

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin

by the
Embassy of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg in London

September 2014



The Ambassador's Word

A warm welcome to the first bulletin of the Luxembourg Embassy in London!

It is truly with great pleasure that I invite you to browse through the first issue of Wilton Crescent's Bulletin packed with information on recent events and events to come. Our aim is to share

with our readers the latest news about developments and events taking place in the UK and in Luxembourg.

The Embassy staff have done an outstanding job to put this first issue together and I wish to thank them for their brilliant work. Our ambition is to publish a newsletter per month. We would be more than happy to include information and news linked to Luxembourg you would like to share with us. This bulletin is also meant to be an instrument of exchange and dialogue and we are looking forward to your news.

Enjoy this first newsletter, we hope that we keep you informed and entertained and we are looking forward to the second issue in November.

Patrick Engelberg



Grand-Ducal Court

9 September - His Royal Highness the [Grand Duke](#) attended the [70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Pétange](#) in the presence of the President of the Chamber of Deputies Mars Di Bartolomeo, the Prime Minister Xavier Bettel and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Etienne Schneider. Pétange was the first city in Luxembourg liberated by the Allied forces. The City of Luxembourg was liberated the day after.



10 September – Their Royal Highnesses the Grand Duke, Grand Duke Jean and Prince Guillaume attended a concert in memory of H.R.H. Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte by

the London Symphony Orchestra directed by Sir John Eliot Gardiner at the [Philharmonie Luxembourg](#).

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT

gouvernement.lu
Le portail de l'actualité gouvernementale

2 September – [Working visit](#) of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif in Luxembourg. During discussions with Luxembourg's Foreign Minister [Jean Asselborn](#), the Ministers exchanged views on the Iranian nuclear programme as well as the situation in the region. Minister Javad Zarif also met Prime Minister Xavier Bettel as well the President of the Chamber of Deputies [Mars Di Bartolomeo](#)

4 – 5 September – [Participation](#) of Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence [Etienne Schneider](#) and the Minister for Foreign Affairs [Asselborn](#) at the NATO Summit in Wales. Prime Minister Bettel declared on the occasion of the adoption of the Transatlantic Declaration that “an alliance able to guarantee our security and values must be based on a strong transatlantic relationship that will develop and take into account the evolution of our security environment”



8 September – [Participation](#) by Foreign Minister [Asselborn](#) in the public debate of the Security Council of the United Nations: “Children and Armed Conflict”. Luxembourg has been chairing the Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict since 1 January 2013. In addition to its actions on development assistance and support to NGOs to support children victims of war, the Grand Duchy was committed to the adoption of a new resolution on the subject during the Luxembourg [Presidency](#) of the Security Council of the United Nations

LetzGreen
Building sustainable futures together

15 September – Launch of a new internet portal dedicated to the promotion of environmental technologies in Luxembourg. “[LetzGreen](#)” aims to present existing skills in the sector and to attract companies specialised in environmental technologies

19 – 26 September - The Minister for Foreign Affairs [Jean Asselborn](#) participated in the ministerial meetings on the situation in Iraq by invitation of Secretary of State John Kerry in the Security Council of the United Nations. In his [speech](#), Minister Asselborn stated that Luxembourg, both bilaterally and through the European Union, will continue to support the consolidation of the rule of law in Iraq. During the ministerial week of the [69th General Assembly](#) of the United Nations, Minister Asselborn met with the President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas and the President of the National Syrian Coalition Hadi al-Bahra as well as numerous colleagues, the Secretary General of the Arab League, Nabil el-Araby and the Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura



19 September – the [Minister of Health, Lydia Mutsch](#) met with a delegation of “*Medecins sans Frontières*” (MSF) to discuss the Ebola virus in some African countries where [MSF](#) is very active. The Luxembourg government has already donated 330.000€ to support the fight against the epidemic and is actively engaged in supporting efforts of the international Community within the United Nations and the World Health Organisation. At the Ministerial Conference in Milan on 23 September, the Minister presented the initiative of MSF with the Luxembourg all-cargo airline [Cargolux](#) to transport several tons of medical equipment to Liberia



24 September – Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#), Foreign Minister [Jean Asselborn](#) and Minister of the Environment [Carole Dieschbourg](#) attended the opening of the general debate of the 69th General Assembly of the United Nations. At the Security Council, Prime Minister Bettel and Foreign Minister Asselborn participated in a session chaired by President Barack Obama on combatting “foreign fighters”. In his [speech](#), the Prime Minister stressed that we must “intensify our efforts to prevent radicalisation to terrorism”. In his [address](#) to the General

Assembly of the UN on 26 September, Prime Minister Bettel presented Luxembourg’s role in the post-2015 Development agenda and the countries’ longstanding commitment to development cooperation

In the context of the General Assembly, the [Minister of Environment, Carole Dieschbourg](#) also participated in the Climate Summit organised by the Secretary General of the United Nations. In her speech, the Minister highlighted the priority the Luxembourg government is giving to the fight against climate change

ECONOMIC NEWS



The Agency for the Development of Employment (ADEM) announced that 17.574 unemployed residents were registered with the ADEM in August 2014. Over the last year, this number increased by 1048 people and brings the unemployment rate to 7,2%. See the Chart at the [Statistics Portal](#). The Growth in volume of GDP is forecast to be 2,9% this year in comparison to 2,1% in 2013 further to the recent statistics published by the National Institute for statistics and economic studies. Read more about the [Monthly publication](#) of the state of the Luxembourg economy

4 September – The newly published “[Global Competitiveness Report 2014-2015](#)” by the World Economic Forum ranks Luxembourg 19th in its Global Competitiveness Index which assesses the competitiveness landscape of 144 economies. Last year’s report ranked Luxembourg 22nd

17 September – Inauguration in the presence of His Royal Highness the Grand Duke, the Prime Minister and members of the Government of the Luxembourg [Freeport](#) situated next to the Cargo centre at Findel airport, which is the 5th largest air cargo hub in Europe. The new Freeport offers state-of-the-art storage facilities and safes of various sizes to store in optimal security and preservation conditions works of art, precious metals, wines, antiques, jewels, documents ... The main investor is Yves Bouvier from national le Coultre, the group that also runs Freeports in Geneva and Singapore

QUICK NOTE

6 October 2014

[Business Opportunity Day](#)

Ireland & United Kingdom

at the

[Chamber of Commerce in Luxembourg](#)

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THE WORLD OF FINANCE

- Fitch affirms Luxembourg at 'AAA' in its latest [Rating](#). Regarding the recent "AAA" confirmation by the US credit rating agency Standard and Poor's, the Minister of Finance, [Pierre Gramegna](#), welcomed the news declaring that in its analysis S&P underlines "the strength of our economy and the dynamism of our financial centre"
- Goldman Sachs and South Africa choose Luxembourg to list Debut Sukuk at the [Luxembourg Stock Exchange \(LuxSe\)](#). The sukuk was issued via JANY Sukuk Company with Goldman Sachs Group acting as guarantor of the issue. In the context of the commercialisation of the first sovereign Sukuk to be issued by the Luxembourg Government, a Road Show organised by the leading banks HSBC and BNP Paribas were organised in Riyad, Jeddah, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur and London from 21 – 24 September 2014. [Read more...](#)



- 59% of all Dim Sum bonds outside Asia are listed on [LuxSE](#). The first RMB denominated fixed income security listing in Europe was made by Volkswagen in May 2011 on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. The Pool of RMB deposits held by banks in Luxembourg climbed up to 67.2 RMB bn in H1 2014 compared to 64 RMB bn in H2 2013. The evolution of Dim Sum bonds listed at the Luxembourg Stock Exchange also shows an upward trend with 42 RMB-denominated bonds in H2 2013

- "Luxembourg for Finance" launched its latest brochure "Luxembourg, Responsible Finance Platform" which explains how existing financial sector expertise has been deployed to create opportunities for ethically motivated investors and philanthropists. [Read more...](#)

- According to the latest Global Financial Centres Index 16 published on 22 September, Luxembourg ranks 15th and is considered as the leading financial centre in the Eurozone
- On 16 September the People's Bank of China has announced the designation of ICBC as the Renminbi (RMB) clearing bank in Luxembourg. This designation follows the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between PBOC and the Central Bank of Luxembourg on 28 June 2014

-- SAVE THE DATE --

alfi leading edge conference

AIFMs & super ManCos
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8 northumberland avenue, london

14th november, 2014

CULTURAL LUXEMBOURG

[Fern Bertemes](#) "Private dancer" exhibition at the Luxembourg House (LuHo) open from 26 September to 7 November 2014 (by appointment at the [Embassy...](#)). The Ambassador and Mrs Engelberg welcomed the numerous guests during a Private View at the LuHo on 25 September.



Luxembourg Language courses starting 11 October: Since 2009, Mr Eddie Bohnert has been holding Luxembourg language classes in London. A new beginner's course is scheduled to start on Saturday, 11 October 2014. [Read more...](#)

MOKSHA's next concerts in the UK from 18 October – 30 November brings them to Bath, Bristol, Nottingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, London and Portsmouth. Read more about MOKSHA on [Facebook](#)

The Luxembourg Embassy is presenting [Robi Gottlieb-Cahen's](#) new works at Luxembourg House as of 18 November 2014

ANGEL AT MY TABLE's next UK tour from 30 November – 7 December (Bristol, London, Birmingham, Sheffield, Newcastle, Glasgow) Read more about the Group on [Facebook](#) and [music:IX](#)

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Save the Date ...



The Luxembourg pianist Jean Muller will play Liszt at the Cadogan Hall
27 October, 2014

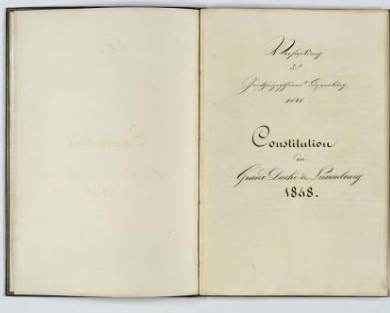


The London Symphony Orchestra with Sir Simon Rattle plays at the Grand Auditorium of the Philharmonie
12 January, 2015



The Academy of St Martin in the Fields with Joshua Bell plays at the Grand Auditorium of the Philharmonie
22 January, 2015

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...



The **National Archives of Luxembourg** (ANLux) have given access via their internet [website](#) to more than 200 treaties and agreements of high importance in the history of the Grand-Duchy. You'll find the scanned copies of the [first constitution](#) of Luxembourg from 1848 and the [Treaty of London](#) of 1867. This project is part of ANLux's policy to digitalize its archives and make them more accessible to the large public and avoid deterioration that result from regular consultation. You'll find amongst others 101 charters of the Abbey of St Willibord in Echternach, 700 drawings and historical plans of ARBED and the "Grand Bertels" with drawings of a few localities in Luxembourg dated 1597.

New Logo of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union
(1 July – 31 December 2015)



Good to know ...



The [Luxembourg Society](#) was founded in London on 18 November 1942 to promote closer relations and friendship between Great Britain and the Grand-Duchy



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GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
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