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Geschäftszahl: BMUKK-16.616/0138-IV/1/2008
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Ihr Zeichen:

Antwortschreiben bitte unter Anführung der Geschäftszahl.

Vienna, 11. August 2008

Dear Mr. Schoenberg,

I informed Federal Minister Dr. Claudia Schmied about our e-mail exchange concerning the restitution of the Amalie Zuckerkandl portrait and she asked me to state the following points on her behalf:

As you know, the restitution case was decided by arbitration following an agreement between the heirs of Mr. Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer, the Zuckerkandl / Müller-Hofmann family and the Republic of Austria. Then, the arbitral decision was proved by the courts of justice, but all the remedies failed.

The Beirat, chaired by Prof. Clemens Jabloner, discussed the issue in his meeting on 20 June 2008, and the chairman summarized the results of the discussion in the letter attached. As the Beirat does not see grounds to open the case again in the given situation, Mrs. Schmied will not do so either.

Minister Schmied would like to underline that she fully trust in the chairman and all the members of the Beirat. They all do their best to find fair and just solutions on the restitution of Nazi-stolen properties to the rightful owners and there are no "opponents of restitution", as you suspected.

Regarding the draft for the amendment of the Kunstrückgabegesetz, which was made public by end of June, we will consider all comments received until 1 September 2008 in finalizing the text.

But following recent developments there will be parliamentary elections in September, which forces us to postpone the project.

(Attachment)

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line that curves into a loop and then extends into a wavy line.