



**SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER LUC FRIEDEN
AT THE ABDICATION CEREMONY
OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS GRAND DUKE HENRI**

Grand Ducal Palace, Luxembourg, 3 October 2025

Your Royal Highness,

The history of a nation is written around defining moments and people. Today is a day when these two elements converge: the change of throne and the legacy of a great personality.

The Act we have just signed marks the end of Your service as Head of State of Luxembourg.

It is a truly historic moment, one that most of us will witness only two or three times in the course of our lives.

This year, on National Day, we honoured Your 25 years on the throne – a period marked by peace, freedom and prosperity in Luxembourg, which, sadly, cannot be taken for granted in many parts of the world.

Monseigneur,

Thank You for 25 years of service to Luxembourg, to our country and to its citizens – those born here and those who made it their home. You have always placed our social cohesion at the centre of Your priorities.

Thank You for 25 years during which You have been the symbol of Luxembourg, of its independence and sovereignty – at home and abroad. You were, You are, and You will remain an essential part of what we call our nation.

Thank You for 25 years as Head of State of Luxembourg. You have provided our democratic institutions with the continuity they need to function. It has been a great joy and honour for me to stand by Your side in this mission, as the last Prime Minister of Your reign.



You have carried out this role with the perfect balance between dignity and warmth, seriousness and openness, formality and humanity.

This role was not one You chose. It has been Yours by birth. But the people of Luxembourg – all of us – could not have wished for a better Sovereign.

For You have performed this duty with heart and soul. You have, quite literally, devoted Your entire life to serving our country with unfailing loyalty.

And this is the very essence of a modern monarchy: a monarchy that places itself in the service of the nation. A monarchy that upholds the finest qualities of our country and stands as a pillar of our fundamental values and our highest ideals.

Monseigneur, during these 25 years, You have profoundly marked Luxembourg. The history of our country can no longer be told without a chapter dedicated to Your reign.

And to this chapter belongs Your wife, Grand Duchess Maria Teresa, whose exemplary commitment to humanitarian causes, both in Luxembourg and abroad, is part of this history.

As parents, You have prepared Your eldest son Guillaume in the best possible way for his new role at the head of our country, laying the foundations of his own chapter as Grand Duke.

Thank You, Monseigneur. Thank You, Madame.

A monarchy distinguishes itself by its continuity. As in this historic moment, Prince Guillaume becomes the new Grand Duke of Luxembourg.

Monseigneur,

As we did with Your grandfather, Grand Duke Jean, and Your father, Grand Duke Henri, the people of Luxembourg will stand by You – in service of a peaceful and democratic Luxembourg and Europe.

Long live Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa!

Long live Grand Duke Guillaume and Grand Duchess Stéphanie!

Long live Luxembourg!