NEWSLETTER OF THE EMBASSY OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG IN WARSAW
JULY-DECEMBER//2024



Word from the Ambassador

Dear Readers, Dear Friends of the Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in Warsaw,

I have the pleasure to present you the newsletter with the activities of the Embassy during the second half of the year 2024.

I would also like to seize the opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and joyful season. Let me also express the hope that the upcoming year 2025 will bring peace to all of us.

Paul Schmit

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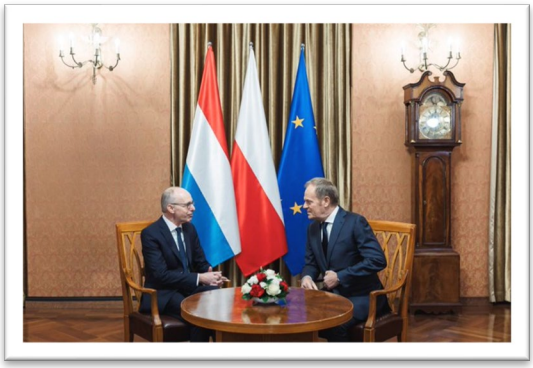
Diplomatic activities

Prime Minister Luc Frieden back in Warsaw

On 4 November 2024, Prime Minister Luc Frieden visited Warsaw for the second time this year. He delivered the keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Jacques Delors Promotion 2024/2025, at the College of Europe in Natolin. The title of his address was *Europe. A necessity. An ambition*. The same day he met his Polish counterpart Prime Minister Donald Tusk.











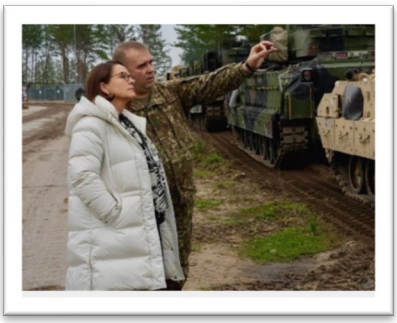
Working visit of Minister Backes to Lithuania

On 30 September 2024, Mrs Yuriko Backes, Minister for Gender Equality and Diversity visited Lithuania. She had a bilateral meeting with Justina Jakštienė, Deputy Minister of Social Security and Labour and responsible for gender equality issues. The programme also included a visit to the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

Minister Backes visited Latvia

On 2-3 October 2024, Minister of Defence Yuriko Backes paid a working visit to Latvia. She was received by her counterpart, Andris Sprūds. They discussed (among others) bilateral defence cooperation, Russia's illegitimate war of aggression against Ukraine, and the role of NATO and the EU in the European security architecture. During the visit minister Backes also confirmed Luxembourg's intention to join the "drone coalition", visited the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence and the Ādaži military base.







Finance Minister Gilles Roth visited Warsaw

On 24 and 25 November 2024, Minister of Finance of Luxembourg Gilles Roth paid a working visit in Warsaw. He met with his counterpart Andrzej Domański. The Ministers discussed Poland's priorities in the framework of its Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2025, Europe's competitiveness in the light of the Draghi report and the situation in Ukraine.





Ministers Roth and Domański then participated in the 6th Luxembourg-Poland Business Conference *Artificial Intelligence – Luxembourg and Poland Perspective* which took place at the Embassy of Luxembourg in Warsaw. The conference brought together a large group of industry experts, opinion leaders and professionals. The opening speeches of the two Ministers were followed by two interesting panels with the participation of specialists from Luxembourg and Poland.









Minister of Defence in Lithuania



On 11 December 2024, Minister of Defence, Yuriko Backes, together with the Army Chief of Staff, General Steve Thull, paid a working visit to Lithuania. They met with the members of the Luxembourg contingent forming part of NATO's Forward Land Forces in Rukla. The Minister also held talks with the Defence Minister, Laurynas Kasčiūnas, and Dovilė Šakalienė, the future Defence Minister. Minister Backes stressed the importance of Euro-Atlantic solidarity and assured of the continuity of Luxembourg's military commitment in Lithuania as part of NATO's Forward Land Forces.

Business

20 years of ArcelorMittal in Poland

On 26 September 2024, Ambassador Paul Schmit visited Silesia voivodship. He met authorities of the region including President of the capital of the region - city of Katowice Marcin Krupa. The following day, ArcelorMittal, one of the greatest steel producers in Poland with its headquarters in Luxembourg celebrated the 20th anniversary of its presence in Poland. Ambassador Schmit took part in the event organised on that occasion in Sosnowiec in the presence of Lakshmi Mittal, President of ArcelorMittal and Sanjay Samaddar, General Director of Arcelor Mittal Polska.



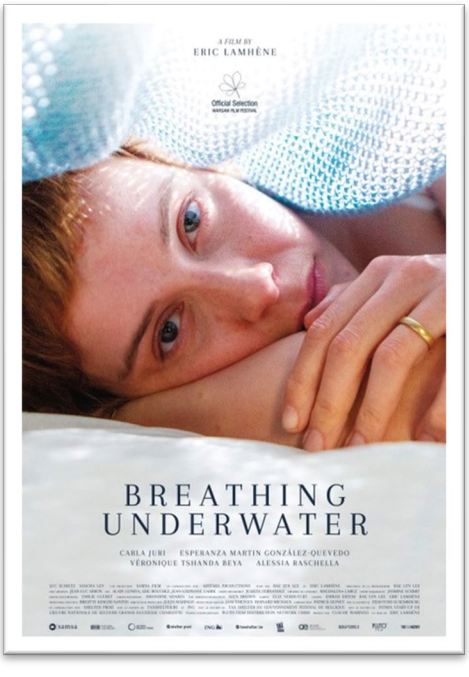


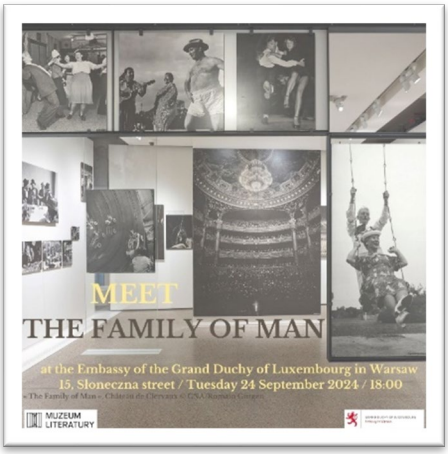
Culture

"Breathing Underwater" at the Warsaw Film Festival

On 12 October 2024, the prestigious Warsaw Film Festival hosted the world premiere of the film *Breathing Underwater*, directed by Eric Lamhène. After the screening, the audience discussed the theme of violence against women with the director. On 14 October, a second screening of the film took place at the Embassy in the presence of the film community, including distributors and friends of the Embassy.









Meet the Family of Man at the Embassy of Luxembourg in Warsaw

Edward Steichen's work as a brilliant curator was the subject of the presentation on 24 September at the Embassy of Luxembourg in Warsaw. Paul Lesch, curator of Steichen Collections, presented this artistic phenomenon of *The Family of Man*. Conceived in 1955, the exhibition is now on permanent display in Luxembourg in the castle of Clervaux. Over the years, it has inspired other artists and intellectuals, including the Polish poet Witold Wirpsza, whose collection of poems *Comments on Photography* (1962) remains in dialogue with the exhibition. Natalia Malek, from the Adam Mickiewicz Museum of Literature in Warsaw, spoke of the exhibition's poetic legacy in Poland.

Christmas season

On 8 December 2024, the Embassy of Luxembourg in Warsaw participated in the 17th edition of SHOM Warsaw Charity Bazaar which took place this year at the PGE Narodowy. Residents of Warsaw had the opportunity to buy unique presents coming from different countries including Luxembourg and to admire performances of artists from Poland and other countries. Proceeds from the Christmas Bazaar will be donated to 15 charities in Poland.



