

Wilton Crescent's Bulletin

by the
Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in London

Issue 14

The Ambassador's Message



Luxembourg has been overwhelmed with good news over the past few weeks – the triple AAA rating with a stable outlook has been confirmed, Luxembourg City has been listed as one of the most pleasant places to live for expats and the safest worldwide, the still young Luxembourg University ranks as the world's second most international university according to the authoritative Times Higher Education

Index and the Global Talent Competitiveness Index ranks Luxembourg in 3rd place in its recent annual study. More good news has come from the cultural scene with the "Grammy" for world music album.

As you can imagine, a tremendous amount of work, effort, energy and enthusiasm was needed to achieve this. After a very successful but demanding Presidency, we are back to a more normal rhythm and these various accolades serve as an encouragement for all those involved to Carry On!

Patrick Engelberg



Grand-Ducal Court

5 January – HRH Grand Duke Jean celebrated his 95th birthday. The occasion was marked by a concert at the Philharmonie which featured a performance of "Happy Birthday" by the Irish Guards. [Read more...](#)



30 January – Following the initiative of HRH the Grand Duchess, the International Forum on Learning Difficulties took place in Luxembourg. The

forum's aim was to provide a platform allowing parents, teachers and professionals to participate in a dialogue whilst also breaking the taboos surrounding the subject. To find out more about the forum and the leading role played by HRH the Grand Duchess in this field, please [click here](#).

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT

20-22 January – Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) attended the World Economic Forum in Davos where he participated in various panel discussions, in addition to meeting his British counterpart, David Cameron. Prime Minister Bettel was joined in Davos by HRH the [Grand Duchess](#) of Luxembourg, with whom he met several representatives from international organisations, including Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD. [Read more...](#)

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27-28 January – The Secretary-General of the OSCE, Lamberto Zannier, carried out a working visit to Luxembourg, meeting with [Prime Minister Bettel](#) and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, [Jean Asselborn](#). Discussions focused on current international issues, including the situation in Ukraine and the OSCE's important role in resolving the crisis. Mr Zannier was also received in audience by HRH the [Grand Duke](#). [Read more...](#)



30-31 January – Minister [Jean Asselborn](#) travelled to Addis Ababa to attend the African Union Summit. He was able to hold bilateral talks with his counterparts from Ethiopia, Senegal, Somalia, Niger, Tunisia and Burkina Faso, as well as meeting the UN's Special Envoy for the Sahel, Hirut Gebre Selassie. [Read more...](#)

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3 February – The initiative *SpaceResources.lu* was launched by Deputy Prime Minister, [Etienne Schneider](#), as part of plans to develop Luxembourg as a European centre in the use of space resources. Minister Schneider stated: “We will support the long-term economic development of new, innovative activities in the space and satellite industries as a key high-tech sector for Luxembourg.” [Read more....](#)



4 February – Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#), accompanied by Minister for Cooperation and Humanitarian Action, [Romain Schneider](#), attended the 4th international conference “Supporting Syria and the Region” which took place in London. The aim of the conference was two-fold: namely, the bringing-together of humanitarian contributions which will be indispensable for Syria and neighbouring countries and the making of medium-term commitments to development. In his speech, Prime Minister Bettel highlighted the importance of education and stated that Luxembourg would contribute 5 million euros to humanitarian aid in 2016 and 2.5 million euros to

development aid projects. [Read more...](#)

15-16 February – The Prime Minister of Cape Verde, José Maria Neves, paid a working visit to Luxembourg where he met [Prime Minister Bettel](#) and Minister [Romain Schneider](#). Discussions focused on bilateral relations, cooperation and development-related issues, as well as relations between the EU and Cape Verde. [Read more...](#)

22 February – Minister [Jean Asselborn](#) officially launched Luxembourg’s Presidency of the Benelux Union at Luxembourg’s Neumünster Abbey, where he presented the Presidency’s priorities as well as this year’s programme of work. [Read more...](#)

ECONOMIC NEWS

- Luxembourg’s first trade mission to Senegal took place on 1-2 February. Fifteen Luxembourg companies from a variety of sectors, including logistics, transport, information and communications technology, and renewable energy, travelled to Dakar for the occasion. [Read more...](#)
- Fitch Ratings has confirmed that Luxembourg continues to hold the highest rating (AAA) with stable outlook. [Read more...](#)
- According to the OECD’s latest report, Luxembourg’s unemployment rate of 15-29 year-olds is 6.5%, making it the country with the lowest level of unemployment amongst young people in the OECD. [Read more...](#)

THE WORLD OF FINANCE

16 January – [Pierre Gramegna](#), Minister of Finance, attended the inaugural meetings of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Beijing. Speaking at the AIIB’s opening ceremony, Minister Gramegna highlighted both the importance of investing in infrastructures for economic growth as well as the potential for coordination between the AIIB and other multilateral banking institutions, such as the Luxembourg-based European Investment Bank. Luxembourg was the first country outside of Asia to be accepted as a non-regional member by the AIIB. [Read more...](#)



20-22 January – [Minister Gramegna](#) visited Japan where he met the Japanese Deputy Prime Minister, Taro Aso, for talks on a range of issues, including the economic and financial situation in Asia, the role of the AIIB, the Juncker plan and growth in Europe. In addition to meeting other officials, such as Nobuchika Mori (head of the Financial Services Agency), Minister Gramegna also attended the opening of a Fintech seminar organised by Luxembourg for Finance. [Read more...](#)

Check out [Luxembourg for Finance’s](#) new 5-part video series entitled “Quality of (business) life in Luxembourg.” [Click here...](#)

[Click here](#) to access the [University of Luxembourg’s](#) brochure “My University” which is available in English, French and German.

CULTURAL LUXEMBOURG

- ✓ Guy Arendt, Secretary of State for Culture, participated in the presentation of the “Luxembourg City Film Festival 2016” which will take place from 25 February to 6 March 2016. Over 130 screenings are scheduled at this year’s edition, which will also mark the first time a Luxembourg coproduction will take part in the official competition. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ Angélique Kidjo, conductor [Gast Waltzing](#) and Luxembourg’s [Philharmonic Orchestra](#) were awarded the “Grammy” for best World Music Album. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ Several Luxembourg co-productions were shown at this year’s Berlinale as part of the European Film Market, including “*Colonia Dignidad*” and “*The Dark Side of the Moon*,” both of which were supported by Film Fund Luxembourg. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ Two other Luxembourg co-productions, “*The Clearstream Affair*” and “*The Brand New Testament*,” have been nominated for a César at the annual French film awards which take place in Paris. Both movies have already received awards at Belgium’s *Magritte du cinema* ceremony in Brussels, where the Luxembourg co-production “*Melody*” also won a prize. [Read more...](#)
- ✓ Guy Daleiden, the director of [Film Fund Luxembourg](#), and Claude Waringo, president of the Luxembourg Film Academy, officially launched the 7th edition of the Luxembourg Film Awards, “*Lëtzebuenger Filmpräis*,” on 22 February. The awards ceremony will take place on 5 March at Luxembourg City’s Grand Théâtre. [Read more...](#)



OTHER NEWS

- [Luxembourg City](#) has been ranked in 9th place overall in fDi Magazine’s 2016 ranking of the top 25 European cities of the future. [Read more...](#)
- The [University of Luxembourg](#) has been ranked as the second most international university in the world by the Times Higher Education magazine. [Read more...](#)
- The Global Talent Competitiveness Index has ranked Luxembourg in 3rd place in its annual study. [Read more...](#)
- Mercer’s annual Quality of Living survey, which ranks cities according to the quality of life for expats, has ranked Luxembourg in 19th place overall and in first place for personal safety. [Read more...](#)

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

Carnival is also celebrated in Luxembourg from the beginning of February until Ash Wednesday a couple of weeks later. Masked balls and parades are organised during the weeks of carnival, which Luxembourgers call “Fuesend,” in various towns, such as [Schifflange](#), [Remich](#) and [Diekirch](#). A variety of treats are usually baked during carnival time, including “*Verwurrelt Gedanken*” and “*Nonnefäscht*”. [Read more...](#)



Save the Date ...

The London Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Sir Simon Rattle, will perform at the Philharmonie in Luxembourg on 11 April 2016. [Read more...](#)

Save the Date ...

Classical musician, [Philippe Schartz](#), will perform at St David’s Hall in Cardiff on 1 March 2016 as part of the St David’s Day concert. [Read more...](#)



GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
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