

Czech – Liechtenstein TODAY



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LIECHTENSTEIN TO CELEBRATE 300 YEARS UPPER COUNTRY, EXHIBITION IN MIKULOV

In 2012 Liechtenstein will celebrate the 300th anniversary of the acquisition and union of the Principality's Lower Country (Unterland) and its Upper Country (Oberland) in 1712 by Prince Johann Adam Andreas of Liechtenstein (16. 9. 1657 Brno - 16. 6. 1712 Vienna). In 1699 Prince Johann Adam Andreas of Liechtenstein purchased the Domain of Schellenberg and on June 9, 1712 the County of Vaduz, bringing the two areas together.

state in 1806 when Liechtenstein attained its sovereignty through its admission to the Rhine Confederation.

The 300th anniversary will be celebrated with gatherings throughout the year along with festivities planned for the week of June 6-10 in Vaduz. Over the course of the year there will be historical lectures, special projects at the Liechtenstein schools as well as a special exhibition at the Liechtenstein National Museum from April 5-October 15 commemorating the occasion.



Prince Hans-Adam I of Liechtenstein laid down basis of Principality of Liechtenstein. He was born in Brno in 1657.

Later, in 1719 during a reign of prince Anton Florian (1656-1721), the unified territory of Liechtenstein was elevated to the Imperial Principality of Liechtenstein under the Holy Roman Empire (as the last and 343th sovereign entity), making the Princely Family of Liechtenstein a member of the Council of Princes in the Imperial Diet of the Holy Roman Empire. This marked the beginning of Liechtenstein's political representation in Europe and an important step towards its formation into an independent



Castle Vaduz is a capital of Liechtenstein and Upper Country.

The year's highlight will be the "Oberland Fest" on June 9, which is planned to be celebrated throughout the city of Vaduz with music and cultural activities paying tribute to the history, sovereignty and identity of Liechtenstein.

Historic Association Liechtenstein and Regional Museum in Mikulov, under auspice of Dr. Michal Hasek governor of South-Moravian Region, organise an exhibition „**The Prince Hans-Adam I of Liechtenstein, His Life and Work**“. The exhibition will be open in March 31, 2012 by H. S. H. Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II and governor JUDr. Michal Hašek.

WISE AND EXTRAORDINARY STATESMAN HAS LEFT



H. S. H. Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein reacted to the death of former Czech President Mr. Václav Havel (Dec 18, 2011) with

following letter being addressed to the President of the Czech Republic Mr. Václav Klaus on December 19, 2011:

Yours Excellency,

It is with great sadness that I heard the news of demise of former President Mr. Václav Havel and I would like to extend to you, your Government, the family of Mr. Havel as well as to the people of the Czech Republic my deepest sympathy and sincere condolences.

Mr. Havel, who I had the privilege to personally know, was a wise and outstanding statesman. A politician dedicated to his country and to peace. His death is a great loss for your country and for Europe and I shall always remember him.

**Hans-Adam II
Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein**

LIECHTENSTEIN BECOMES 26TH MEMBER OF THE SCHENGEN AREA

On December 13 the EU's Interior Ministers voted in Brussels in favor of adding Liechtenstein to the Schengen Area. On December 19 Liechtenstein formally became part of the territory comprised of European countries that have implemented the Schengen Agreement in which internal border controls are eliminated allowing for customs-free cross-border travel with other Schengen Area members.

Over the course of 2011, EU officials visited Liechtenstein three times to conduct evaluations of Liechtenstein's implementation of technical requirements involved in joining the Schengen Area. The Agreement also entails closer coordination with all members on issues such as visas, cross-border policing, legal cooperation, and matters addressing migration and asylum.



Liechtenstein state flag at Vaduz castle.

10 YEARS LIECHTENSTEIN FIU

November 2011 marked the 10 year anniversary of the **Liechtenstein Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)**, the responsible authority to receive, analyze and disseminate financial intelligence to fight money laundering, organized crime and terrorist financing. To mark the occasion, on November 9 roughly 70 guests from Europe and around the world attended a symposium in Vaduz with the title "Financial Intelligence – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." Hosted by René Brülhart, Director of the Liechtenstein FIU, guests included Dr. August Hanning, former President of the German Federal Intelligence Service, as well as Juan Zarate, former Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism during the George W. Bush Administration and current Senior Adviser at the Washington, DC-based think tank Center For Strategic and International Studies.

Liechtenstein FIU Director René Brülhart said that it is essential to sustain and build upon networks and partnerships in order to support international efforts to combat money-laundering, organized crime and terrorist financing. Juan Zarate commented that only with the help of international partners can one properly analyze and make findings on what is going on and what potential threats exist, which is central to security. Looking back, Zarate pointed out in particular the US cooperation with the Liechtenstein FIU with regard to the war in Iraq. He described how Liechtenstein played a key role in the freezing of a jet belonging to the regime of Saddam Hussein and its return to the new Iraqi government, a symbolic but important act.

Dr. August Hanning said that even as Europe is dealing with issues such as tax evasion it is important to be considerate

of all nations and come to a consensus, saying that this is an understanding that Liechtenstein has brought to fruition in the past few years. *"I believe that only through close cooperation in Europe can we combat money-laundering. Today the Liechtenstein FIU is contributing a large part to this effort,"* Hanning added. Klaus Tschütscher, Prime

Minister of Liechtenstein, remarked that *"...the FIU has done a lot for Liechtenstein's reputation and will continue to play a fundamental role in the future. Today Liechtenstein is considered a reliable and respected partner in the world. The FIU has played a large role in that."*

LIECHTENSTEIN INVESTMENT MARKET MEETS TO DISCUSS 310 BILLION EURO VENTURE CAPITAL

For the second time this last November, the Liechtenstein Government supported two conferences within the Liechtenstein Investment Market (LIM): The European Venture Market (EVM) and the European Fundraising Market (EFM). All together more than 350 experts attended the meeting.

The EFM is to be considered a platform for general and limited partners as well as family offices to network and to exchange experiences. The general topic of the event in 2011 was: Alternative Investments – A Necessity for the Future of Europe? This event is a unique platform to identify new investors for private equity and venture capital

funds. Besides the classical fundraising the EFM is an ideal opportunity to discuss investments, trends and innovative products.

The participants of the LIM represent an investment potential of more than 310 billion Euros. This is an enormous potential for companies who are seeking venture capital. The aim of the EVM is to match innovative companies with well-heeled entrepreneurs. Over 40 entrepreneurs from all four corners of the world attended the conference and more than 30 investors such as Aster Capital, ABB Technology, Mountain Club and Robert Bosch Venture Capital found new investment opportunities.

LIECHTENSTEIN CONTRIBUTES TO EEA FUNDS

The EEA Grants are jointly financed by Iceland, Principality of Liechtenstein and Kingdom of Norway and provide funding for social and economic development projects in 15 European countries. Norway contributes around 95% of the total funding. Through the EEA Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide €988.5 million in funding to 15 beneficiary states in Central and Southern Europe for 2009 to 2014. The donor states contribute according to their size and economic wealth.

Key areas of support are environmental protection, climate change and renewable energies, civil society, health and children, cultural heritage and research and scholarships feature as key areas of support. Beneficiary states of the EEA Grants are: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

In the past five-year period 2004-09, €672 million in funding was made available through the EEA Grants (110,91 mio. EUR was dedicated to the Czech Republic). Financial support was awarded to more than 800 projects (144 in value of 104,6 mio. EUR in the Czech Republic), programmes and funds, of which around 200 included joint financing by the EEA Grants and the Norway Grants. More than one fourth of the EEA Grants was awarded to projects in the fields of environmental protection and sustainable development. The majority of this funding was provided to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in public buildings such as schools and hospitals, and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Between the projects in the Czech Republic

were e. g. Castle Museum in Český Krumlov (1,285 mio. EUR) or digitalisation and depository of the most rare documents of capital city Prague.

Other important fields of support included conservation of European cultural heritage and health and childcare. The cultural heritage projects typically focused on restoration of historical buildings, renovation of museums and urban renewal. In the field of health and childcare, grants were applied to upgrades to childcare institutions, support to families with disabled children, and to preventing and diagnosing cancer.



On June 16, 2011 in Strahov Monastery in Prague an agreement on the use of new EEA grants in the Czech Republic has been concluded. H. S. H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer a Liechtenstein ambassador in the middle.

YOU ASKED FOR: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND LICHTENSTEIN

Liechtenstein is the fourth smallest state in Europe, but thanks to extraordinarily successful industry and services sector it is one of the countries with the world's highest standard of living and GDP. In the 1st half of 19th century it was a poor agricultural country in Rhein valley. Between 1860s and 1918 the Principality of Liechtenstein was represented abroad by Austrian-Hungarian empire. During the 1st world war the principality was a neutral country. In 1920s Liechtenstein concluded postal, monetary and customs union with Switzerland.

In 1919 principality opened an embassy in Bern and later also in Vienna, but its application for membership in League of Nations was not accepted, although the United Kingdom and France respected its sovereignty. Czechoslovakia was between the countries what voted against its membership. The reason were worries of Czechoslovak government that the recognition of its sovereignty would make difficult or even impossible the expropriation of princely estates during the 1st land reform.

Only in August 1938 the diplomatic relations were set up between both countries. Liechtenstein was represented by Swiss envoy in Prague, but only shortly. In March 16, 1939 Switzerland accepted the creation of Protectorat Böhmen und Mähren, closed its legation and transformed it to general consulate. The Liechtenstein never accepted the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia and therefore the diplomatic relations were interrupted only „*de facto*“, not „*de iure*“.

When Switzerland renewed the diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia (an exile government in London) in March 1945, the diplomatic relations with Liechtenstein were not restored. Czechoslovak government was not interested in it because there were already plans to confiscate assets of Liechtenstein citizens, as „German“ ones. The fact that Liechtenstein was a neutral country and the Liechtensteins were not German citizens and had no German nationality, were not taken in account.

Czechoslovak authorities were even more considerate towards citizens of Austria and Swiss citizens of German nationality than to citizens of the principality. The expropriation of assets of the Liechtenstein's citizens caused a cold relations between Vaduz and Prague for 64 years. The both countries didn't recognise each other until September 8, 2009, what was a world curiosity. Since 2011 both countries have exchanged their ambassadors.

Principality of Liechtenstein is a member of United Nations (1990), EFTA (1991), Council of Europe (1978) and many other international institutions. Liechtenstein has 6 embassies (Bern, Vienna, Washington, Berlin, Holy See and New York) and 2 permanent missions (Strasbourg, Geneva). In other countries Swiss embassies provide diplomatic and consular services for the principality and its citizens. In Vaduz are accredited 84 ambassadors with residence mostly in Bern or Vienna. Principality has 2 honorary consulates in Germany and 2 in USA. In Vaduz we can find 40 honorary consulates.



Czech ambassador H. E. Boris Lazar presented his credentials to H. S. H. Hereditary Prince Alois in January 13, 2011 in Vaduz Castle.



H. S. H. Maria-Pia Kothbauer Princess Liechtenstein presented her credentials to the President of the Czech Republic Mr. Václav Klaus in April 11, 2011.



← Liechtenstein Embassy in Vienna is responsible for diplomatic relations with Austria, Czech Republic, UN's offices and OSCE in Vienna.

COMANDER CROSS OF ORDER OF MERIT FOR A CZECH CITIZEN

In May 17, 2011 H. S. H. Hans-Adam II Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein bestowed Comander Cross of Order of Merit of the Principality of Liechtenstein to Mr. Pavel Juřík, as a recognition of his effort for development of Czech-Liechtenstein relations and truthful information about history of Liechtenstein and the Liechtensteins.

Pavel Juřík has written many articles about these topics and published book „*Moravian Dominions of the Liechtensteins and Dietrichsteins*“, which was baptised by H. S. H. Prince Hans-Adam II and South-Moravian governor Dr. Michal Hašek in castle Valtice in September 2009. Since 2010 he is a chairman of Historic Association Liechtenstein. Mr. Juřík is the first Czech citizen who received Liechtenstein decoration.

H. S. H. Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein and H. S. H. Princess Maria with Mr. Pavel Juřík at Vaduz Castle.



LECTURE IN VRANOV U BRNA



In November 5, 2011, in Vranov u Brna Nadační fond Vranov (Vranov Foundation) and Historic Association Liechtenstein organized a lecture **"Family Tombs Lichtenstein - the relationship of high aristocracy to their ancestors."** PHDr. Marek Vařeka, PhD. informed about history of princely tomb in Vranov u Brna what was used between 1627-1992. The monastery with church and tomb are unique architectonic and historic monuments. It is probably only one place in the world where the heads of one state were buried on the territory of another state.

There were about 150 visitors of the lecture. During the next ceremony South-Moravian governor JUDr. Michal Hašek and chairman of Vranov Foundation Mgr. Marek Juha layed a wreath at coffin of prince Johann I. of Liechtenstein.

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CZECH REGIONS IN VADUZ

In December 9, 2011 at Vaduz castle South-Bohemian governor and President of The Association of Czech Regions JUDr. Michal Hašek met in working lunch with in H. S. H. Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II and his wife H. S. H. Princess Maria.

Later Dr. Hašek had a meeting with Liechtenstein Vice Premier and minister of economy Dr. Martin Meyer. Their meeting was focused at investments of Liechtenstein companies in South- Moravian region.

Jan Kohout, Dr. Michal Hašek, H. S. H. Princess Maria and H. S. H. Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein.



AUDIENCE AT VADUZ CASTLE

In Saturday September 3, 2011 Vaduz castle hosted an interesting event. Forty-eight Czech monarchists (politic party Koruna česká) and four representatives of Strana svobodných občanů (The Free Citizens Party) were accepted in private audience by Their Serene Highnesses Prince Hans-Adam II and Princess Maria of Liechtenstein.



The guests were readers of the Czech edition of the book „*The State in the Third Millenium*“ by Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II (Grada, Prague 2011). Guests asked the author for signing the books and discussion about his ideas. The book attracted a great interest not only in the Czech Republic, but also in e. g. Germany, Austria or USA.

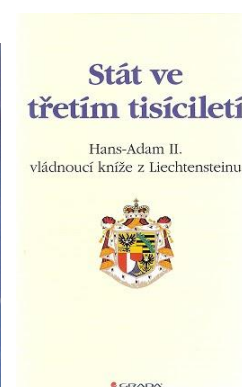
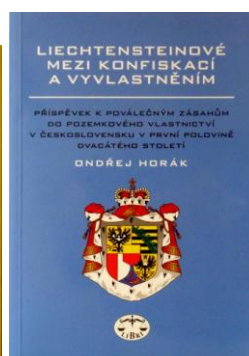
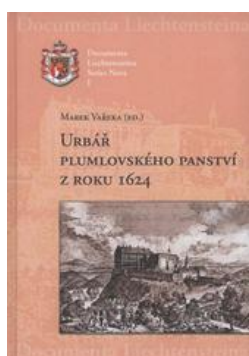
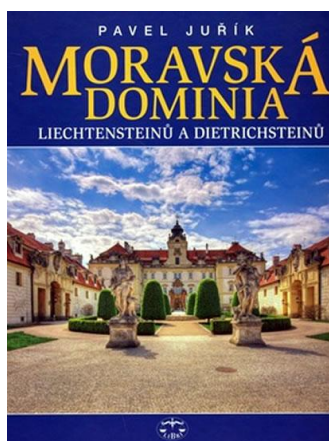


THE BOOKS FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

While before 2009 there were available no books about the Liechtenstein and the Liechtensteins in the Czech Republic, since then several interesting books were already published: ***Moravská dominia Liechtensteinů a Dietrichsteinů*** by Pavel Juřík (Libri, 2009), ***Urbář plumlovského panství z roku 1624*** by Marek Vařeka (Filosofická fakulta Ostravské univerzity v Ostravě 2009), ***Lichtenštejnsko*** by Marek Vařeka (Libri 20010), ***Liechtensteinové mezi konfiskací a vyvlastněním*** by Ondřej

Horák (Libri 2010) and ***Stát ve třetím tisíciletí*** by Hans-Adam II Reigning Prince of Liechtenstein (Grada 2011).

In Summer 2012 proceedings from the conference ***The Princely House of the Liechtensteins in the History of the Czech Crown Lands*** will be published by Ostravská univerzita in Ostrava and Historic Association Liechtenstein (over 40 lectures of historians from 6 European countries what were presented at the conference in Olomouc 2010).



Sources and pictures: Embassy of Liechtenstein e-Newsletter December 2011, www.eeagrants.org, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Regierung des Fürstentums Liechtenstein, Fragmenty, Vranov Foundation, South-Moravian Region Authority, Sammlungen des Fürsten von und zu Liechtenstein Vaduz-Wien.

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Redaction: Pavel Juřík, e-mail: jurikp@email.cz Photographies: © Pavel Juřík