and TV.
- January 31, 2000: Lecture for the Styrian Militia Association on “Russia on the Eve of Presidential Elections.”
- December 1999: Interim appointment as head of ORF's Belgrade office.
- February 14, 2000: Initial assignment to Belgrade for ORF; assumed interim office management.
- May 1, 2000: Appointed ORF correspondent in Belgrade.
- May–June 2003: Three-week stay in Tirana; completed an intensive Albanian language course.

As correspondent and office head, responsibilities include reporting from Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Kosovo, and Albania, involving extensive travel in these target regions. Additionally, reorganized the Belgrade office and developed journalistic infrastructure across Albania and the former Yugoslav republics, including negotiating rental and employment contracts.

- January 23 to 31, 2014: Special assignment in Kyiv during the Ukraine unrest.
- Mid-February 2014 onwards: Reported from all conflict hotspots in Ukraine, including Crimea and the Donbas, during the war.
- Fall 2014: Appointed ORF's first correspondent for Ukraine, based in Kyiv.
- October 11-18, 2017: Election observer for the OSCE in Kyrgyzstan.
- June 12-15, 2017: Participated in a panel discussion in Astana, Kazakhstan, organized by the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (interviewed the Foreign Minister).
- April 2-7, 2018: Conducted training for young journalists and diplomats in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on organizing state visits.

Currently, Bureau Chief for the Balkans and Ukraine.

### **Publications:**

Mag. Christian Wehrschütz has written three books:

2009: "In the line of fire – at the Balkans between Brussels and Belgrade"

2013: "Focus on the Balkans: Bloody past – Uncertain future"

2014: Focus on Ukraine: Conversations about a divided country"

Co-author of two books written by all ORF correspondents.

Numerous articles on social, foreign, security and media policy issues have been published in the NZZ (guest commentaries on the situation in Ukraine and Russia; reviews of political books from Austria), Presse, ÖMZ, Standard, Defence National, Der junge Bukowiner Wochenzeitung in Tschernowitz), Wiener Journal. Several guest commentaries have been published in the Kleine Zeitung, and since my appointment as an ORF correspondent I have regularly reported on the former Yugoslavia in the Kleine Zeitung and also in the Wiener Zeitung. In addition, there are many lectures in Austria about the situation in the former Yugoslavia and many moderations of events dedicated to the Balkans and Ukraine.

### **Awards:**

Austrian State Award for journalistic achievements in the interest of spiritual national defense

(Awarded in October 2000 by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture)

Leopold Kunschak Press Prize

(Awarded in March 2007)

2012: Awarded the Romy TV Prize together with all of ORF's foreign correspondents

2014: Nomination for the Romy for his work in Ukraine

2014: Voted Journalist of the Year in recognition of his work in Ukraine

2022: Romy Special Prize for his work in Ukraine

2022: Grand Josef Krainer Prize in recognition of achievements in journalism

2022: Christian Wehrschütz is the best Foreign Policy journalist 2022.

In the annual vote for journalists of the year by "Austria's Journalist:in", the ORF Balkan and Ukraine expert was ranked 1st 1 elected.

2022: Military Recognition Medal for Christian Wehrschütz. Vienna, November 15, 2022

2023: Grand Gold Medal of Honor

**Dissociation:**

Dear Visitor,

occasionally the claim appears on the Internet that I am a member of the Witikobund. This claim is false, because I am not a member of this association. If legal action is possible against it, it will be taken. Legal action has also been taken against the misuse of the name Christian Wehrschütz in various chat rooms and forums. I hereby expressly distance myself from any statements, as they do not originate from me. I never use such forums. Information about me can be found on the homepage [www.wehrschoetz.at](http://www.wehrschoetz.at), [www.wehrschoetz.com](http://www.wehrschoetz.com) and [www.orf.at](http://www.orf.at) - all other information about me is without guarantee.