



Seul le discours prononcé fait foi

Fête nationale 2025

Cérémonie officielle à la Philharmonie Luxembourg

Discours du Premier ministre Luc Frieden

Traduction

Royal Highnesses,

Excellencies,

Mr President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our National Day is a day to pause, to reflect, and to celebrate what unites us: a shared history and a common vision for the future.

There is, in fact, much that binds us together — and it is up to all of us to work each day to ensure that our country continues to move forward in a positive way.

We all want what is best for our country and its people. Luxembourg's strength is that we realize that the best way to achieve this is together, by finding to one another, by talking to each other.

The respectful exchange of different points of views and opinions is a fundamental element of our democracy.

We must stand up for these values — both here at home and around the world. Democracy and well-functioning institutions are the guarantors of freedom, human rights, and the rule of law.

Today, we celebrate all of this — our monarchy, our country, our democracy, our unity, and our independence. And the symbol of this unity and independence is the Grand Duke.

Your Royal Highness,

Twenty-five years ago, you became our Grand Duke, our Head of State, following in the footsteps of your highly respected and beloved father, Grand Duke Jean.

Like your predecessors, Grand Duchess Charlotte and Grand Duke Jean, you have made this role your own and adapted it to our times. I believe, it is fair to say — you have done so with great success.

Even though, as a constitutional monarch, you cannot express political opinions without consulting the government, you have nonetheless often sent powerful signals — through your presence and your messages — that were meant to guide Luxembourg in a certain direction.

Many will recall the pictures of you in nature, wearing a green jacket — a clear sign of your deep concern for the environment, and a reminder of the importance of preserving and appreciating it.

Or your many visits to businesses, where you have underlined the importance of our economy — both at home and abroad — as a guarantor of our prosperity.

When you attended sporting events, it was not only out of personal interest in sports, but also as a gesture of support for the national sports movement — and to convey the message that the values of tolerance, respect, achievement, and fair play are also essential to the cohesion of our society.

Indeed, a Grand Duke is a function, but it is also a person.

Anyone who has had the privilege of meeting you knows that you are not a distant monarch confined to a palace, but a warm and open-minded person, who enjoys engaging with people from all professional and social backgrounds, and who does so with remarkable ease and sincerity.

For this, you deserve our deepest thanks.

Monseigneur, you have contributed considerably to the development of our country. You have often done so together with the Grand Duchess, because in your eyes, a modern monarchy is one that serves as a couple.

Madam,

You have used your title in an exemplary way to support humanitarian causes — a passionate commitment to people in need, who rely on a well-known voice to draw attention to their situation.

It is you, Your Royal Highness, who gave them that voice:

be it on microfinance, the fate of female victims of sexual violence in conflict zones, or through your engagement here in Luxembourg — notably with the Red Cross and other NGOs.

As Minister of Finance, I had the privilege of witnessing your deep commitment in Africa — when you spoke with women about their daily lives and work.

We were also deeply impressed by the way you found warm and compassionate words for every person affected by cancer — whether patient, survivor, or family member.

Your dedication, Your Royal Highness, to social and humanitarian causes is an inspiration to many — and a reflection of the compassion and generosity that define the Luxembourg nation.

Monseigneur,

Our country — and Europe — have changed significantly over the past 25 years. Today, our country has more inhabitants, more cross-border commuters coming to work here, and many more nationalities.

The peaceful coexistence of all people in our country has always been a deeply held priority for you and for the Grand Duchess.

On October 7, 2000, in your first address as the new Grand Duke, you said: Today, I promise to all my fellow citizens to give my very best — for this country, and for all those who live here among us.

Today, we can truly say: you have fulfilled your promise. You have given your very best — and we know that, together with the Grand Duchess, our future Grand Duke, Prince Guillaume, and Princess Stéphanie, you will continue to serve our country with dedication.

On behalf of the Government and the entire nation, I thank you most sincerely.

Long live the Grand Ducal Family! Long live Luxembourg! Long live Europe!