



Seul le discours prononcé fait foi

**Visite officielle de
S.A.R. le Grand-Duc en république de Lituanie
du 25 au 27 octobre 2017**

**Opening Remarks by HRH the Grand Duke of Luxembourg
Lithuania – Luxembourg Economic Seminar
Vilnius, 26 October 2017**

Madam President,
Ministers, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Lithuania-Luxembourg Business Forum taking place here in Vilnius on the first day of our official visit.

Lithuania is undoubtedly a dynamic country in many ways. The number of representatives from the business community accompanying us, shows the strong interest in your country and the many business opportunities it may offer.

Both of our countries share a vast range of common values: respect for freedom and democracy, human rights, the rule of law and a strong commitment to justice.

Lithuania and Luxembourg also see European integration as the backbone of our common future providing our countries with a strong sense of cohesion, prosperity and security. We both know that a strong and united Europe remains a necessity for all of us, especially in the unsettling times we are living.

Madam President,

Dear Guests,

Successful business relations create new and tighter links between countries, companies and individuals.

Luxembourg might be best known for its competitive financial center, built on business friendliness associated with solid regulation. But my country has come a long way, undergoing a profound structural change of its economy since the beginning of the 1960ies. From an agricultural and steel-based economy, Luxembourg has developed into a service and innovation economy, shifting to financial services and communication technologies, as well as a premium hub for life sciences, green technology, automotive components, media, e-commerce, shipping and logistics.

The dynamism of our economy go hand in hand with its spirit of openness. The country is welcoming people from different origins and cultures. This openness leads to new and innovative ideas, key to our success.

Investment in research and development remain on the top of the agenda. In recent years, Luxembourg has decided to place a particular emphasis on innovative technologies preparing its economy for future needs, challenges and development.

Needless to say that we have a lot to learn from Lithuania as you are well known as a forward-looking and innovative country, recognized as leader in embracing the digital economy.

Madam President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the reopening of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Luxembourg. I sincerely hope that this event will stimulate new ideas and create new bonds beneficial to both our countries.

I thank you for your attention.