

AMCHAM NEWSLETTER 28TH MAY 2020

Welcome to the 10th edition of the AMCHAM LUXEMBOURG NEWSLETTER. We undertook this project immediately and on very short notice at the start of this corona virus pandemic to keep our English speaking readership and their families informed on the latest aggregated business news, with a little bit of family interest, personal development and some interesting food recipes added to keep your interest and help you to survive and thrive in these difficult times. If you find what we are doing helpful, please re-transmit this Newsletter to your friends and colleagues, both personal and at work. And if you have comments, or articles you think are worthy of publication, please send them to Jane@amcham.lu.

AMCHAM is the largest private Chamber of Commerce in Luxembourg. If you want to know more about us please go to our <https://www.amcham.lu> website, to learn more about who we are, <https://www.amcham.lu/about-us/mission-statement/> and about what we do, and how to join us <https://www.amcham.lu/membership/> . We care about your character and heart, not your passport of origin! Join us, you will be glad you did!

1. Memorial Day Commemorations – 23rd May 2020 Hamm Luxembourg



This past Saturday, J Randolph Evans, the US Ambassador to Luxembourg led the annual Memorial Day celebration at the American Cemetery in Hamm starting at 15:00 in the afternoon. Just in time for the ceremony to begin, the clouds cleared, and the rain stopped, a fitting omen and tribute of recognition and respect to the fallen. This year, because of the corona virus lockdown, there was no audience physically in attendance, but over 7,000 persons watched the event online in real time and by Sunday evening there were 25,000 views of the video of the event. If anything, the lack of an audience added extra gravitas to the ceremony as it unfolded.

Those who participated online had a special opportunity to be part of a very moving event. The quiet imposed by the very small number of actual participants was powerful, from the invocation by Professor, Dr , DR John Ehret representing the Cardinal of Luxembourg,

through the honest patriotism and selfless eloquence of Ambassador Evans, to the simple truth telling of Cecille Jimenez the senior medical provider for the American Embassies in Brussels and Luxembourg. She spoke in special recognition of the lone woman buried in the American cemetery; fellow nurse Lieutenant Nancy Leo interred among the over 5,000 male soldiers buried with General George Patton.

The presence of the Marine Honour guard, four young dedicated warriors at the start of their lives, just like so many of the fallen buried in the cemetery, connected the sacrifice of old with the sacrifices of the young warriors of today, completing a circle of remembrance to signify the American commitment to fight for freedom, and the willingness of Americans to sacrifice self for country and those we love. Please see the full recording of the ceremony here : <https://youtu.be/jJ1LtHKWo2s>

2. The transatlantic partnership in these times of crisis:

For many years the biggest investors in the US economy have been European investors and companies. Likewise, the biggest investors in the European economy have been US investors and companies. While much is made of the recent rush of Chinese investments, year after year, both now and in every previous year, the bilateral trading investment and business relationships between the United states and each of the European countries has been larger. Millions of US and European jobs are the positive result of this long-standing trading relationship as are very high standards of product safety to protect consumers and the positive power of competitive markets keeping consumer prices under control. The Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Europe (ACE), of which AMCHAM LUXEMBOURG is a member commissions and publishes every year a comprehensive analysis of the details of this trans-Atlantic partnership, with details on both a macro and country or state specific basis. This year's publication, which includes special information about the corona virus pandemic has just been published and can be found here: <https://amcham.dk/news/transatlantic-relations-in-a-post-covid-19-world#>

3.The Association of Positive Psychology Luxembourg Asbl

In partnership with Amcham the APP Asbl is launching a short on line survey to find out what people management measures have been implemented during the Covid19 lockdown, what were the most successful and how generally managers and leaders felt and acted during this period.

We are inviting every manager at any level in companies/organisations (managing a team or not), as well as entrepreneurs (owners of businesses) to be part of our survey and share their experiences with us. Survey takes 15 minutes, link is here:

<https://www.ppl.lu/post/how-did-you-use-your-people-management-skills-during-covid19-crisis>

4. Interactive Coronavirus (Covid-19) Travel Regulations Map

Want to know where you can travel and the restrictions in that particular country, here is a day by day world map, just click onto the country and you have all the restrictions listed!

<https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/international-travel-document-news/1580226297.htm?pub=autodetect>

5. Lockdown in other cities – does it differ?

What is the lockdown like in other major cities around the world? I asked my sister who lives in Dubai, known for being strict under normal circumstances she filled me in with a few facts,

Today has seen the highest number of COVID-19 cases, 832, so there is some tightening of the rules ahead of EID. The authorities are clearly not happy that so many people have been ignoring the rules. Lots of mentions of people being reckless and irresponsible. As it's the period of EID (breaking of the fasting which is celebration time) they have new rules: Curfew times, from Wednesday 20th May, will be 8pm to 6am **3000AED=€800**

People should avoid visiting family members

Eid should be celebrated at home

Fine for leaving home during curfew AED 3,000 (exemptions for essential workers)

Fine for not wearing a mask AED 3,000

Fine for not adhering to distancing of 2m, AED 3,000

Fine for arranging a gathering AED 10,000

Fine for attending a gathering AED 5,000

Fine for holding private classes AED 30,000

Substantial fines for managers of businesses who do not properly adhere to the rules.

Fines of up to AED 50,000 for people breaking quarantine rules

Avoid distributing EID gifts (use electronic methods)

Exercise is still permitted, for a maximum of 2 hours, but near to your home.

Mall timings changing from 9am to 7pm (from 20/05)

Maximum of 2 hours can be spent in a mall

People aged over 60 and all children are still banned from malls (shopping centers)

The emphasis was very much on telling people to be responsible and to follow the rules. Stay home, sanitise and wash hands.



Wendy in Dubai

6. European Semester Spring Package: Recommendations for a coordinated response to the coronavirus pandemic

The Commission has proposed today country-specific recommendations (CSRs) providing economic policy guidance to all EU Member States in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, focused on the most urgent challenges brought about by the pandemic and on relaunching sustainable growth. Full Article here:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_901

7. Navigating the road to recovery-The Role of the local Chamber after the Pandemic

<https://tinyurl.com/yb7xchhw>



8. Megan Markel's Banana bread recipe:

The Duchess of Sussex reportedly won Prince Harry's hearty with homemade baked chicken and the Duchesses' special recipe for Banana bread. Having published two weeks ago the recipe for Colonel Sander's Kentucky fried Chicken, this week we will skip another chicken dish and offer instead the Duchesses' recipe for Banana bread, which she apparently baked for the British Ambassador in Australia and the retired Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa. We hope you enjoy this food treat, which you can find here

<https://www.newideafood.com.au/search?q=megan%20markle%20signature%20banana%20bread>

AMCHAM offers to each of you and your families our best wishes for your health and happiness. Be strong. Stay connected with your families and friends by phone and email. Use this time wisely and productively so you come out of this crisis stronger than when you started.

If you need us, we are here and will do all we can do to help.

With respect and our very best regards,

Your AMCHAM team