



National Day reception in The Hague on 22nd June 2016:
Speech pronounced by the Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Pierre-Louis Lorenz

*Excellenties, beste vrienden, collega's, dames en heren, leiw Lëtzebuurger,
Het is mij een genoegen u hier in de Glazen zaal te verwelkomen ter gelegenheid van
onze Nationale Feestdag.
Ik zal het zo kort mogelijk houden, niet omdat er weinig te zeggen is, maar eerder
omdat er misschien juist te veel te zeggen valt.
Het afgelopen jaar was een goed jaar voor Luxemburg: we hebben de crisis achter ons
gelaten en we zijn terug bij de pre-crisis groeicijfers, zelfs als er reden blijft om alert te
blijven.*

Excellencies, friends, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, leiw Letzebuenger
I am happy to welcome you here in the Glazen Saal to celebrate with you our National
Day. I shall be brief, not because there is little to say, but rather that there might be
too much to say.

The last year was a good one for Luxembourg, we are out of the crisis mode and back
to pre-crisis growth figures, even if there is reason to keep prudent and alert.

On the European stage Luxembourg faced a difficult semestrial EU presidency, difficult
because so many unexpected crisis moments opened up, but we succeeded to hand
over the presidency gavel to The Netherlands in an orderly fashion and in good shape.

In a regional perspective, 2016 is for us the year of the Benelux presidency, a year-
long occasion where we try together with Belgium and The Netherlands to be as
ambitious as possible, especially in a period where Europe is doubting its own strength
and future.

Yesterday I celebrated with the citizens of Maastricht our National Day, a city which is
inspired by the European spirit as much as my own country. Luxembourgers like to
say that they have two fatherlands, a small one and a larger one, Europe, the Europe
of the Union. As much as we need our motherland that is the anchor which we call
home, as much we need Europe to contribute to stability and security in the
competition on the global stage. We cherish both and we want for both an inspiring
future.

Tomorrow, the 23rd, is the actual day we celebrate in Luxembourg, and if
Luxembourgers can formulate a wish for that occasion, it would be to stay together
united on our continent.

I promised to be brief, and I would now like to let our two musicians continue, and as
so often in Luxembourg, it is possible even with 2 people to form an international
group. The Luxembourger Jean-Philippe KOCH, piano, and the Belgian, David
KINTZIGER, Double Bass, will first play our national anthem, followed by the
WILHELMUS, the anthem of Luxembourg's Royal House, distinct from the Dutch
National Anthem, but sharing the same origins.

*Laten we nu naar Luxemburgse traditie proosten: / Let me now pronounce the
traditional toast:*

VIVE LETZEBUERG / VIVE DE GRAND-DUC