

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin

by the
Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in London

Issue 12

The Ambassador's Message



The Presidency is keeping us all very busy indeed! While the media understandably focuses on the current migration crisis, Luxembourg's EU Presidency is successfully dealing with a wide range of issues, as shown by recent events such as the conference on Ebola and the Luxembourg Sustainability Forum just to mention a few.

As a founding member of the EU and now in its 12th presidency, Luxembourg draws on its experience to tackle both ongoing issues and new developments. We are able to do this thanks to the help and support of all our partners.

From our perspective, each new challenge also presents a new opportunity to foster European cooperation.

Patrick Engelberg



Grand-Ducal Court



22 September – HRH the Grand Duke inaugurated various institutions in Esch-Belval, including the "Maison du savoir." HRH the Grand Duke was joined by several government ministers, including Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) and [François Bausch](#), Minister of Sustainable Development. [Read more...](#)

22 September – The Prime Minister of Bhutan, Tshering Tobgay, was received in audience by HRH the Grand Duke during his working visit to Luxembourg. [Read more...](#)

7 October – 2015 marks the 15th anniversary of HRH the Grand Duke's accession to the throne following the abdication of his father, HRH Grand Duke Jean. To find out more about the monarchy, [click here](#).

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT



17-18 September – As part of [Luxembourg's EU Presidency](#), the 14th European Tourism Forum took place in Luxembourg, attracting over 220 participants. Ms [Francine Cloesener](#), Secretary of State for the Economy, declared that "we must find common ground to work together in order to promote our territories." The forum focused on certain priorities such as the digitalisation of tourism and the promotion of Europe via transnational and pan-European products. [Read more...](#)

22-24 September – Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) and Mr [Claude Meisch](#), Minister of Education, attended the European Youth Conference, which was organised by Luxembourg's EU Presidency and which brought together youth representatives and officials from EU Member States. 15 joint recommendations were adopted with the aim of increasing political participation among young people. [Read more...](#)



28 September - 1 October – The Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Mr [Jean Asselborn](#) attended various high-level meetings during the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, including the public debate held by the UN Security Council on the settlement of conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa and on the terrorist threat. Minister Asselborn also gave a [speech](#) before the General Assembly in the presence of numerous heads of state and government. While in New York the Minister was able to meet with several other foreign dignitaries, such as Nabil Elaraby, Secretary-General of the Arab League, Heinz Fischer, President of Austria, and Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority. [Read more...](#)

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29 September – [Prime Minister Bettel](#) attended the general debate held during the 70th session of the UN General Assembly which was marked by issues related to sustainable development and the fight against climate change. In addition, the Prime Minister participated in the global summit on the fight against extremism, where he underlined the importance of fighting against the rise in violent extremism amongst young people. Prime Minister Bettel held bilateral talks with several other world leaders, including Mr Habib Essid, the Prime Minister of Tunisia. [Read more...](#)



5-6 October – Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) paid a working visit to Russia where he met his counterpart, Mr Dimitri Medvedev, for talks on bilateral relations during which they agreed to strengthen economic ties between the two countries, especially in the logistics sector. Prime Minister Bettel also met President Vladimir Putin in Sochi. Discussions between the two leaders looked at major European and international issues as well as security-related issues, including the situations in Ukraine and Syria. [Read more...](#)

8 October – [Minister Asselborn](#) and Federica Mogherini, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, presided over the conference on the “Eastern Mediterranean Western Balkans Route” which took place in Luxembourg. Officials discussed issues related to increased migration from the Middle East, such as increasing cooperation in order to tackle organised crime groups involved in migrant smuggling. [Read more...](#)

8 October – [Prime Minister Bettel](#) met the new CEO of PayPal, Dan Schulman, and the CEO of PayPal Europe, Rupert Keeley, in order to discuss new activities that the company, which established its European Headquarters in Luxembourg in 2005, can develop in Luxembourg. Xavier Bettel stated that Paypal is a company whose success is closely connected to innovation and as such is a key player in the diversification of Luxembourg’s financial sector. [Read more...](#)

ECONOMIC NEWS

- ❑ On 24 September, Mr [Etienne Schneider](#), Minister of the Economy, announced the launch of “The Third Industrial Revolution Strategy.” This project, organised in partnership with the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce and IMS Luxembourg, aims to develop a new economic strategy with the assistance of US economist Jeremy Rifkin. [Read more...](#)
- ❑ The World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Report, ranked Luxembourg first for “technological readiness,” ahead of Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and placed the country 20th in the overall rankings. [Read more...](#)
- ❑ According to figures released by the national statistics office [STATEC](#), Luxembourg’s employment rate has grown by 0.7% during the first 3 months of 2015 and by 2.6% when compared to the previous year. [Read more...](#)

THE WORLD OF FINANCE

- 25 September – Standard & Poor’s affirmed Luxembourg’s AAA rating, making it the third major agency to give the country a top credit rating. S&P based its rating on Luxembourg’s “prosperous economy, effective institutional framework and governance, sound fiscal position and strong net external asset position.” S&P also forecast that the country’s real GDP will grow in the next few years and that the financial services sector will continue to diversify. Luxembourg’s Minister of Finance, [Pierre Gramegna](#), welcomed the news, stating: “the AAA rating is a cornerstone of the country’s attractiveness and thus a guarantee of growth and job creation.” [Read more...](#)
- The Global Financial Centres Index has ranked Luxembourg in 3rd place in the EU and in 19th place worldwide in its latest index measuring competitiveness. [Read more...](#)



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

[Luxembourg for Finance](#) and ALFI have published FAQs on the application process for an RQFII licence and quota following China’s decision to grant Luxembourg a quota of RMB 50 billion earlier this year. [Read more...](#)



Check out Luxembourg for Finance’s new video: “[Luxembourg: China’s bridge to Europe](#).”

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CULTURAL LUXEMBOURG

- ✓ The Bourglinster Festival, featuring performances of chamber music and song recitals, started on 11 October and lasts until mid-December. The 2015 edition was opened by violinist Ji Young Lim, the winner of this year's Queen Elisabeth Music Competition. [Read more...](#)



- ✓ A new feature-length film entitled "Eng nei Zäit" was released in cinemas on 14 October 2015. The drama, which is set in post-WWII Luxembourg, is filmed in Luxembourgish and was produced by Samsa Film, a Luxembourg-based company. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ Luxembourgish thrash-metal band Scarred toured the UK in October, performing in several cities, including London, Exeter, Manchester and Bristol. [Read more...](#)

- ✓ Jazz group Jeff Herr Corporation played at Vortex London on 30 September 2015 – to read a review, [click here](#).
- ✓ The London Symphony Orchestra played at the Philharmonie in Luxembourg on 14 October 2015 under the direction of Valery Gergiev. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ A Luxembourg co-production, Terence Davies' *Sunset Song*, which stars Agyness Deyn and Peter Mullan, was screened at the BFI London Film Festival on 15 and 18 October. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ The independent film "Antoine" was awarded best short film, best actress and best actor at the Fort McMurray International Film Festival, which takes place in Canada. [Read more...](#)

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

- Pianist Sabine Weyer performed on 30 September 2015 at St Mary Magdalene Church. Her concert was followed by a reception organised by the Embassy. Sabine Weyer, who won 1st prize at the Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition earlier this year, recently launched her first commercial CD, "Images." For more information, [click here](#).

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...



the region of Mullerthal in eastern Luxembourg is known as "little Switzerland" thanks to its landscape of hills, forests and sandstone cliffs. The region is also known for its castles, including those at [Larochette](#), [Bourglinster](#) and Beaufort. Visitors to [Beaufort](#) are able to see ruins dating back to the 12th century as well as a castle from the Renaissance era. Beaufort is also known for its locally-produced Casero, a liqueur produced from blackcurrants. The Mullerthal region is the site of the remains of a [Roman villa](#), which was discovered in the 1970s on the outskirts of [Echternach](#). The villa, which was one of the largest of its kind in the region, was composed of 70 rooms and featured courtyards,

mosaics and underfloor heating. Nowadays visitors can see a Roman garden and visit an information centre in addition to the remains of the manor house. [Read more...](#)

Save the Date ...

Paintings by [Malou Faber-Hilbert](#) and sculptures by [Raymond Petit](#) will be on display at Luxembourg House, 27 Wilton Crescent from 29 October to 18 December 2015. For more information and to arrange a visit, please call the Embassy on 020 7235 6961.

Save the Date ...

Luxembourgish pianist, [Cathy Krier](#), will be performing at London's Barbican Centre on 29 October 2015, alongside baritone Benjamin Appl and pianist James Bailleu. The programme will feature works by Schubert and Janáček as well as new works by Schuler and Muhly. [Read more...](#)



GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ambassade au Royaume-Uni

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