



The City of Luxembourg is a UNESCO "World Heritage site"

'Léif Lëtzebuurger 2008'



'Léif Lëtzebuurger' tells the remarkable, untold story of the exiled Head of State Grand Duchess Charlotte whose WWII BBC radio broadcasts gave the "hope of freedom" to the people of her tiny European nation in the face of a hated enemy occupier. The film uses previously unseen archive footage and draws on exclusive eye-witness accounts.

The film explores the extraordinary bond between Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg and her people. As Hitler's army invades in 1940, Charlotte and key government ministers flee across the French border, to set up a government-in-exile, based in London and North America. Meanwhile, back home the Luxembourgers had to endure five bitter years of occupation at the hands of the Third Reich.

Against criticism that she abandoned her people, Charlotte used the airwaves to broadcast propaganda messages, as the only real weapon at her disposal. She was the Mother of the country. But it was her government ministers, not Charlotte, who wrote the scripts for her radio broadcasts.

The film is produced by Ray Tostevin and Candice Allen in cooperation with Joy Hoffmann from CNA (Centre national de l'audiovisuel). It was premiered in Luxembourg on 14 March in the presence of TTRHH the Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess as well as the former Grand Duke Jean who fought with the Irish Guards in WWII. Further information on the film's London launch will be available at a later date.

The European Capitals of Culture

The Luxembourg European Capital of Culture 2007 went out with a bang! On 8 December 2007, a grandiose Year of Culture culminated with an equally grandiose closing party in Luxembourg City! The Avenue de la Liberté was transformed into one big pedestrian zone with street theatre, music, surreal ballet, and an air parade. In an atmosphere between dreams and reality, magical creatures, giant puppets and strange giraffes whisked the participants into their world of legends and fairy-tales ... A spectacular night ended with a public ball for all at the "Knuedler", a firework display and an electro party in the Rotunda2. Luxembourg's partner city was Sibiu in Romania.

Liverpool is the 2008 European Capital of Culture. The Liverpool Culture Company set up by Liverpool City Council to deliver the cultural programme in 2008 and beyond has organised a packed schedule of events. Liverpool won the 2008 race because people - the city's greatest asset - were at the heart of the bid and they want to ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to take part.

They are working closely with their stakeholders - including cultural organisations, communities, creative industries, artists, schools and businesses - to leave a lasting and positive legacy for the people of Liverpool, including more jobs, a stronger economy and a better place to live. The partner city of Liverpool is Stavanger in Norway. Further information on www.liverpool08.com.



The Lisbon Treaty

On 13th December 2007 Prime Minister Jean Claude Juncker and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration Jean Asselborn signed the Lisbon treaty.

"The Treaty of Lisbon will reinforce the Union's capacity to act and the ability to achieve those goals in an effective way. As such, it will help the Union to deliver better results to European citizens," said EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso during the signing ceremony.

This treaty will give a bigger role to national parliaments, provide greater transparency to what the EU can or cannot do, further streamline EU institutions, create a full-time President of the European Council and a High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and introduce more majority voting.

Before being effective the new treaty must be ratified by the 27 Member States. The Luxembourg Parliament, the 'Chambre des Députés', will ratify it before the summer break. Luxembourg was one of the countries who voted yes to the now defunct European Constitution in the 2005 referendum. If all Member States ratify the new treaty by the end of this year, citizens could vote in the June 2009 European elections with full knowledge of the new institutional framework.

In Prime Minister Juncker's words, 'the new European treaty is good for Luxembourg and is a good treaty for the European Union'.

ALFI Seminar in London, 22 May 2008

ALFI, the Association of Luxembourg Fund Investment holds its yearly seminar in London on Thursday 22 May 2008. ALFI will explain why Luxembourg presents a unique set of advantages for investment fund promoters who wish to distribute their funds within the European Union or throughout the world as well as provide an update on the latest regulatory developments in this field.

There is no registration fee, if you would like more information on the venue and exact time please visit ALFI's website at www.alfi.lu.

Luxembourg Passports

Biometric passports were introduced in Luxembourg on 28 August 2006. These are valid for 2 years for minors up to the age of 4 and for five years for anyone from the age of 4 and over. Luxembourg Nationals residing outside the Grand Duchy will be issued with a biometric passport. They should lodge an application at the Embassy in their country of residence (or at the Belgian Embassy where Luxembourg does not have an Embassy as is the case in Dublin). Please kindly note the following:

- any passport issued before 2006 will not be prolonged;
- biometric passports can not be extended.

Please email the Luxembourg Embassy at londres.amb@mae.etat.lu for passport information and an application form. Further information can also be obtained on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website at <http://www.mae.lu>.

New Luxembourg Ambassador to the United Kingdom

Hubert Wurth arrived in London on 26 August 2007 to take over as Ambassador to the Court of St James's. He was born on 15 April 1952. In addition to holding various positions in the Foreign Ministry over the years, Mr Wurth was Deputy Permanent Representative of his country to the Council of Europe (1979), and Private Secretary to the Vice-President of the Government and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs and Justice (1981). In 1986 he was appointed as Director Delegate for Political Affairs with a special responsibility for security issues.



From 1988 to 1991, he served as Luxembourg's Ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Poland, Finland and Mongolia, in residence in Moscow. From 1991 to 1998, Mr. Wurth was Luxembourg's Ambassador to the Netherlands. During that period, he also served as Luxembourg's Ambassador on special mission for the former Yugoslavia (1996). From 1998-2003, Hubert Wurth was the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations, in New York.

From 2003 to 2007 he was his country's Ambassador to France, to OECD and to UNESCO. Ambassador Wurth presented his credentials in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 11 October 2007. On 11 December 2007 he presented his credentials to President Mary McAleese of Ireland and on 12 January 2008 he presented his letters of credence to Mr Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, President of Iceland.

Peter Bateman, the new British Ambassador to Luxembourg

Peter Bateman was born on 23 December 1955. In 1984 he joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, working in the East Africa Department. In 1985 he started his Japanese language training, and from 1987 to 1990 was First Secretary, Political, at the British Embassy in Tokyo. In 1990 he worked with the FCO News Department (FCO spokesperson) and from 1991 to 1993 he headed the FCO's Nuclear Non Proliferation Section. From 1993 to 1998 he was posted to the British Embassy in Berlin, as Head of the Commercial Section, and then he was appointed Director of Trade and Investment Promotion at the British Embassy in Japan (1998-2002). From 2003 to 2005 he was in a Secondment to the City of London as Deputy Chief Executive. Before coming to Luxembourg in September 2007 Peter Bateman was Her Majesty's Ambassador to Bolivia. He presented his credentials to HRH the Grand Duke on 20 September 2007.



Two images of the new Museum of Modern Art in Luxembourg built by IM Pei. MUDAM is open from 11 am to 8 pm on Wednesday, 11 am to 6 pm from Thursday to Monday. It is closed on Tuesday.



Luxembourg Language TV

D'Chamber en Direct, Nordlicht TV and RTL Télé Lëtzebuerg are the three Luxembourg-language channels available on satellite Astra 1G at 19.2°E (orbital position).

Luxembourg Society

The Luxembourg Society was formed in 1942 to promote closer relations and friendship between Britain and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. It provides a forum where Luxembourgers in Britain and Britons, namely those formerly resident in Luxembourg, meet through its regular informal gatherings in London. It has particular relevance to students studying here. The informal drinks evenings are held on every second Tuesday at the usual venue, the Penderel's Oak in 283-288 High Holborn. Membership (£3 - students £1) is open to anyone who has (or has had) dealings with Luxembourg and who would like to meet others with similar interests.

www.luxembourgsociety.co.uk

Belgian Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in London

The 1921 Belgian Luxembourg Economic Union established a long tradition of close economic and monetary cooperation and provided the framework for a network of Belgian Luxembourg Chambers of Commerce round the world. The BLCC aims to help Belgian and Luxembourg companies do business in the UK to succeed and prosper, which in return benefits the Belgian, Luxembourg and British economies. They organise networking events and provide a range of business services.

www.blcc.co.uk/

The Young Chamber (TYC) - part of the Belgian Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce (BLCC) - is the platform for young Belgian and Luxembourg professionals living in the UK.

www.theyoungchamber.org/TYC/

The 'Golden Bridge Award' is an annual award presented to the most successful Belgian or Luxembourg company exporting to the United Kingdom, in both the service and manufacturing sectors.

(DEME Group were the 2007 Golden Bridge Award winners).

Former winners and finalists have confirmed that the award has enhanced their image in both the home and UK market and is an incentive for their staff.

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