

AMCHAM NEWSLETTER 9TH JULY, 2020

Dear AMCHAM members and friends,

As we write this 16th Newsletter to you, Luxembourg continues its efforts to move from a medical lockdown crisis situation back into a relaunching of the economy. While this is a very difficult balancing act and requires discipline and cooperation by government, business and individuals to ensure the safety of residents against a relapse back into a medical crisis, it is absolutely necessary. In very simple terms, the government and companies are presently burning through their money and if we do not return to normal sustainable activities, our economy will collapse and our way of life will be in jeopardy.

We complement Prime Minister Bettel and his team for their compassion and leadership during the now concluding, very difficult medical crisis period, most especially Minister of Health, Paulete Lenert, and her team for their management of the medical aspects of this crisis, Minister of Economy, Franz Fayot, Minister of Small and Medium size Enterprises, Lex Deles and Minister of Labour, Dan Kersch. Working all together they and their other Ministerial colleagues have quickly developed and implemented policies and support measures, including subsidies, to protect and sustain employers and employees. While in hindsight this has not all been done perfectly, it has been done with great caring and professionalism in a way which has protected us all.

We likewise compliment business community leaders and employees for their bravery and hard work to ensure they sustain and ensure the survival of their business entities. Working together business leaders and their employees very quickly have embraced digital transformation and transitioned to a twin strategy of enhanced home working complimented by staggered in-office activities that respect social distancing guidelines. In effect this crisis has accelerated a digital transformation which we have known was on the horizon with very encouraging first results.

While giving praise where it is due, we likewise offer our disappointment and criticism of those who have not taken the crisis seriously, have not respected social distancing requirements , who litter the streets with abandoned masks and who

endanger the lives of others through their own selfishness, stupidity and disrespect towards the safety of others by not following the government prescribed social guidelines. We urge those to change their perspective and their ways.

Lastly, we acknowledge with regret that some companies and business activities have already perished and others will follow. There casualties include many very good people and very good ideas. We wish them well and hope that those companies and economic activities that can use their talent and ideas will do so with generosity, appreciation and caring for the value these people and ideas represent.

As we move forward relaunching the economy, we in AMCHAM strongly support the following steps:

1. Wear a clean mask when out in public and in contact with other people, and preferably wear a reusable mask that can be washed and sanitized rather than a disposable mask (we are all becoming concerned about the increase in disposable mask refuse littering the streets and countryside and deplore anyone just throwing away masks as litter rather than disposing of them properly). Please make sure to cover both your nose and mouth with your mask (masks worn as “decoration” are ineffective if they do not cover both the nose and the mouth!).
2. We support police enforcement including fines for people who endanger others by not properly wearing masks or maintaining social distancing in public as their actions put others at risk.
3. We support and encourage companies and employees to continue to embrace flexible home working as this, when properly done, will keep employees safe while also reducing commuting congestion and enhancing the quality of life of employees. This said, we oppose any efforts to make homeworking an absolute employee right and insist that such activities must be undertaken by joint agreement between employees and employers.
4. We encourage, along with home working, all efforts to stagger employee physical working from corporate offices to maintain and develop team working arrangements and keep employers and employees connected together. Maintaining (and enhancing) this connection between employers and employees is vital for both sides.
5. We encourage employers and employees to use this current situation as an opportunity for renewal and self-improvement by thinking about, discussing together

and implementing new solutions that better working relations and company success on a long-term basis! Commit as individuals and as economic entities to become better versions of yourself. Be the best each of you can be!

AMCHAM continues to play its part. To ensure safety, we have cancelled our physical events most likely until the end of the year and accelerated our digital conversion via this Newsletter, homeworking with limited office engagement by our team, digital committee meetings and launching of digital events. We are here for you and offer all of our support to the best of our ability:

* Please share our Newsletter and our digital event invitations with your colleagues and friends.

*Please tell jane@amcham.lu what you like, want more of, dislike and want changed. Please give her your feedback, ideas, praise (always appreciated!). And if you are not a member, please see the details at the end of this Newsletter to show you where to go on our website to join us!

And now the weekly updates:

1. **We were contacted last week by the European Commission** who wished to inform us that the European Commission has presented today a youth Employment support Package:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/ip_20_1193

The Commission proposes to reinforce the Youth Guarantee and the support of vulnerable young people across the EU. Another proposal is to make the systems of vocational education and training more attractive, flexible and fit for the digital and green economy. The initiatives go with a renewed impetus for apprenticeships, and additional measures around employment and start-up incentives, young entrepreneur networks, and inter-company training centres.

2. **At a press conference on 1st July** Prime Minister Xavier Bettel and Minister Lennert addressed the recent rise in infections and subsequent Chamber discussions.

5,960 people were tested for the virus over the last week, with 46 testing positive. Two people are currently in intensive care, with 16 others being treated in hospital. There have been no new deaths.

https://today.rtl.lu/news/luxembourg/a/1542703.html?fbclid=IwAR0K0cadd9Z2XxZsgFOV1j6CrXWBGQ_6P5CfBcRI0R-06nwE-6EJ3BTIceQ



3. The Most common Cyberthreat and the Everlasting Fight Against It: Phishing

What is Phishing? How do you protect yourself from Phishing?

This comprehensive article will tell you everything you need to know about this type of cybercrime, the way it works and how you can fight against it. Read more here: securitymadein.lu and don't forget to book into your calendars the European Security Forum 2020, more details [here](#):

4. AMCHAM Upcoming Webinar. The Luxembourg/U.S. Relationship: Strong Historic Partners Working Together to Enhance Prosperity and Security with Ambassador J. Randolph Evans, US Ambassador to Luxembourg 22nd July 2020 at 18:00



True to the U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg's motto "Reflecting on the past while looking into the future," Ambassador Evans will explore how the relationship between Luxembourg and the United States has flourished and the opportunities for further growth in the future." Register: [here](#)



5. From office to “Office”

The events of the past couple of months taught us that the world as we knew it could change from one day to another, turning our lives and organizations completely upside down.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to follow serious restrictions and regulations, in order to keep our lives as “normal” as possible. Numerous measures have been taken by the Luxembourgish Government to support the impacted economy and with the possibility of the home office we were able to keep working from home while running our businesses.

At the end of the confinement, starving for real human interactions, we returned to our offices and prepared our working areas with the maximum protection to respect the sanitary conditions.

Due to this pandemic regulation companies had to reduce their office spaces. Plenty of enterprises, following the social distancing rules, had to divide their employees in A, B and C groups, and had to find alternative solutions for their working space.

In lack of extra room capacities within their own internal organizations, companies turned to business centers, such as Ginkgo Solutions Facilities. Ginkgo was established in February 2013 in cooperation with a very dynamic real estate partner, in order to provide clients with quality services, adapted to their needs and expectations. During the seven (7) years Ginkgo has been vigorously grown and currently managing its six (6) successfully running centers. Three (3) business centers on the Avenue de la Liberté, two minutes from the train station area, a fourth at Esch-Belval, a fifth one at Cloche d’Or and a brand-new business center on 2000 m², which is going to open its doors in September 2020, in the city center, Limpertsberg.

At Ginkgo, the customer buys a global service, the quality of which must be flawless at all levels. A detail should not spoil the whole. Let it be the rental of fully furnished offices, fixed desks, co-working spaces or organizing and holding business meetings, conferences with a pinch of catering. Ginkgo provides customers with a various range of quality benefits, where the services are flexible and bending to the desires of customers.

For further information, book your meeting or office space online <http://www.ginkgo-solutions.lu/fr> or by phone at (+352) 28 488 1.

If you wish to have a more complex image of Ginkgo, please click the following link below to discover our business centers:

<http://www.ginkgo-solutions.lu/sites/default/files/flipbook/brochure2019/mobile/index.html>

6. Staying Safe and Healthy Together!

Taking inspiration from Jeff Dadema, **Letsgoactive`s** Managing Director (the Netherlands), AmCham`s Entrepreneurial Committee has designed some handy quick references/checklists that will help you stay safe during group activities. This is a great follow on to last week`s article supporting the government`s recommendations aimed at protecting residents as workers return to work to relaunch the economy.

Whether you are organizing or attending an event, training class or meeting, these tips are a great reminder that we can all stay safe together by following some simple steps. You can find the guidelines [here](#) and [here](#) and finally [here](#) , and our article from last week [here](#) Feel free to pass these along to your friends and colleagues. Remember, working cooperatively, we can stay safer together.



7. Grilled Ranch Potatoes- Delicious addition to your summer BBQ's

INGREDIENTS

2 lb. baby potatoes, halved

1/4 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil

Juice of 1/2 a lemon

1/2 packet ranch seasoning <https://www.gimmesomeoven.com/homemade-ranch-seasoning-mix/>

salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Ranch dressing, for drizzling

Chopped fresh chives, for garnish

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat grill to medium heat. In a large bowl, toss potatoes with olive oil, lemon juice, and ranch seasoning. Season with salt and pepper.
2. Thread potatoes on skewers and grill until tender and lightly charred, 15 minutes.
3. Drizzle with ranch and garnish with chives.

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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. For all those who don't know AMCHAM yet, please find our website here: <https://www.amcham.lu> and particularly our mission statement here: <https://www.amcham.lu/about-us/mission-statement/> and how you can join AMCHAM here: <https://www.amcham.lu/membership/>

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

Feel free to pass on our newsletter to your colleagues and friends and if you would like to make a contribution to our next newsletter contact jane@amcham.lu

We're taking a small break.....

As life in Luxembourg is becoming a bit quieter our next newsletter will be on 30th July, 2020, if any urgent news comes out however we will alert our members!