

## **Walter Reinhard Prutej, initiator "CEE Economic Forum Velden / Austrian Central and Eastern European Economic Forum"**

Born on 9 December 1975 in Klagenfurt and raised on the family farm in the village Wiederndorf near Bleiburg. Following the AHS-Matura, the basic military service and a one-year period of employment Prutej Walter began the studies in business, journalism, education and psychology at the University of Klagenfurt. While he was studying, he has completed several studies abroad: among others at the Free University (FU) Berlin, Washburn University, Topeka (Kansas, USA) and the Chinese universities in Beijing (Peking University) and Shanghai (Fudan University). From 2001 to 2003 Walter Prutej was chairman of the Austrian Students Union, from 1997 to 2003 Member of the Academic Senate from 2003 to 2004 Member of the Founding Convention of the University of Klagenfurt.

Form 2003 to July 2004 Walter Prutej first worked as a project assistant and then as a lecturer in the rectory at the University of Klagenfurt. From July 2004 to July 2007 Walter Prutej was employed as economics editor of the Kleine Zeitung. In 2005, Walter Prutej founded an event and PR agency and developed the idea for a "CEE Economic Forum," which he and Gottfried Haber initiated and founded as "Austrian Central and Eastern European Economic Forum (ACEF)" in 2006. In 2007 Walter Prutej and Gottfried Haber founded the Forum Velden ([www.forumvelden.at](http://www.forumvelden.at)) and brought a CEE Competence Center to life. From August 2006 to August 2007 Walter Prutej was responsible for project management and financing of a bio-energy power plant. Since October 2006 he has been lecturer at the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences. Walter Prutej is currently completing an MBA course and a doctoral degree. Since April 2010 Walter Prutej has been COO at Alpswind GmbH.