

Swearing-in of His Royal Highness the Hereditary Grand Duke as Lieutenant Representative of the Grand Duke in accordance with article 58 of the Constitution of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Speech by the President of the Chamber of Deputies -
The spoken text shall prevail

8 October 2024

Your Royal Highness,

Today is a day of great significance, marking a pivotal moment in the history of Luxembourg.

It is a day of profound importance, not only for You personally, but also for the people of Luxembourg and all its residents.

Twenty-six years after Your father, it is now Your turn to assume the role of Lieutenant Representative (“Lieutenant-Representant”).

With the decree of the Grand Duke to appoint a second-in-command by His side, the tradition of ensuring a smooth transition of sovereign power, from one reign to the next, continues.

This is a rare and venerable tradition, enshrined in our Constitution in 1841, when the role of Lieutenant Representative was initially established to assist the Grand Duke, who was also the King of the Netherlands at that time, by ensuring that Luxembourg had a representative.

Since 1850, we have seen five such lieutenancies. When the Constitution was amended in 2023, the Chamber deemed it essential to include it in Article 58, ensuring this tradition endures.

However, today is unprecedented. For the first time, the Hereditary Grand Duke is taking the oath before the entire Chamber of Deputies in a public session.

This was the wish of parliament, as this moment holds deep symbolic and democratic significance. Your future role will thus receive the legitimacy it deserves.

Although Grand Duke Henri remains Head of State, You, as His Lieutenant Representative, may represent Him in all aspects of His important responsibilities, as we have just heard from the Prime Minister.

Today marks the confluence of tradition and renewal. It is a historic day for our country, for the Grand Ducal family, and for the Chamber of Deputies - our parliament.

Your Royal Highness,

Above all, this is a momentous day for You personally, for which You have been preparing your entire life.

In 2000, You were designated Hereditary Grand Duke, and over the past 24 years, You have engaged in numerous activities within the country, as well as on economic and financial missions abroad.

Since 2005, You have served on the State Council, gaining invaluable insight into the workings of our institutions and the legislative process.

We have witnessed the dedication, expertise, and – if I may add – the enthusiasm with which You have not only prepared Yourself for Your future responsibilities but also sought to serve Luxembourg and its people.

Now, Your Royal Highness, the next step awaits You.

You are prepared to take on the responsibilities entrusted to You by the Grand Duke, our Head of State, and Your father.

You stand ready and eager for the challenges ahead.

You are fully aware of the deep bond that Luxembourg shares with the Grand Ducal family.

You understand the special connection between our country and the Grand Duchess Charlotte, as well as Grand Duke Jean, whose legacies endure not only through history but through their remarkable characters.

You are equally aware of the significance of Your parents' presence and dedication to the people of Luxembourg. Through their service, they have come to mean a great deal to both the Luxembourgers and the residents of this country.

You should also know that we have the utmost confidence in You and in Her Royal Highness, the Hereditary Grand Duchess. We trust that You will represent our country with dignity, and commitment.

We are convinced that You, Your Royal Highness, will provide invaluable support to Your father in fulfilling his important duties.

Your Royal Highness, I now invite You to approach the microphone and take the oath before this Chamber, in accordance with Article 58 of our Constitution.

Oath taking

I shall now read the text of the oath to You. Please raise Your right hand and repeat after me:

‘I swear to uphold the Constitution and the laws
and to faithfully carry out my constitutional duties. ’

I hereby note Your swearing in.

[Applause]

On behalf of the Chamber of Deputies, I offer my heartfelt congratulations. We extend our warmest wishes for success as You embark on this new role as Lieutenant Representative.

It would be an honour, Your Royal Highness, if You would now address the Chamber of Deputies.