



Seul le discours prononcé fait foi

**Visite d'État du président de la République tchèque, Petr Pavel
et Eva Pavlová
(29.02-01.03.2024)**

**Discours prononcé par le président de la République tchèque, Petr Pavel,
à l'occasion du dîner de gala au palais grand-ducal
(29.02.2024)**

Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear guests,

- Thank you for inviting me to your beautiful country, for the opportunity to meet and discuss Czech-Luxembourgian relations and our cooperation, and for the opportunity to speak in front of you on this special occasion.
- Czechia and Luxembourg share a great deal of common history. I will not go into extensive reminiscences. I would like to talk about one historical development with deep relevance for the present day.
- That is the decision of our elites of the day to share a dynastic bond. Despite our geographical distance and all regional differences, this was one of the elements which paved the way for future European unity. Europe, including Central Europe, would evolve as one civilization.
- The accession of the Luxemburgs to the Czech throne was a happy choice for our country.
- Don't get me wrong - this is not a romantic recollection of a time long gone. I am talking about 700 years of shared history to underline our common journey towards values such as freedom, closeness, willingness to build partnerships and take decisions together.
- It is a great value of today's Europe that sovereign and often very different European states can work together and resolve their differences peacefully. That they can elect common representatives and defend common values in the common interest. That is our strength, and we must not fail in it.
- Europe is going through a turbulent time. A war is raging on our continent, the cruelty and far-reaching consequences of which we could not have imagined two years ago.

- Russia has repeatedly declared that it is the values that make up our "Western civilisation" that it is fighting against.
- Its goal is to undermine the European security architecture and weaken our transatlantic bond. Ukraine is bravely fighting for the future of all of us. It is our existential, pragmatic but above all moral and human duty not to let Ukraine down and to increase our assistance.
- It is symbolic that at this time I stand before you here in Luxembourg and recall our common history, our unity, our common values.
- I came to Luxembourg with the wish to strengthen our cooperation on various fronts: namely in culture, trade, research, and defense.
- I came to discuss with you the strengthening our common responsibility for the protection our common space.
- I came to talk to you about how to contribute to the future of the EU to make it stronger, fairer, and more effective and sustainable.
- How we can invite other countries into Europe and how we can make them valuable and cherished partners in our common future.

Dear friends,

- I came here to reflect together how we can both contribute to making the world a better, safer, or at least a more predictable place to live. How to safeguard the rule-based order.
- In conclusion, therefore, I will borrow the title of the lecture delivered by His Royal Highness the Grand Duke Henry of Luxembourg in Prague during his official visit to the Czechia in 2002. "Luxembourg and the Czech Republic - a common destiny".
- Let me take up this idea and expand on it with one word: "Luxembourg, the Czech Republic and EUROPE: a common destiny".
- Because united we stand, united we fall.
- Allow me now to raise my glass and toast to the health of Their Royal Highnesses and the citizens of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, to a new stage in our mutual relations and common goals.

Thank you for your attention.