

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin

by the
Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in London

Issue 13

The Ambassador's Message



A challenging but also a gratifying year for Luxembourg, its foreign service and your Embassy in London is coming to its end. For the 12th time, Luxembourg has chaired the Council of Ministers of the EU. The Grand Duchy's Presidency is finishing today and it has indeed been a very busy semester for all of us. My personal thanks go first to the Embassy staff who have done a tremendous job in

organising all sorts of events, covering dozens of meetings, and welcoming and hosting hundreds of people during the last six months. Without the constant and committed dedication of our team this wouldn't have been possible. A big thank you as well to our many friends and partners for their strong support.

As we are moving back towards a more normal rhythm, all the team and I wish all our readers a superb and a happy year 2016.

Patrick Engelberg



Grand-Ducal Court



27 November – HRH the Grand Duke, accompanied by Prime Minister Xavier Bettel, attended the official inauguration of Luxembourg-based satellite operator, SES' new Antenna Field Technical Facility. [Read more...](#)

8 December – In her capacity as President of the Luxembourg Red Cross, HRH the Grand Duchess attended the opening of the 32rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent which took



place in Geneva. [Read more...](#)

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT

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27 October – Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) paid a working visit to London where he met David Cameron at 10 Downing Street for talks on bilateral relations, current European and international issues and the migration crisis. Prime Minister Bettel met members of the Luxembourg community at the Residence and also gave a speech at the London School of Economics which examined the challenges faced by the European Union. [Read more...](#) For more information on the speech, please [click here](#).

29 October – [Nicolas Schmit](#), Minister of Labour, visited London where he met the Minister for Welfare Reform, Lord Freud, and the General Secretary of the Trade Union Congress, Frances O'Grady. Minister Schmit also visited the Southall Jobcentre. [Read more...](#)

4 November – [Jean Asselborn](#), Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, travelled to Greece with Dimitris Avramopoulos, EU Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs, in order to meet the first asylum seekers who benefited from the relocation mechanism from Greece which EU ministers had agreed on in September. They were present for the departure of the first group of asylum seekers to Luxembourg. Minister Asselborn stated at a press conference that "walls, fences, and barbed wire cannot be the image of Europe in the future." [Read more...](#)

7-8 November – Minister [Jean Asselborn](#) paid a working visit to Ramallah and the Gaza Strip. During his visit, Minister

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Asselborn met the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority, Rami Hamdallah, as well as his Palestinian counterpart, Riyad Al-Maliki. Discussions examined the latest developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including possible ways for the international community and EU to facilitate the re-opening of negotiations. [Read more...](#)

30 November – Prime Minister Bettel and Minister of the Environment, Carole Dieschbourg, attended the opening session of the 21st conference on climate (COP21) in Paris which brought together representatives from over 190 countries, the EU, UN agencies, NGOs and other organisations. [Read more...](#)



1 December – The Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, carried out an official visit to Luxembourg. He met Prime Minister Xavier Bettel for talks on bilateral relations, current international issues including the fight against terrorism and climate change, and Luxembourg's EU Presidency work programme. He was also received in audience by HRH the Grand Duke. [Read more...](#)

9 December – Prime Minister Xavier Bettel attended the closing ceremony of the European Year of Development 2015 which was held in Luxembourg, alongside Romain Schneider, Minister for Cooperation and Humanitarian Action, and HRH Grand Duke Henri. [Read more...](#)

18 December – The government published the "Preliminary Results of the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union" which looks at the work carried out over the last six months. [Read more...](#)

ECONOMIC NEWS

The ICT Development Index, put together by the International Telecommunication Union, has ranked Luxembourg in 6th place, after considering various factors related to access to ICT and ICT use as well as ICT skills. [Read more...](#)

According to a report published by the think tank IMD, Luxembourg is ranked third in the world when it comes to nurturing and attracting business talent, ahead of other countries like the USA and the UK. [Read more...](#)

The new campaign, "SurprisingLux: Look closer for opportunities beyond borders," was officially launched on 30 October by Francine Cloesener, Secretary of State of the Economy, and Pierre Gramegna, Minister of Finance. Check out the campaign's [website](#) for more information.

THE WORLD OF FINANCE

Luxembourg for Finance has published a new five-year strategy, LUXFIN2020, to further develop the country's financial centre. LUXFIN2020 identifies the following key aims: the continued development of Luxembourg as a centre for cross-border finance, to further reinforce its role as a European centre for global financial services, and to develop itself as a leading player in the provision of digital financial services. [Read more...](#)



On 12 November, Pierre Gramegna, Minister of Finance, met Sultan Bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of the Economy of the United Arab Emirates, in order to discuss bilateral relations and the economic and political situations in Europe and the Middle East, including the refugee crisis and its financial implications. The meeting followed a trade mission led by HRH Crown Prince Guillaume which took place in March 2015 and Prime Minister Bettel's participation in the World Islamic Economic Forum in Dubai in October 2014. [Read more...](#)

Minister Pierre Gramegna visited London from 30 November to 1 December 2015. During his visit, Minister Gramegna held a variety of meetings, notably with David Gauke MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury. He delivered a key note speech at a conference on the Capital Markets Union alongside Jonathan Hill, EU Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union. [Read more...](#)

Check out [ebooks.lu](#), the new lending service for ebooks in French, German, and English. Over 78 200 books will be available to the public. [Read more...](#)

The University of Luxembourg has signed an agreement with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to work together in order to create the "Luxembourg Centre for Logistics." [Read more...](#)

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CULTURAL LUXEMBOURG

The [National Library of Luxembourg](#) (BnL) has made 450 monographs available online to the general public. These works, several of which were originally published before 1900, look at a wide range of subjects, including history, religion, botany, and literature. The public can now access works such as Michel Lentz's *Hiérschtblumen: Liddercher a Gedichten* (1887) and *Die Sprache der Luxemburger* (1855) by Peter Klein. [Read more...](#)

Luxembourg jazz musician, [Pascal Schumacher](#), performed at London's Barbican centre on 17 November 2015 as part of the EFG Jazz Festival. [Read more...](#)

"Song of the Sea," a Luxembourgish co-production, won the award for European Animated Feature Film at the European Film Awards which were held in Berlin on 12 December. Another Luxembourg co-production, "A Brand New Testament" won "Best European Production Designer" at the awards ceremony. [Read more...](#)

The latest Michelin Guide for Belgium and Luxembourg has awarded stars to eleven restaurants in Luxembourg. [Read more...](#)

Strasbourg's Christmas market chose Luxembourg as this year's guest of honour and hosted the "Luxembourg Village" which was made up of 13 chalets, showcasing the products of 19 Luxembourg exhibitors. [Read more...](#)

NEWS FROM THE EMBASSY

Several events were organised by the Embassy to celebrate Luxembourg's EU Presidency. On 4 December 2015, classical pianist Jean Muller gave a concert at St John's Smith Square. In addition to pieces by Bach and Ligeti, the performance featured the premiere of Jean Muller's "5 Miniatures." Guests also had the opportunity to attend the private view of Andrès Lejona's exhibition, "Unexpected Ordinary Luxembourg," at Europe House's 12 Star Gallery earlier in the evening. For more information on Jean Muller, please [click here](#). To find out more about Andrès Lejona, please [click here](#).

On 9 December, Ambassador Patrick Engelberg travelled to Dublin where he hosted a reception and a concert which was given by classical music ensemble, [Trio Koch](#) to mark the end of the Luxembourg Presidency programme in Ireland.

The Luxembourg Embassy co-organised, together with the European Commission Representation in the UK, a Luxembourgish language taster class which was held at Europe House on 16 December. Following opening remarks by Mr Jean Claude Kugener, Deputy Head of Mission, and Ms Jacqueline Minor, Head of Representation, a presentation was given on of the language's history by Dr Kristine Horner, who chairs the [Centre for Luxembourg Studies](#) at the University of Sheffield, followed by a wine-tasting session and a lesson in basic Luxembourgish. [Read more...](#)

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

Luxembourg has many Christmas traditions beginning with St Nicholas who brings gifts on 6 December, placing them in the shoes or baskets which are put out by children. On Christmas Day presents are usually given by the Chrëschtkëndchen. Several Christmas markets are also open during the festive season giving visitors a chance to taste typical Luxembourgish cuisine such as gromperekichelcher and grillwurst. [Read more...](#)



Save the Date ...

Classical pianist Cathy Krier will be performing at The Sage Gateshead on 16 January 2016, as part of the ECHO Rising Stars Chamber Weekend. [Read more...](#)

Save the Date ...

The Royal Ballet's performance of works choreographed by Frederick Ashton will be shown at the CNA's CinéStarlight in Dudelange on 26 January 2016. [Read more...](#)



GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ambassade au Royaume-Uni

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