

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin

by the

Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in London

Issue 11

The Ambassador's Message



What's left of summer, here in London at least, is coming to an end and we are all more or less back at our various desks and posts now. Welcome back! It is going to be a very busy autumn for the Luxembourg Presidency. In addition to the implementation of its ambitious programme of work, the Presidency is working hard with all our European partners to find ways to tackle the

consequences of the refugee crisis. It is a tough challenge, but we know that we can count on the strong spirit of solidarity and compassion which are fundamental values of the European people.

Today, on 9 September, Her Majesty The Queen will become the longest-reigning British monarch ever. We very happily join all those who express their respectful and admiring congratulations to Her Majesty for the extraordinary achievements of Her reign.

Patrick Engelberg



Grand-Ducal Court



8 July – TTRRH Crown Prince Guillaume and Crown Princess Stéphanie attended the 10th anniversary celebration of Jonk Entrepreneuren Luxembourg, an organisation which aims to encourage the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst young people. [Read more...](#)

7 September – HRH the Grand Duke attended a concert by Kantorei Weilburg and the Capella Weilburgensis which featured as part of the International Echternach Festival. [Read more...](#)

Did you know that...

the "Fondation du Grand-Duc et de la Grande-Duchesse" was created in 2004 following the merger of two earlier foundations. The Foundation is involved in various projects in Luxembourg and abroad, notably Burundi. To find out more about the Foundation and its work, please [click here](#).

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT

gouvernement.lu
Le portail de l'actualité gouvernementale

13 July – Romain Schneider, Minister for Cooperation and Humanitarian Action, participated in the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development which was organised by the United Nations in Addis Ababa. He took part in several events on the margins of the conference, including a meeting with UN officials and other interested countries to discuss the financing of the fight against malaria. Minister Schneider, together with the EU Commissioner for International Cooperation & Development, Mr Neven Mimica, also presented the EU's offer of support to the press. [Read more...](#)



15-19 July – Prime Minister Xavier Bettel and the Minister of Finance, Pierre Gramegna, paid an official visit to Japan where they met Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for talks on bilateral relations, EU-Japan relations and the priorities of Luxembourg's EU Presidency. In addition to meeting other political and financial leaders, Prime Minister Bettel and Minister Gramegna encountered the heads of companies specialising in Fintech and new technologies, such as bitFlyer. [Read more...](#)

16 July – Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, joined Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for trade, at the third meeting of the Joint CARIFORUM-EU Council in Georgetown, Guyana, where participants reviewed the Economic Partnership Agreements that had been signed in 2008. [Read more...](#)

22 July – Minister Romain Schneider visited Expo Milan 2015 where he attended a Luxembourg Presidency event organised

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in the Belgian pavilion in collaboration with [Doctors Without Borders \(MSF\) Luxembourg](#). MSF Luxembourg held an exhibition on malnutrition in slum areas as well as a roundtable discussion on the Kamrangirchar slum in Bangladesh. [Read more...](#)

23 July – Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) met the President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Mr Henri Malosse, for discussions on the priorities of Luxembourg's EU Presidency and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). [Read more...](#)

31 August – Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) took part in the 10th Bled Strategic Forum, "Visions of New Partnerships," which was held in Bled, Slovenia. He spoke during the conference's opening session entitled "New Global Order" where he was joined by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, in addition to other European leaders. In his speech Prime Minister Bettel highlighted the importance of urgently finding a European solution to the refugee crisis. [Read more...](#)



2 September – The Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, visited Luxembourg for meetings with Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#), Deputy Prime Minister [Etienne Schneider](#), Foreign Minister [Jean Asselborn](#) and Justice Minister [Félix Braz](#). Discussions centred on issues related to transatlantic security, current European and international affairs as well as the priorities of Luxembourg's EU Presidency. Jens Stoltenberg was also received in audience by HRH [the Grand Duke](#). [Read more...](#)

4-5 September – [Minister Asselborn](#) co-chaired the Informal Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU which took place in Luxembourg together with Federica Mogherini, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs. After the meeting, which looked primarily at migration issues, Minister Asselborn stated that "we need a mechanism to share responsibilities on the basis of established criteria." [Read more...](#)

5 September – Foreign Minister [Jean Asselborn](#) met his Turkish counterpart, Feridun Hadi Sinirlioglu for talks on a range of topics, including migration and the situation in North Africa and the Middle East. [Read more...](#)

6-7 September – Foreign Minister [Jean Asselborn](#) travelled to Israel at the invitation of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. During his visit to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the Minister met several Israeli dignitaries, including President Reuven Rivlin and Isacc Herzog, the leader of the opposition. Discussions focused on subjects of mutual interest, such as the domestic situation in Israel, Israeli-Palestinian relations, the Middle East peace process, EU-Israeli relations and the migration crisis. [Read more...](#)



7 September – [Romain Schneider](#), Minister of Sport, attended the launch of the first European Week of Sport which took place in Brussels. He was joined at the launch by EU officials, including Tibor Navracsics, the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. Approximately 2000 events will take place in 31 European countries as part of this new project which aims to promote physical activity. [Read more...](#)

ECONOMIC NEWS

- The Luxembourg government has created a self-assessment tool for SMEs which is available online at www.business-check.lu. Users will be able to input data onto the platform, which will then analyse the information and produce a report as well as suggesting possible avenues for improvement. This new tool can be accessed in English, German and French. [Read more...](#)
- [Etienne Schneider](#), Minister of the Economy, recently gave an interview to the Luxemburger Wort newspaper, speaking primarily about start-ups in Luxembourg. [Read more...](#)
- Check out the new video released by [Luxembourg for Finance](#) and [Luxembourg for Business](#) entitled "A little piece of Luxembourg everywhere." The video explores the country's success in a variety of sectors, such as steel production, IT and health technology. [Read more...](#)

THE WORLD OF FINANCE

- 28 July – [Pierre Gramegna](#), Minister of Finance, met China's new Ambassador to Luxembourg, [Huang Changqing](#), to discuss subjects related to the strengthening of bilateral relations in the financial sector. Luxembourg is one of the leading renminbi (RMB) financial centres in Europe and houses the European headquarters of six Chinese banks. [Read more...](#)



- 4-5 September – [Minister Gramegna](#) attended the G20 summit for finance ministers in Ankara where he represented the EU alongside [Pierre Moscovici](#), EU Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, and [Mario Draghi](#), President of the ECB. It marks the first time that a Luxembourg Finance Minister has attended a G20 summit. [Read more...](#)



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

6500 photos taken between 1950 and 1970 are now available online ([www.anlux.lu](#)), thanks to Luxembourg's National Archives. [Read more...](#)

The website [www.letzbio.lu](#), an online portal to the life sciences sector in Luxembourg, is now available in Japanese. [Read more...](#)

[Luxembourg for Business](#) has updated its ICT, logistics and space brochures. [Click here](#) to view the new versions.

CULTURAL LUXEMBOURG

- ✓ "Song of the Sea," a Luxembourg co-production, received a standing ovation when it was shown at the 27th Galway Film Festival in Ireland in July 2015. [Guy Daleiden](#), director of [Film Fund Luxembourg](#), noted that since Luxembourg and Ireland signed a coproduction agreement in 2011, 7 films have already been co-produced between the two countries and 2 more films are in production. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ Various Luxembourgish bands have performed in the UK in recent weeks. [Scarred](#) played at the Bloodstock Festival in Walton-on-Trend while [Mutiny on the Bounty](#) took to the stage at ArcTanGent 2015 in Somerset. Meanwhile, [Cleveland](#), a Luxembourgish DJ, has been signed by the booking agency Elastic Artists which is based in London. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ The annual outdoor music festival, "Rock um Knuedler" celebrated its 25th edition on 12 July 2015 with performances by Anastacia and approximately 20 Luxembourgish rock bands. The festival attracts 15 000 visitors to Luxembourg City on an annual basis. [Read more...](#)



- ✓ The 675th edition of the [Schueberfouer](#), the annual funfair, started on 21 August in Luxembourg City with visitors able to choose between 26 rides, 38 restaurants, 86 games and many other booths. The fair will last until 9 September when its closing will be marked with a fireworks display. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ The Gare Art Festival 2015 is currently underway in Luxembourg City. Seven sculptors from around Europe created their works of art in Luxembourg's Place de Paris, allowing members of the public to observe the artists at work. The finished pieces will be on display at Luxembourg's main station until 24 September 2015. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ Works by [Aline Bouvy](#), a Luxembourgish artist, are on display at London's Kunstraum gallery as part of a new exhibition entitled, "New Pabulum." The exhibition is open until 10 October 2015. [Read more...](#)

OTHER NEWS

- On 2 August, cyclist [Jean-Pierre Drucker](#) won the Prudential Ride London-Surrey Classic after sprinting the last 50 metres and beating both [Ben Swift](#) (UK) and [Mike Teunissen](#) (Netherlands). It marks the first professional victory for Jean-Pierre Drucker. [Read more...](#)

- According to the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2015, Luxembourg ranks as one of the leading donors in the world. Luxembourg is ranked second both in terms of humanitarian assistance given per citizen (119 USD) and in terms of the percentage of Gross National Income given in humanitarian assistance (0.17%). These results underline the active role played by Luxembourg which has made development and humanitarian action one of the foundations of its foreign policy. In 2014 the government contributed to humanitarian assistance programmes in response to crises in Syria, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, the Philippines, and the Central African Republic. [Read more...](#)
- The Luxembourg government's Information and Press Service and the statistics office, STATEC, have just published a set of 14 infographics which explore different aspects of the country, such as population and the economy. For further information and to download the infographics, [click here](#).
- The national body responsible for overseeing radio and television broadcasts, *l'Autorité luxembourgeoise indépendante de l'audiovisuel (ALIA)*, has just launched its website which is also available in English. [Read more...](#)

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

- Ambassador Patrick Engelberg will be travelling to Edinburgh later this month to present the priorities of Luxembourg's EU Presidency. He will also be taking part in a Q&A session on the presidency at St. Andrew's University. To find out more about Luxembourg's Presidency of the Council of the EU, [click here](#).



DID YOU KNOW THAT ...



the Moselle region in Luxembourg is well-known for its wine and crémant production, with a tradition of winegrowing dating back to Roman times. Vineyards nowadays grow several grape varieties, including Riesling, Pinot Gris, Rivaner and the oldest grape variety, the Elbling which was the area's dominant grape variety until the early 20th century. Winegrowers have continued to develop new products in recent years, such as ice wines, late harvest wines and straw wines. The quality of Luxembourgish wine is such that not only has the country been given its own chapter in the *Guide Hachette des vins*, but its wines have also received awards in competitions like the Concours mondial de Bruxelles. In addition, Luxembourg is known for its sparkling wine with the appellation "Crémant de Luxembourg" marking its 22nd anniversary this year. At this year's edition of the Concours National des Crémants in France, Luxembourgish crémants won 22 gold medals and 12 silver medals. [Read more...](#)

Save the Date ...



Luxembourgish pianist, [Sabine Weyer](#), will perform at London's St Mary Magdalene Church, Munster Square, on 30 September 2015. [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...](#)



GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ambassade au Royaume-Uni

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