

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin

by the
Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in London

March 2015



The Ambassador's Message

The recent weeks have brought more good news for the Luxembourg economy. The rating agency Standards & Poor has confirmed its triple A with a stable outlook. [The Secretary General of the OECD, Mr Angel Gurría](#) visited Luxembourg at the end of March and was very positive about the economic outlook, calling Luxembourg a success story despite the crisis. Contrary to the previous country report in 2013, which was more critical, the latest edition of the organisation's [report](#) welcomes the macroeconomic policies adopted by Luxembourg's authorities which are stimulating the increasing economic growth. The appreciation by the OECD matches the economic forecast by the European Commission which credits Luxembourg with a stable growth rate of 2.6 – 2.9% for 2015 and 2016.

All this is of course very encouraging but more remains to be done. Not surprisingly, the OECD also mentioned the traditional areas where more work is needed, like the diversification of the economy or the increase of R&D investment. The Government has responded positively to these recommendations and more progress is expected soon.

Patrick Engelberg



Grand-Ducal Court

6 March – TTRRHH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess welcomed the President of France, [François Hollande](#), who paid an official visit to Luxembourg where he met as well as Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) and other Luxembourg ministers. President Hollande visited the headquarters of SES (the satellite operator) with the Grand Ducal couple before going to the [University of Luxembourg's campus](#) in Esch-Belval. [Read more...](#)



10-12 March – HRH the Grand Duke paid an official visit to Cape Verde. He was accompanied by [Romain Schneider](#), Minister of Cooperation and Humanitarian Action, and by [Francine Cloeser](#), Secretary of State of the Economy. [Read more...](#)

14 March – TTRRHH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess attended the official inauguration of the [32nd Festival of Migration, Culture and Citizenship](#). They were accompanied by Prime Minister Bettel, [Minister Corinne Cahen](#), and Mars Di Bartolomeo, the President of the Chamber of Deputies. [Read more...](#)

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT

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3-4 March – [Jean Asselborn](#), Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, visited [Malaysia and Singapore](#) for meetings with government ministers in both countries. The visit formed part of Luxembourg's preparations for its EU Presidency, in particular with regard to the 12th Asia-Europe Meeting which will take place in Luxembourg in early November. During bilateral talks, the ministers spoke about topics of mutual interest such as Islamic finance and various ways in which to increase cooperation with ASEAN member states. [Read more...](#)

9 March – [Lydia Mutsch](#), Minister for Equal Opportunities, attended the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. This session's primary aim was to examine the progress made by the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was adopted 20 years ago during the Fourth World Conference on Women. [Read more...](#)

9 March – [Minister Schneider](#) met [Christos Stylianides](#), EU Commissioner for Humanitarian



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Aid and Crisis Management, who thanked the Luxembourg government for its efforts in helping to combat the Ebola outbreak. Minister Schneider announced that Luxembourg would organise a conference during its EU Presidency to examine the lessons learnt during the Ebola outbreak in addition to holding a workshop for both humanitarian actors and those involved in civil protection. [Read more...](#)



11 March – [Minister Asselborn](#) paid a working visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg where he met several high-level EU officials, including Federica Mogherini, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. [Read more...](#)

11-12 March – [Carole Dieschbourg](#), Minister of the Environment, met her German and Polish counterparts, Barbara Hendricks and Maciej Grabowski respectively, for talks on issues such as air quality, biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development. [Read more...](#)

12 March – [Marc Hansen](#), Secretary of State for Higher Education and Research, welcomed Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, to the *Cité des Sciences* in Esch-Belval for a working lunch during which the research priorities of Luxembourg's upcoming EU Presidency were discussed. [Read more...](#)

12-13 March – A British national was medically evacuated from Sierra Leone for precautionary measures on a flight organised by the Luxembourg government in partnership with [Luxembourg Air Rescue](#) (LAR). Luxembourg is an active participant in the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and has had two LAR aircraft available for these types of medical evacuations since February 2015. [Read more...](#)



17 March – [Prime Minister Xavier Bettel](#) met the Prime Minister of Moldova, Chiril Gaburici, during the latter's visit to Luxembourg. In addition to bilateral relations, they discussed EU-Moldova relations and current international issues. [Read more...](#)

18 March – A Luxembourg government-funded [UNICEF school in Nizip](#), south-eastern Turkey, was inaugurated in the presence of the Luxembourg Ambassador to Turkey, Arlette Conzemius, and UNICEF's representative in Turkey, Philippe Duamelle. The school, which can welcome up to 1080 students, will provide an education for Syrian refugee children. [Read more...](#)

27 March – [Angel Gurría](#), Secretary-General of the OECD, [paid a working visit to Luxembourg](#) where he met [Prime Minister Bettel](#) before attending the presentation of the OECD's report on the state of the Luxembourg economy with [Minister Gramegna](#). [Read more...](#)

28-30 March – [Minister Asselborn](#) paid a [working visit to Iraqi Kurdistan](#) for meetings with several key political figures, including President Massoud Barzani and Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani, before visiting the refugee camp at Bahrka. The Minister then travelled to Jordan where he met his Jordanian counterpart to discuss topics such as regional security and the Syrian refugee crisis. [Read more...](#)

ECONOMIC NEWS

- ❑ The [Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce](#) led a delegation of more than 20 companies to [Ecobuild](#) which took place in London from 3 to 5 March 2015. The 2015 edition of Ecobuild focused on sustainable design, construction and energy. Each year Ecobuild brings together approximately 1000 exhibitors and 45 000 visitors from around 120 countries. [Read more...](#)
- ❑ As part of the government's wider [Digital Lëtzebuerg](#) strategy, Luxembourg's ICT sector was represented at the annual [Worldhosting Days](#), a 3-day event in Germany at the end of March, by several companies such as LuxConnect, POST Telecom, and European Data Hub. The ICT Cluster also gave a public presentation on the advantages Luxembourg can offer with regard to FinTech and cyber security. [Read more...](#)
- ❑ On 2-3 March 2015, an Irish Parliamentary delegation, led by Andrew Doyle TD, visited Luxembourg where they met representatives from the [Luxembourg Parliament's Agriculture Committee](#). Part of the visit was to promote Irish produce ahead of St Patrick's Day and included a visit to a local supermarket. [Read more...](#)

THE WORLD OF FINANCE



- 1-5 March 2015 – HRH Crown Prince Guillaume, accompanied by HRH Crown Princess Stéphanie and Minister Gramegna, headed a trade mission to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar where they met government ministers. They also attended seminars organised by Luxembourg for Finance in both the UAE and Qatar. The seminars highlighted Luxembourg's advantages both as a centre for investment and as an Islamic finance centre, and examined the latest FinTech developments.

To read more about the trade mission to the UAE, [click here](#).

To read more about the trade mission to Qatar, [click here](#).

- 10 March – The Association of the Luxembourg Fund Industry (ALFI) published a press release following its Leading Edge conference on 25 February which took place in Luxembourg. In its statement ALFI concluded that the country's financial industry regulator, the CSSF, has already prepared for the EU directive known as UCITS V which has an implementation deadline of March 2016. [Read more...](#)

- 23-24 March – The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Alan Yarrow, visited Luxembourg where he met Minister Gramegna, as well as other leaders from the country's financial sector, including representatives from the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce and Banker's Association. The Lord Mayor also visited the recently inaugurated Freeport at Findel Airport and gave the keynote speech at a Luxembourg for Finance event. [Read more...](#)

To read an interview given by the Lord Mayor to *Luxemburger Wort* newspaper, [click here](#).

- 24 March – The most recent Global Financial Centers Index (GFCI) ranked Luxembourg as the top financial centre in the Eurozone and the fourth Western European financial centre overall. [Read more...](#)

- 27 March – The rating agency Standard & Poor's has reaffirmed Luxembourg's AAA rating with stable outlook. [Read more...](#)



A new online platform, Mind & Market Luxembourg, has been launched. It aims to facilitate networking and encourage innovation.

[Read more...](#)



The National Library of Luxembourg has announced that the science journals belonging to the Nature collection are now accessible via [a-z.lu](#) and [findit.lu](#). [Read more...](#)



To access Luxembourg for Business' brochure "Luxembourg, a Pioneer in Space," [click here](#).

CULTURAL LUXEMBOURG

- ✓ Sabine Weyer, the classical pianist, performed at the Royal Albert Hall on 13 March 2015 during the Awards Ceremony for the Grand Prize Virtuoso. [Read more...](#)



- ✓ The National Museum of History and Art (MNHA) has re-opened its newly renovated Wiltheim wing, with three days of activities, including various concerts, workshops and guided tours. HRH Crown Princess Stéphanie visited the museum a few days prior to the wing's public opening in her capacity as patron of the association *Les Amis des Musées d'Art et d'Histoire Luxembourg*. [Read more...](#)

- ✓ The animated feature-length film, *Song of the Sea*, a Luxembourgish co-production, was awarded the Feature Film Grand Prize at the Tokyo Anime Award Festival. Representatives from the Luxembourg film industry, Stéphan Roelants and Norbert Laporte, made the trip to Tokyo to give a presentation on the country's audio-visual production industry. [Read more...](#)

- ✓ ROME, a folk project founded by Jerome Reuter ten years ago, played at The Garage in London on March 14 2015. [Read more...](#)

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- ✓ [Luxair](#) will run the “Luxembourg House” in Luxembourg City which is due to open its doors in June 2015. The centre will promote Luxembourgish products, including the work of the country’s creative industries in addition to typical food and drink, during the EU Presidency. [Read more...](#)

OTHER NEWS

- The Participatory Phase of the Nation Branding project has now come to an end and the Reflection Phase, which will last until June 2015, has begun. This final phase will aim to consolidate the results and determine the constituent elements of brand Luxembourg. [Read more...](#)
- A [recent survey](#) on the best places to live for expats by InterNations ranked Luxembourg second overall, with the majority of expats in Luxembourg citing career opportunities and progression as the primary reasons for their choice to move to the country. To read a BBC Travel article on the survey, please [click here](#).
- A website with information on Luxembourg’s upcoming referendum on electoral reform has been launched. The referendum will take place on 7 June 2015. To visit the website, please [click here](#).

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...



[Vianden Castle](#), which overlooks the town of Vianden in north-eastern Luxembourg, was built from the 11th to 14th centuries on the site of a Roman fortress. For several centuries the castle was the seat of the counts of Vianden, with one of the most well-known being the “Sun Count,” Henry I (1220-1250) who oversaw its transformation into the Gothic style. By the end of the 13th century, the House of Vianden was losing its influence and in 1417 the County of Vianden passed to the House of Orange-Nassau. In 1820, the castle fell into a state of disrepair when it was taken apart in order to sell the different building materials. It

remained a ruin until 1977 when the castle’s ownership was given to the State which consequently embarked on a vast restoration project. [Read more...](#)

Save the Date ...



The Royal Ballet’s performance of *La Fille Mal Gardée* will be broadcast on 5 May 2015 at the CinéStarlight in Dudelange. [Read more...](#)

Good to know ...



The National Museum of Military History in Diekirch focuses on the experiences of the Second World War and the history of Luxembourg’s Army, including its participation in NATO, EU and UN initiatives.

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GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
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