

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin

by the

Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in London

Issue 10

The Ambassador's Message



Luxembourg's EU Presidency has started and has kept us all very busy for the past couple of weeks, and especially this July. It is the twelfth time that Luxembourg chairs the Council of Ministers of the EU and it is always an exciting and trying challenge.

It is true that with the different crises the European Union has faced during recent weeks, our cohesion and solidarity has been tested and even if nothing is ever going to be perfect, we collectively managed to come to some much needed compromises.

You will learn more about our Presidency events in the next edition of our newsletter. Until then, we all wish you a lovely summer and enjoyable holidays.

Patrick Engelberg



Grand-Ducal Court

15 June – HRH the Grand Duchess, who has been a UNESCO goodwill Ambassador since 1997, attended the annual meeting of UNESCO Honorary and Goodwill Ambassadors in Paris. [Read more...](#)



18 June – TTRRHH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess attended the commemoration of the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo. [Read more...](#)

22-23 June – The Grand Ducal family took part in celebrations on the occasion of Luxembourg's National Day. TTRRHH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess visited Mondorf-les-Bains, while Crown Prince Guillaume and Crown Princess Stéphanie participated in festivities in Esch-sur-Alzette. [Read more...](#)

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT



8-9 June – Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, travelled to Berlin for a working visit. He met with his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Michael Roth, Minister of State for European Affairs, to discuss ways to increase cooperation between the two countries regarding multilateral institutions on foreign policy issues. [Read more...](#)

10 June – Minister Jean Asselborn met the French Secretary of State for European Affairs, Harlem Désir, for bilateral discussions which allowed the Ministers to look at several ways in which to strengthen cooperation in addition to examining other topics such as the European Commission's aim of giving the EU a "Triple A social rating," which Luxembourg supports. [Read more...](#)



17 June – Prime Minister Xavier Bettel received the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, in Luxembourg for talks on bilateral relations, current European and international affairs as well as discussions on the priorities of Luxembourg's EU Presidency. [Read more...](#)

22 June – Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General, carried out a working visit to Luxembourg where he met Prime Minister Xavier Bettel and other government ministers. He was also received in audience by HRH the Grand Duke. [Read more...](#)

25-26 June – Minister Jean Asselborn visited Kiev for meetings with Pavlo Klimkin, the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, and Prime Minister Petro Poroshenko, in addition to several other political leaders. The agenda was centred on bilateral relations, Luxembourg's EU Presidency, and Ukraine's relations with the EU with Minister Asselborn declaring that "the improvement of the situation in the Ukraine is a priority for the EU." [Read more...](#)

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29 June – Minister [Jean Asselborn](#) paid a working visit to London where he met his British counterpart, Philip Hammond, as well as the Minister of State for Europe, David Lidington. Discussions between the ministers focused on the priorities of Luxembourg’s EU Presidency and current European political issues, including the situation in Greece and the Commission’s migration agenda. In addition, the meeting enabled the ministers to examine the political situation in the UK and the UK’s role within the EU. Minister Asselborn presented his government’s condolences following the terrorist attacks in Tunisia. During his visit, Minister Asselborn also met the director of the Centre for European Reform, Charles Grant. [Read more...](#)

3 July – [Luxembourg’s EU Presidency](#) was officially launched with various activities planned to celebrate the occasion. Reflecting one of the priorities of Luxembourg’s Presidency, namely to place citizens at the heart of the European project, a European picnic and several concerts were organised for the general public. The Luxembourg government also welcomed the European Commission for a series of meetings during which the priorities of the Presidency were presented in greater detail. The members of the Commission were received in audience by TTRRH the [Grand Duke and Grand Duchess](#). [Read more...](#)

ECONOMIC NEWS

- ❑ [Francine Cloesener](#), Secretary of State for the Economy, led a trade mission organised by the [Chamber of Commerce](#) to Nice and Sophia Antipolis, where she was joined by representatives of several Luxembourgish companies. While in Nice, the delegation visited the trade event “Innovative City” where Ms Cloesener declared that “the Grand Duchy brings together under one roof a multitude of professions and skills which are needed to meet the complex challenges of today and the future.” [Read more...](#)
- ❑ The European Commission has ranked Luxembourg 6th out of the 28 EU member states in its Innovation Union Scoreboard. According to the report, Luxembourg’s strong points include: “Venture capital investments, community trademarks and international scientific co-publications.” [Read more...](#)
- ❑ The OECD has increased its growth forecast for Luxembourg to 2.7% for 2015, and to 2.9% for 2016. [Read more...](#)

THE WORLD OF FINANCE

- 17 June – The [Association of the Luxembourg Fund Industry](#) (ALFI) named Denise Voss as its new chairman and elected a new Board of Directors. ALFI has also published its ‘2020 Ambition’ with Ms Voss stating that the group is “committed to strengthening Luxembourg’s position as the international fund centre of reference.” [Read more...](#)

Save the Date ... ALFI Leading Edge Conference on 14 October 2015, 8 Northumberland Avenue, London.
For further information, [click here](#).



- 18-19 June – Christine Lagarde, the head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), paid a working visit to Luxembourg where she held talks with Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) and Minister of Finance, [Pierre Gramegna](#). They spoke about subjects related to the world economy, the economic and financial situation in Luxembourg, and Luxembourg’s EU Presidency priorities. Ms Lagarde was also received in audience by HRH the Grand Duke. [Read more...](#)



The website of Luxembourg’s EU Presidency is now accessible (<http://www.eu2015lu.eu/>). Two

twitter accounts will also follow Presidency activities: @RPUE_LU and @eu2015lu. [Read more...](#)

A variety of videos are available on www.luxembourg.lu.

To discover the new promotional film “Welcome to Luxembourg,” [click here](#).

CULTURAL LUXEMBOURG

- ✓ On 20 June a team from Luxembourg’s amateur theatrical improvisation group, POIL, came to London to take part in an improvisation match against the French-British Improvisation group, FBI. [Read more...](#)

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- ✓ Over 500 people attended a performance of Shakespeare's play "The merchant of Venice" by the theatrical troupe TNT Theatre Britain on 29 June 2015 at [Bourglinster Castle](#). [Read more...](#)
- ✓ Various Luxembourgish artists performed in the UK over the last few weeks. Jazz group [Saxitude](#) played a few gigs in Birmingham at the start of July while pianist [Francesco Tristano](#) performed with Alice Sara Ott at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ Between 6 and 21 June, as part of the "My Urban Piano Luxembourg" project, fifteen pianos were placed in streets, parks and at tourist sites around Luxembourg City in order to revitalise public space. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ The 63rd edition of the Wiltz Festival started on 27 June and continues until 26 July. This year's programme features performances by José Carreras and French singer ZAZ, as well as a production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical Cats. [Read more...](#)

OTHER NEWS

- 1-6 June – At the 16th edition of the [Games of the Small States of Europe](#) (GSSE) in Reykjavik, the Luxembourgish squad finished with a total of 80 medals (34 gold, 22 silver, 24 bronze), coming second in the final medals table behind host country Iceland. Crown Prince Guillaume and Crown Princess Stéphanie attended the GSSE. [Read more...](#)

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY



- 23 June – Exceptionally this year, we celebrated our National Day in Europe House making it coincide with the inauguration of the exhibition by artist Gust Graas for the launch of the Luxembourg Presidency. We were joined by many friends from the Luxembourg expat and diplomatic communities for a very enjoyable evening during which Luxembourg wine, crémant and beer, but also ham and sausages, proved to be a big hit. [Read more...](#)

- 9 July – Luxembourg's EU Presidency was officially launched with a concert by classical music ensemble [Trio Koch](#) at St John's Smith Square. The concert featured a range of music, including the premiere of a piece by Luxembourgish composer Walter Civitareale entitled "Caprices Luxembourgeois." [Read more...](#)

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...



the Monument of Remembrance, also known as the *Gëlle Fra* ("the Golden Lady") was created by Claus Cito as a memorial to the fallen Luxembourgish soldiers who had volunteered to serve in the Allied armed forces during World War I and was inaugurated in 1923. Following Nazi occupation of the country during World War II, the statue was removed in 1940 and it vanished for nearly 41 years until it was found under the grandstands of the national football stadium in the 1980s. The statue was restored and the monument was officially unveiled on 23 June 1985. [Read more...](#)

Save the Date ...



The Centre National de l'Audiovisuel will be showing the Royal Ballet's performance of "Romeo and Juliet" on 22 September 2015 at the

CinéStarlight in Dudelange. [Read more...](#)

Good to know...



The Grand Ducal palace will be open to visitors from 13 July to 6 September 2015. Members of the public will also be able to see the exhibition "Wëlcom d'ohém" which looks at Grand Duchess Charlotte's return from exile in April 1945. [Read more...](#)



GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ambassade au Royaume-Uni

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