



Check against delivery

Fête nationale 2026

Cérémonie officielle à la Philharmonie Luxembourg

Discours du Premier ministre Luc Frieden

Traduction officieuse de la version originale en luxembourgeois

Royal Highnesses,
Excellencies,
Mr President,
Dear fellow citizens,

Every National Day is special.

All the more so today, as this is the first National Day in honour of Grand Duke Guillaume.

Monseigneur,

Two years ago, Your Father said in this very place that he believed in the next generation.

In the first nine months of your reign, *Monseigneur*, you have shown the entire country that Grand Duke Henri was not simply speaking as a proud father.

Together with Grand Duchess Stéphanie, you have travelled to every corner of our country.

In municipalities across the country, you have spoken with young and old alike and met people whose commitment brings our country to life.

Royal Highnesses,

Thank you for your presence and for the interest you take in all those who live in our country.

As Prime Minister, I too have the privilege of meeting people from all walks of life:

Volunteers who devote themselves to others.

Young people committed to our future.

Aspiring police officers, soldiers and firefighters who prepare to serve the community.
Entrepreneurs and tradespeople who build businesses and create jobs.

Families for whom Luxembourg has always been home.

And others who have chosen to make it their home more recently.

Each one of those moments, each one of those encounters, was different.

And yet, they showed me the same thing again and again.

What makes Luxembourg is the people who live here.

National Day is an opportunity to reflect on our country.

But our country is defined by its people.

That is why National Day is an opportunity to focus on what unites us, what makes us strong and what stands the test of time.

The world we are living in is becoming more complex.

There are wars in Europe and on our doorstep.

The world is marked by new tensions and new power dynamics.

New uncertainties. New concerns as well.

But it is precisely in moments like these that we must be able to rely on one another.

And what strikes me most in my conversations with people from across the country is exactly that:

Their willingness to take responsibility.

Their willingness to stand up for others.

Our society has always been diverse.

And that is a good thing.

But over generations, one thing has always been stronger than our differences:

The conviction that we can only move forward if we speak to one another.

If we listen to one another.
If we are willing to find common ground.

If we are united around shared principles and values.

Luxembourg will always stand up for democracy, peace, freedom and human rights – fundamental values that make it possible to live together in a respectful and responsible manner, here in Luxembourg and around the world.

This is not always an easy path.

But it is the right one.

That is also why our country is firmly rooted in the European project.

Because Europe is founded on the conviction that cooperation takes us further than confrontation.

And the more unsettled the world around us becomes, the more our freedom, our security and our ability to act require close cooperation with our European partners.

We are fortunate to live in a country which always finds common ground, even amid different opinions – a country, a democracy, that does not merely tolerate differing views but views them as valuable and necessary.

That is a privilege.

And it is a responsibility.

Not to preserve everything exactly as it is.

But to carry forward the very best of what has made us strong.

On this first National Day celebrated in honour of Grand Duke Guillaume, we have many reasons to look ahead with confidence.

Not because the world has become any simpler.

But because, wherever I go in our country and across Europe, I meet people who are ready to play their part.

For their families.

For their clubs and their municipalities.

For our society.

That is Luxembourg's strength.

That is a reason for confidence.

And it is also a reason to celebrate today.

Long live the Grand Duke!

Long live the Grand Ducal Family!

Long live Luxembourg!

Long live Europe!