

Czech – Liechtenstein TODAY



PRINCE HANS-ADAM II CELEBRATES 25 YEARS ON THE THRONE



Their Serene Highnesses Prince Hans-Adam II. and his wife Princess Maria

Vaduz 13. 11. 2014: His Serene Highness, Hans Adam II, Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein (* 14. 2. 1945 in Zurich) celebrated the 25th anniversary of his reign on 13 November 2014, which he began after the death of his father, Reigning Prince Francis Joseph II (16. 8. 1906 – 13. 11. 1989). From the first half of the 1970s, he was entrusted by his father with the principality's economic reforms and the reorganisation of the administration of the

family's assets. In 1984, he was named his father's heir in performing the tasks of head of state.

Liechtenstein is indebted to Prince Hans-Adam II for its economic prosperity and political stability. During the period of his reign, the principality has opened up even more to the world, becoming a member of the UN (1990) and European Economic Area. In 2003, its citizens approved a change in the country's constitution in a referendum which increased the Prince's powers (64.3% voted in favour, with 20% wanting current powers to remain and the rest favouring restrictions).

The Prince's objective was to balance political forces and limit politicians from taking any populist measures. Nevertheless, the change in constitution enabled citizens to veto the Prince in a referendum, depose him or abolish the monarchy. Despite this, some foreign media have spoken through ignorance of the principality as the last absolutist monarchy in Europe. The Prince's opinions of various systems of government and the problems of states in the third millennium and their solutions were published in 2009 in his book, *The State in the Third Millennium* (published in Czech by Grada Publishing in 2011), which has so far been published in 14 languages (including Russian and Arabic).

In 2009, he succeeded in restoring diplomatic relations with the Czech Republic after more than 70 years. His attempts at getting restitution for the property of Liechtenstein citizens which was confiscated in 1945 from 34 principality citizens have so far been unsuccessful.

In June 1967, the Prince married Countess Marie Aglaë (*1940 in Prague). They have three sons and one daughter. The oldest son, Alois (* 11. 6. 1968) was entrusted with carrying out the tasks of the head of state in preparation for taking them on fully in future.

We wish His Serene Highness and his country all the best!

LIECHTENSTEIN DAY AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY



Speakers at Liechtenstein Day at Charles University in Prague: Prof. Dr. Francesco Schurr - University Liechtenstein, Pavel Juřík Chairman of Historic Association Liechtenstein, Prof. PhDr. Lenka Rovná – Vice-Rector of Charles University, Dr. Tomas Zwiefelhofer – Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Liechtenstein, H. S. H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer Princess of Liechtenstein – Liechtenstein Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Prof. PhDr. Jan Županič – member of the Czech-Liechtenstein History Commission (Charles University), Ernst Risch - Liechtenstein Marketing, Director.

On Wednesday 25 September 2014, Liechtenstein Day took place at Charles University in Prague. The event, which was initiated by Historic Association Liechtenstein, provided basic information on the country's history, economics and political system, and on Czech-Liechtenstein relations. Around 100 guests took part in Liechtenstein Day including many academics, politicians (Minister of Culture, Daniel Herman), deputies and senators, diplomats, representatives of Regions and towns and cities, entrepreneurs, and representatives of tourism and the media.

The programme was launched by Vice-Rector of Charles University, PhDr. Lenka Rovná, PhD., who recalled the rich legacy of the Liechtenstein family, and the visit of reigning Prince Hans-Adam II to Charles University in April 2011. At that time, the prince had discussed his opinions in the book, 'The State in the Third Millennium' (Grada) with the university's students.

The talk, 'Liechtenstein yesterday, today and tomorrow' gave basic information on the history of Liechtenstein and the Liechtenstein family and the political system and economics of the principality and was given by Chair of Historic Association Liechtenstein, Ing. Pavel Juřík. Prof. PhDr. Jan Županič, PhD. looked at the history of Czech-Liechtenstein relations. Minister of Culture, Daniel Herman, also gave a special talk in Czech and German looking at the rich legacy of the Liechtenstein family for the Czech lands.

The Ambassador of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic, Her Serene Highness Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of

Liechtenstein, described the genesis of Czech-Liechtenstein relations. Following the renewal of diplomatic relations in September 2009 between the two countries, intensive bilateral co-operation began, including at an international level. One of the results of this co-operation was signature of an agreement on preventing double taxation between the Czech Republic and Liechtenstein, which was signed on 25 September 2014.

The programme's main feature was a talk by Deputy Prime Minister of Liechtenstein, Dr Thomas Zwiefelhofer, in which he clarified the principles of Liechtenstein's economic policy and the main benefits and disadvantages of the small size of his country. The long-term priority of all Liechtenstein governments is to keep the country debt-free and to secure economic and social development.

An important part of supporting business is the education system, and this was discussed by Prof. Dr Schurr of the University of Liechtenstein. What is inspiring is the fact that the education system supports apprenticeships in co-operation with leading industrial enterprises. Subsequently, a large proportion of the population educated in this manner continue in higher education, so that along with practical education, these graduates also have theoretical grounding and are better prepared for their future careers. It is an interesting fact that it is those who work in education who have the highest salaries in Liechtenstein, by up to 50%!

You can find a video of Liechtenstein Day (in English) at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lvCLsb_MnE

LIECHTENSTEIN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Prague 25. 9. 2014: On the occasion of Liechtenstein Day and the working visit of Dr Thomas Zwiefelhofer, Liechtenstein's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs, to the Czech Republic, the Czech Top 100 association held a luncheon in honour of our rare guest in the Municipal House's French Restaurant. Informal discussions on the co-operation of both countries in economic matters took place between Liechtenstein Ambassador, H.S.H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein and other members of the Liechtenstein delegation and representatives of the management of Czech Top 100 and leading Czech companies, Vice-Rector of Charles University and other guests.

The President of Czech Top 100, Ing. Jan Struž, recalled H.S.H. Prince Hans-Adam II's visit in 2011 on the occasion of the launch of the Czech edition of his book, 'The State in the Third Millennium' (his association being one of its sponsors), when the head of Liechtenstein had also been a guest of Czech Top 100 in Municipal House's French Restaurant. He also expressed his interest in supporting a maximum level of co-operation in the economic and trade fields.

Liechtenstein's Deputy Prime Minister expressed his thanks for the invitation and stressed that Czech Top 100 has become a traditional supporter of Czech-Liechtenstein economic co-operation. He then invited a representative of Czech Top 100 to come on a working visit to Liechtenstein in October this year. After lunch, the Deputy Prime Minister left for a meeting with Czech Deputy Prime Minister and



Minister of Finance, Andrej Babiš, with whom he signed a contract to prevent double taxation. He also gave him the Czech edition of the book, 'The State in the Third Millennium'. Subsequently, he met with Minister of Industry and Trade, Jan Mládek, and Minister of Justice, Helena Válková.

THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO RESTRICT DOUBLE TAXATION AND PREVENT TAX EVASION



Prague 26. 9. 2014: Czech First Deputy Prime Minister for Economics and Minister of Finance, Andrej Babiš, and Deputy Prime Minister of Liechtenstein, Thomas Zwiefelhofer, today signed an Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Principality of Liechtenstein to restrict double taxation and prevent tax evasion for income and property tax alongside a Protocol to it.

There is currently no agreement in the field of tax relations between the Czech Republic and the Principality of Liechtenstein restricting double taxation, and this has a negative impact on economic relations between both countries. For this reason, it was decided to negotiate this agreement to restrict double taxation between both countries.

This agreement increases the legal security of any investors of both states. It is a comprehensive agreement governing taxation and eliminating international double taxation of all kinds on income and property. The agreement also governs basic forms of co-operation between relevant bodies of both parties to the agreement. It allows for disputes which occur in the interpretation and implementation of the agreement to be solved, for information to be exchanged in

the field of tax of all kinds and names, and also assists in restricting tax evasion and fraud.

Also discussed at the occasion were the latest economic issues and options for expanding mutual co-operation. Liechtenstein companies Hilti, Hoval and Oerlikon Balzers operate in the Czech Republic, where they employ more than 200 workers and create a turnover of almost one billion dollars.

At negotiations with the Minister of Industry and Trade, Jan Mládek, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Liechtenstein government, Thomas Zwiefelhofer, presented his country as a high-tech state, 39% of whose GDP is made up of cutting edge industries. Liechtenstein also offers a range of investment opportunities for investors and entrepreneurs and its stability, effectiveness of state and regional administration, enforceability of rights, fiscal policy, cutting edge infrastructure and high quality workforce all offer excellent conditions for doing business.

In a discussion with Minister of Justice, Helena Válková, the excellent co-operation between the two countries in legal affairs was praised. At the end of his working visit, the

Deputy Prime Minister and Economic Affairs Minister of Liechtenstein stated: 'Our programme in Prague has been ambitious, but very productive. We have been both in a

university environment and in the business and political sphere, where we showcased our country and strengthened mutual relations.'

CZECH-LIECHTENSTEIN COMMISSION OF HISTORIANS PUBLISH THEIR FINAL REPORT

Brno 22 September 2014: The Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians met at Masaryk University in Brno's Faculty of Arts for their final meeting, which was the conclusion of three years of work of many experts (2010-2012). Proceedings with 67 contributions by 61 authors from the Czech Republic, Liechtenstein and Austria have now been published in Czech and German, analysing the more than 700 years of shared history of Moravia, Silesia and Bohemia and the House of Liechtenstein and Liechtenstein the country. Besides historians and experts in the history of art and law, experts in architecture, gardens, technology and other fields relating to their joint history were also involved in the work. The members of the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians were: Dr. Peter Geiger, Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Knoz PhD., PhDr. Eliška Fučíková, PhDr. Ondřej Horák, PhDr. Marek Vařeka, PhD. (until 2012), Dr. Catherine Horel, Dr. Johann Kräftner, Dr. Thomas Winkelbauer and Prof. PhDr. Jan Županič, PhD.

The results of their work were published in Časopis Matice moravské (Journal of the Moravian Foundation) in four volumes. Now a final summary report is being published. Prof. PhDr. Tomáš Knoz, Ph.D, Chair of the Czech section of the Commission, stressed that the research had taken place on the Czech and Liechtenstein side in a collegial atmosphere and that the Commission's members had access to all archives and all documents without exception. Ambassador of Liechtenstein in the Czech Republic, Her Serene Highness Maria-Pia Kothbauer, Princess of Liechtenstein, valued the extent and depth of the analysis and noted that such an extensive analysis of the relations between two countries had not been done before by any other country in Europe.

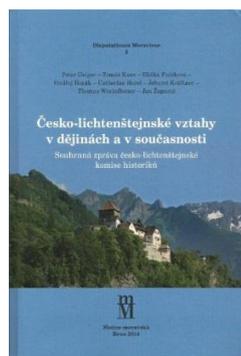
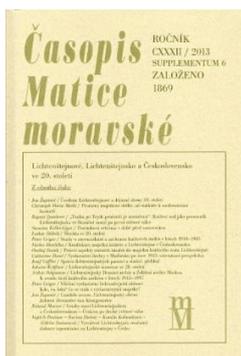
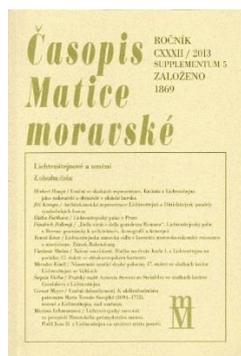
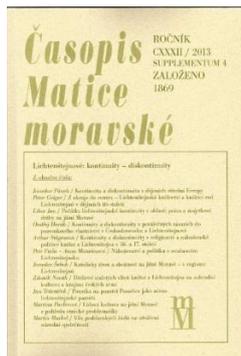
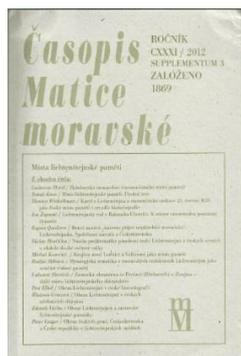
The work wasn't easy with more than 60 years of severed diplomatic relations (between 1945 and 2009) as a result of the confiscation of the property of 34 Liechtenstein citizens (6 of whom were members of the princely family). The historians brought a clear, evidence-based perspective on

more than seven centuries of the co-existence of Moravia, Silesia and Bohemia with the House of Liechtenstein and rejected a number of false viewpoints on certain family members or events, and revealed many unknown connections, consequences and points of interest. Overall, mutual co-operation and influence between the Czech lands and the House of Liechtenstein was assessed as of great benefit to both sides. The Czech lands and Central Europe are obliged to the House of Liechtenstein for many good deeds (e.g. extensive support for public projects, charity, patronage of the arts), which is evidenced by the content of the above detailed proceedings.

Research undertaken of Czech and Liechtenstein archives also gave detailed clarification of the activities of the House of Liechtenstein and the Principality of Liechtenstein from 1938 to 1945, and confirmed that they remained neutral. During the occupation, they protected Czech employees in protectorate territory and in the Reich, and did not collaborate with the occupying power. The decision to confiscate the property of Liechtenstein citizens in Czechoslovakia in 1945 on the basis of their purposeful labelling as Germans was unjust and was done for political objectives. It is odd that citizens of Switzerland were exempted from being labelled as German, and even citizens of Austria were also treated benevolently. Historians are able to bring a true picture of history if they get the space to do so as they did in this case, but they cannot change history and its consequences. It is politicians who can do this, if they find the courage to take such a step.

The three proceedings and the final report of the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians can be ordered from the address:

Matice moravská
Arne Nováka 1
402 00 Brno
www.matice-moravska.cz



ONE PRINCELY HOUSE – THREE GENERATIONS



Their Serene Highnesses: Hereditary Prince Alois, Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II, Prince Josef Wenzel

You can find an interview with Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II, Crown Prince Alois and his son, Joseph Wenzel, on the website (in German and English):

<http://www.liechtenstein.li/en/country-and-people/state/princely-house-head-of-state/interview/>

LIECHTENSTEIN POST CELEBRATES HANS-ADAM II JUBILEE WITH POST STAMPS

