

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin

by the
Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in London

January 2015



The Ambassador's Word

We all looked forward to embracing opportunities brought by the new year, but the dramatic events in Paris reminded us of other realities. It is important that we Europeans remain united by our common values for which we have to stand up. These are not only the rule of law, democracy and free speech, but also tolerance and solidarity.

The recent anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz is both a reminder of a terrible past and, at the same time, a strong encouragement for us to continue on the path we have been collectively following for so many years now. Before anything else, the European construction is a formidable peace project. We should not forget that even when we quarrel, the whole world admires and sometimes envies us for what we have managed to build.

Patrick Engelberg



Grand Ducal Court



5 January – HRH Grand Duke Jean celebrated his 94th birthday. RTL recently aired a documentary about Grand Duke Jean. [Read more...](#)

14-15 January – TTRRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess, accompanied by the hereditary Grand Ducal couple, received members of the government, representatives of European institutions and heads of diplomatic missions resident in Luxembourg at a New Year's reception [Read more...](#)

27 January – TTRRH the hereditary Grand Ducal couple and Prime Minister Xavier Bettel attended commemorative ceremonies on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Auschwitz's liberation where they inaugurated a plaque in Luxembourgish in memory of the country's victims. [Read more...](#)

30 January – HRH Grand Duke Henri and the Prime Minister attended a ceremony commemorating the massacre of 91 Luxembourgers at Sonnenburg prison (Slonsk, Poland) 70 years ago. [Read more...](#)

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT

gouvernement.lu
Le portail de l'actualité gouvernementale



1 January – New Year's Interview with Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) and Mrs Caroline Mart at RTL. The interview in Luxembourgish (80 min) can be viewed on [RTL Télé Lëtzebuerg's](#) website.

11 January – Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) took part in the unity rally held in Paris following the terrorist attacks which took place in France. Luxembourg's Prime Minister reiterated his solidarity with the people of France during these difficult times. [Read more...](#)



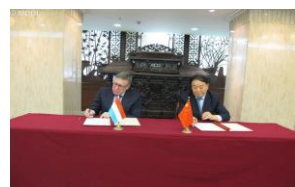
13-14 January – [Jean Asselborn](#), Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, paid a working visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. This visit forms part of Luxembourg's preparations to assume the presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2015. [Read more...](#)

15 January – [Jean Asselborn](#), Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, carried out a working visit to the Netherlands where he met his counterpart, Bert Koenders, as well as Lilianne Ploumen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. A range of topics were discussed, including bilateral relations, Benelux cooperation, and various international issues, such as the current situation in the Middle East. [Read more...](#)

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin

15 January – The Joint Franco-Luxembourg Commission on Nuclear Safety held its 13th meeting at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in Luxembourg in order to discuss recent developments relating to nuclear safety and radiation protection. It was a constructive meeting, demonstrating that a good level of cooperation exists between the two neighbouring countries in the field of nuclear safety. A variety of issues were on the agenda, such as recent overflights by drones over several French nuclear stations including Cattenom. [Read more...](#)

21 January – British Minister of State for European Affairs, David Lidington, had a meeting with [Jean Asselborn](#), Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, in Luxembourg. The focus was on Luxembourg's upcoming presidency of the Council of the European Union and current political and trade issues such as TTIP. [Read more...](#)



21 January – [François Bausch](#), Minister for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Li Jiaxing, the head of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, which aims to increase the number of flights between the two countries. The Minister continued his working visit to China with a [stop in Zhengzhou](#) where he held talks with the Secretary of Henan Province, Guo Gengmao. [Read more...](#)

22-24 January – Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) attended the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he met various people, including the Prime Ministers of New Zealand and Georgia, John Key and Irakli Garibachvili respectively. Prime Minister Bettel also held talks with representatives from the technology sector, namely Google and AT&T, as well as meeting with NGOs, such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which was represented by Bill Gates in Davos. [Read more...](#)



23 January – [Jean Asselborn](#), Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, and [Francine Cloeser](#), Secretary of State of the Economy, launched the second participatory phase of the Nation Branding initiative at a press conference during which they also presented the results of the first study phase. The study phase included a survey undertaken in October 2014 among residents and cross-border commuters on the country's national identity and defining characteristics. All interested parties are now invited to take part in the participatory phase by visiting the website www.nationbranding.lu, which provides an online platform for sharing ideas and opinions on the development of Luxembourg's brand. [Read more...](#)

30 January – [Jean Asselborn](#), Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, attended the official inauguration of the Czech Embassy in Luxembourg along with his Czech counterpart, Minister Lubomír Zaorálek. The Ministers also held bilateral talks and exchanged views on a number of topics including the crisis in Ukraine. [Read more...](#)

ECONOMIC NEWS

- ❑ The ASTRA 2G satellite has been launched by [SES](#), the satellite operator based in Luxembourg. According to SES' chief technology officer, Martin Halliwell, the new satellite will improve delivery of various communication services: "ASTRA 2G will enhance and secure existing offerings to major direct-to-home (DTH) markets in the UK and Ireland." [Read more...](#)
- ❑ Michael Hornsby, Partner and EMEIA Real Estate Funds Leader at EY Luxembourg, has stated in an [ALFI](#) podcast that Luxembourg is a leader in the current real estate fund market. He points out that over 300 real estate funds are domiciled in Luxembourg as well as noting that Luxembourg is attractive to real estate fund managers due to its experience in the sector and the available infrastructure. To see the podcast, please [click here](#).
- ❑ A recent publication by [STATEC](#), the national statistics agency, reveals that Luxembourg has the fastest-growing population within the Greater Region (a region which covers the border areas of Luxembourg, Belgium, France and Germany). This dynamic growth can also be seen in the country's employment figures with the number of people in employment having more than doubled since 1990. [Read more...](#)
- ❑ According to recent figures released by [EUROSTAT](#), the European Union's statistics agency, Luxembourg experienced

the biggest increase in air passenger transport in the European Union in 2013 with an increase of 14.5%. The EU as a whole had an average increase of 1.7% in air passenger transport in 2013. [Read more...](#)

- On 13 January, [Etienne Schneider](#), Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Minister of Defence, and the Luxembourg-based satellite operator SES announced a public-private partnership whose aim it is to launch a satellite in 2017. Both SES and the government would invest 50 million euros in the project. Minister Schneider stated: "this project is not only an important contribution by Luxembourg to European defence, but it further supports the government's economic diversification policy in a key technology sector." [Read more...](#)

[Click here for the SES press release](#)

- Luxembourg places third in the Global Talent Competitiveness Index published by INSEAD, a prominent international business school. The index rates countries on how effectively they attract and keep talent. [Read more...](#)

THE WORLD OF FINANCE

- 11-20 January – [Pierre Gramegna](#), Minister of Finance, headed a trade mission to South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong. Whilst in Seoul, the Minister met with representatives from 26 South Korean companies interested in expanding into the European market. During his trip to Japan, he met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Taro Aso, and the Governor of the Bank of Japan, Haruhiko Kuroda. He also gave the opening speech at a seminar organised by the [Association of the Luxembourg Fund Industry \(ALFI\)](#), which was attended by over 200 bankers, fund managers and other industry professionals. In Hong Kong, Minister Gramegna gave a speech at the Asian Financial Forum, which was attended by more than 2400 participants, where he presented the merits of Luxembourg as an effective entry point for Chinese banks from which they can develop within the European market.



[Read more on the trade mission to Tokyo...](#)
[Read more on the trade mission to Hong Kong...](#)

- 16 January – Luxembourg's AAA rating and stable outlook has been confirmed by Fitch. Fitch noted that Luxembourg's economy benefited from a higher five-year average growth when compared to the Eurozone as a whole. Moreover, the rating agency's analysis shows that Luxembourg's financial centre maintains a comparative advantage over other financial centres. Luxembourg has been given the highest credit rating by the rating agencies S&P, Moody's and Fitch. [Pierre Gramegna](#), Minister of Finance, welcomed the AAA rating, stating that it "guarantees the country's attractiveness to investors and the creation of new jobs." [Read more...](#)



The Cluster for Logistics places itself into the Government logistics action plan to strengthen Luxembourg's position as an international logistics hub in Europe. [Read more...](#)




The Service for the Education of Foreign Students (SECAM) has launched its new website which provides useful information for students, parents and teachers. [Read more...](#)



To access Luxembourg for Finance's brochure "Luxembourg, an international financial centre," [click here.](#)

CULTURAL LUXEMBOURG

- ✓  The Grand Duke Jean Museum of Modern Art in Luxembourg (MUDAM), welcomed almost 80 000 visitors in 2014, exceeding the forecast of 70 000 visitors by a significant margin. This also marks a 60% increase in visitor numbers since 2009. The museum credits the range of exhibitions held in 2014, which featured the work of such artists as Sylvie Blocher, for attracting the high number of visitors. [Read more...](#)

- ✓ The musician and composer, [Gast Waltzing](#), conducted the Royal Scottish National Orchestra for Angelique Kidjo's performance at the [Glasgow Royal Concert Hall](#) on 17 January 2015. Gast Waltzing also arranged her music, including the song "Awalole" which featured in the Grammy-nominated album EVE. [Read more...](#)

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin



✓ The Luxembourgish co-produced animated film *Song of the Sea* has been nominated for an Academy Award (Best Animated Feature). It is the second Oscar nomination for Luxembourg-based [Melusina Productions](#) which also co-produced the animated film *Ernest et Célestine*. [Read more...](#)

✓ Luxembourg's National Museum of History and Art (MNHA) loaned one of the masterpieces of its collection to the National Museum of Ancient Art in Lisbon. Rosso Fiorentino's *Bacchus, Venus and Cupid* will be on display in the Portuguese capital until 18 May 2015. The occasion was marked by a visit to Lisbon by [Maggy Nagel](#), Minister of Culture, who was accompanied by Michel Polfer, the Director of MNHA. [Read more...](#)

OTHER NEWS

■ On 27 January, the [City of Luxembourg](#) and the "Just Arrived" team presented the 6th edition of the practical guide for residents and launched the new website www.justarrived.lu. Both the website and guide aim to provide useful information to people who have recently moved to Luxembourg. Visitors to the website can explore a range of subjects from administrative procedures to education. [Read more...](#)

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY



On 28 January, Ambassador Patrick Engelberg addressed members of the Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in Ireland, informing them about the latest trends in both Luxembourg's financial sector and, more generally, the Luxembourg economy. The aim of the meeting was to explore possible new trade opportunities between Ireland and Luxembourg.

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...



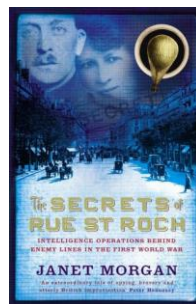
the sculpture "Non-Violence" or "The knotted gun" by Swedish artist Carl Frederik Reuterswård was donated by the Luxembourg Government to the United Nations in 1988. One of the three original versions of the sculpture was bought by the Government to be installed outside the UN Headquarters in New York. The other 2 originals have been installed outside the central train station in Malmö and the European Commission building in Luxembourg-Kirchberg. [Read more...](#)

Save the Date ...



The Royal Opera House's production of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* will be shown at the Centre National de l'Audiovisuel in Dudelange on 24 February 2015. [Read more...](#)

Good to know ...



When Janet Morgan, author of "The Secrets of Rue St Roch," opened Captain George Bruce's Wellington chest, little could she have imagined that Mrs Lise Rischard, a middle-aged Luxembourg housewife, reported on German troop and weapon movements to and from the Western Front during WW1. [Read more...](#)



GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ambassade au Royaume-Uni

to [Unsubscribe](#) to the Wilton Crescent's Bulletin

27 Wilton Crescent
London SW1X 8SD

(+44) 20 7235 6961

(+44) 20 7235 9734

Copyright © 2014

[Embassy of Luxembourg](#)

All Rights Reserved

Layout : Jean Claude Kugener

Text: Yara Willox

Copyright Pictures: MAEE, SIP/Luc Deflorenne, ME, RTL, Janet Morgan, MFIN, MDDI, Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse, MUDAM Luxembourg, Luxembourg for Finance, Luxembourg for Business, Cour Grand-Ducale du Luxembourg, Melusina Productions, Royal Opera House

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin