

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin

by the

Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in London

Issue 9

The Ambassador's Message



A busy month lies again behind us with many high-level visits to Luxembourg signalling the fact that our EU Presidency is getting closer. We shall of course see more of this in the weeks to come.

The Embassy has also been busy with trips to Cardiff and Belfast to meet local government officials and other authorities. It is always very informative and enlightening to meet people from all corners of this magnificent and very varied country.

The welcome we received was absolutely delightful and we are very much looking forward to visiting Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland again during the Presidency.

Another particular treat was the chance to meet the many students of the Centre for Luxembourg Studies in Sheffield on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

Patrick Engelberg



Grand-Ducal Court

8 May – TTRRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess attended the ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. They were joined at the ceremony by Prime Minister Xavier Bettel and Deputy Prime Minister Etienne Schneider. [Read more...](#)



10 May – TTRRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess, accompanied by other members of the Grand Ducal family, took part in the traditional procession of the Octave. [Read more...](#)

1-4 June – TTRRH Crown Prince Guillaume and Crown Princess Stéphanie travelled to Iceland for the Games of the Small States of Europe. [Read more...](#)



TEAM LÉTZEBUERG

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT

gouvernement.lu
Le portail de l'actualité gouvernementale



5 May – Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, met with Bruno Maçaes, the Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs, during his working visit which highlighted the excellent state of bilateral relations between Luxembourg and Portugal. Minister Asselborn stated that “the Portuguese community in Luxembourg, which is made up of around 92 000 expats, contributes actively to the cultural and social diversity of which Luxembourg is very proud.” Several other topics featured on the agenda, including the fight against terrorism. [Read more...](#)

12 May – Federica Mogherini, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, paid a visit to Luxembourg where she met Prime Minister Xavier Bettel, Deputy Prime Minister Etienne Schneider and Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn for talks on current political issues and the priorities of Luxembourg's upcoming EU Presidency. She was also received in audience by HRH the Grand Duke. [Read more...](#)



13 May – Romain Schneider, Minister of Sports, participated in the meeting of the World Anti-Doping Agency Foundation Board in Montreal as part of the preparations for Luxembourg's EU Presidency which begins on 1 July. He gave an overview of European legislation on data protection which is currently being negotiated in Brussels. [Read more...](#)

15 May – Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, travelled to Athens for a working visit during which he met various members of the Greek government, including Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. Bilateral relations featured on the

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agenda and the ministers examined the economic and social challenges facing Greece as well as regional issues such as Greek-Turkish relations. [Read more...](#)



18-19 May – [Lydia Mutsch](#), Minister of Health, attended the 68th session of the [World Health Organization](#) in Geneva. Minister Mutsch invited the WHO to participate in the conference “Ebola lessons learned” which will take place in Luxembourg in October under the country’s EU Presidency. She also spoke about Luxembourg’s cooperation with [UNAIDS](#) with regard to the new treatment strategy “90-90-90” which aims to transform the epidemic into a manageable disease by 2030. [Read more...](#)

21-22 May – Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) and [François Bausch](#), Minister of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, visited Kazakhstan where they met Prime Minister Karim Massimov for talks on bilateral relations and EU-Kazakhstan relations before meeting President Noursultan Nazarbaiev. [Read more...](#)

20 May – [Claude Meisch](#), Minister of Education, Children and Youth, presented the “Digital (4) Education” strategy at the ICT Spring conference. The strategy has a two-fold aim: the promotion of digital education in order to prepare young people for their future working life on the one hand, and using digital technology to encourage new learning/teaching methods in school on the other hand. [Read more...](#)

4-5 June – Minister [Jean Asselborn](#) presented Luxembourg’s priorities for its upcoming EU Presidency at a conference organised by the Trans European Policy Studies Association, where HRH the [Grand Duke](#) gave the opening speech. [Read more...](#)

ECONOMIC NEWS

- [Etienne Schneider](#), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy, attended the launch of the “[Security Startup Challenge](#)” (SSC 2015) in Luxembourg. SSC 2015 is an acceleration programme which aims to help start-ups active in the cybersecurity sector. Minister Schneider welcomed that programme launch, stating that the SSC 2015 “shows that Luxembourg has succeeded in becoming a trusted partner in the ICT industry.” [Read more...](#)
- Luxembourg has been ranked as the most competitive country in the EU and sixth worldwide in the most recent competitiveness rating published by the International Institute for Management Development. [Read more...](#)

THE WORLD OF FINANCE



- 3-4 May – [Pierre Gramegna](#), Minister of Finance, headed a trade mission to Sweden. In a statement, the minister underlined the financial ties between the two countries, noting that “Swedish financial institutions have a long-established presence in Luxembourg.” During the visit, Minister Gramegna met Peter Egardt, Governor of Uppsala, one of the economic centres of Sweden, for a discussion on different models of diversification. He also participated in a [Luxembourg for Finance](#) seminar “Made in Luxembourg: Cross-border solutions for Swedish investors” and met banking officials as well as Magdalena Andersson, Sweden’s Minister of Finance. [Read more...](#)
- 1 June – The rating agency Moody’s has confirmed Luxembourg’s AAA (stable) rating, making it the third agency to give the country the highest rating. The agency’s analysis underlines the open and innovative character of the economy, the positive effects of the “Zukunftspak” and the effective supervision of the financial sector. [Read more...](#)



The official portal of the
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

A new version of the official portal of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (www.luxembourg.lu) was launched in early May 2015. The portal is now available in three languages (French, German and English) and can now be consulted on a range of devices, including smartphones, and is accessible via social media like Facebook and Twitter. The revamped portal forms part of the government’s nation branding strategy. [Read more...](#)

CULTURAL LUXEMBOURG

- ✓ Marianne Majerus, a London-based award-winning photographer from Luxembourg, has published two books on gardening with Heidi Howcroft, *First Ladies of Gardening* and *Garden Design: A Book of Ideas*, with the latter publication containing over 600 photographs by Ms Majerus. For further information on Marianne Majerus, please [click here](#).



- ✓ On 7 May 2015, TTRRH Crown Prince Guillaume and Crown Princess Stéphanie, accompanied by Maggy Nagel, Minister of Culture, inaugurated Luxembourg's pavilion at the 56th edition of the Venice Biennale. Luxembourg is represented at this year's Biennale by Filip Markiewicz, whose exhibition, *Paradiso Lussemburgo*, explores the issue of Luxembourgish identity. [Read more...](#)

- ✓ Various Luxembourgish artists will be coming to London in the coming weeks. *Cherokee* will be performing at the Brixton Jam in London on 19 June 2015. [Read more...](#) Léa Tirabasso's dance piece, "Love me Tender," will be performed at TripSpace in London on 20 June 2015. [Read more...](#)

- ✓ The European Museum Schengen will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Schengen agreement this month with several concerts in addition to an academic session which will be attended by Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, and Prime Minister Xavier Bettel. [Read more...](#)

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY



- 27 April – Ambassador Patrick Engelberg, accompanied by Jean Claude Kugener, Deputy Head of Mission, paid a working visit to Wales where they met the First Minister of Wales, the Rt. Hon Carwyn Jones, as well as a number of officials from different sectors.
- 18-19 May – Ambassador Patrick Engelberg, accompanied by Jean Claude Kugener, visited Belfast where they met Junior Minister Michelle O'Neill, Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly Mitchel McLaughlin as well as the Lord Mayor of Belfast.

- 20 May – Jean Claude Kugener participated in the wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the work of UN peacekeepers which took place at the Cenotaph on Whitehall. [Read more...](#)

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...



the Centre for Luxembourg Studies at the University of Sheffield was established in 1995 by Professor Gerald Newton. The government of Luxembourg supports the Centre's work by providing the funding for an Endowed Chair. The Centre welcomes a visiting author from Luxembourg each year and under its current chair, Dr Kristine Horner, has fostered close research links with the University of Luxembourg. The Centre recently celebrated its 20th anniversary with a colloquium which was opened by Ambassador Patrick Engelberg and attended by 80 people. [Read more...](#)

Save the Date ...



The artist Gust Graas will display his work as part of an exhibition entitled "My Symphony of Colour" at London's 12 Star Gallery from 24 June to 17 July 2015. [Read more...](#)

Save the Date ...



Classical music ensemble Trio Koch will be performing at St John's Smith Square at 8 pm on 9 July 2015 on the occasion of the opening of Luxembourg's EU Presidency. [Read more...](#)



GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ambassade au Royaume-Uni

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