

AMCHAM NEWSLETTER 12TH NOVEMBER 2020

As the Chinese say, may you live in exciting times!

While we in Luxembourg are trying to relaunch the economy while also trying to prevent a surge in Corona 19 cases, the US elections have been moving towards resolution in an exceptionally tight race which has been much closer than was predicted by the poles with an outcome not yet fully accepted and conceded by President Trump. In our non-political AMCHAM, we hope for a swift conclusion accepted by all sides. We hope that the passions of this election calm down and that both sides embrace and enact an inclusive governing agenda which serves and satisfies each of the 70 million plus electors who voted for either candidate. Most importantly for all, we hope for a revival of the American partnership between all of its citizens for the common good.

Within AMCHAM we have always strived to be non-partisan and politically neutral with a focus on serving the needs and promoting the best interests of the international business community here in Luxembourg. When the dust settles and we have a clear understanding of the final outcome of where the US is going as a nation, we will make further comments and invite appropriate speakers to share their points of view.

Moving to the news within the local Luxembourg environment:

1. We are excited to present in this issue of our AMCHAM Newsletter a substantive update on what is happening to build a space ecosystem here in Luxembourg that will contribute to a better world, while locally enhancing the prosperity of Luxembourg. We thank US Ambassador Evans for the excellent and comprehensive article he has written on this subject and all he has contributed to make Luxembourg a player and privileged US Partner in the Space ecosystem.
2. We also have an excellent article from our favourite eye Doctor, Cristina Hubert, with more excellent advice for keeping your eyes safe...
3. And a link to the slides and video presentation by Tax expert Laura Foulds, the Founder/CEO of Amalie Tax presenting her annual tax review for the AMCHAM and BCC members with updates on the annual income tax situation here in Luxembourg, the UK and the USA.
4. And, as always, another food recipe to put a smile on your face...

Starting this week, we are returning to a weekly AMCHAM Newsletter publication with each Newsletter edition showcasing an **exclusive interview** with one of our much appreciated Luxembourg Ministers who we so much thank for their hard work and inspired leadership during these challenging times. All this under the central theme of relaunching the economy, which is so vital to keep Luxembourg successful... for all of the inhabitants of this wonderful country in the heart of Europe!

If you like what we are doing, or have ideas comments and suggestion, send a note to Jane@amcham.lu. We welcome your feedback and your sharing of our Newsletter with your colleagues and friends.

If you need or want us, we are here for you... to represent you and to serve your needs. So, stay in touch and interact with us...and if you are not yet an AMCHAM member, contact me or the AMCHAM staff so we can meet and convince you to join us (Jane@amcham.lu)!

With respect and my kindest regards,
Paul

Paul Michael Schonenberg
Chairman and CEO
AMCHAM Luxembourg

**1. Our Thanks go to Ambassador Evans for our next article:
Luxembourg Leading the Way**



Dear AMCHAM Members,

Make no mistake, 2020 has not been the year that anyone expected. When I arrived in 2018, I looked forward to commemorating the perseverance of a generation against overwhelming challenges 75 years ago. Little did I know that we would have to face serious challenges to our way of life again.

But even during the most concerning moments when the Coronavirus hit hard, I knew from history that our countries - the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and our United States - would confront face the challenges working together focused squarely on the safety and protection of people everywhere.

It has not been easy.

Many have suffered enormous sacrifice as countries around the world have grappled to find solutions to health, economic and societal challenges that threatened everything we hold dear. Working together, the Grand Duchy and the United States, including specifically our Embassy, have done many things as part of this effort.

Our first and highest priority has been to protect the health and safety of people, facilitate solutions and supplies to meet demands, and continue to work on projects designed for the future - after the Coronavirus has come and gone. Working together, we have faced the challenges of the moment; found ways to move forward safely, securely, and steadily; and, prepared for our future.

Much more remains to be done to combat and defeat COVID 19 and the associated challenges remain formidable. We still have a long way until we are safely beyond this crisis. But, that has never been a good reason to stop working hard toward that future that will exist after we have put the Coronavirus firmly behind us.

Toward that end - the long term future of our countries, indeed the future of the world - we have made some extraordinary progress. Sixteen United States Ambassadors from around Europe and United States Under Secretary Keith Krach came together here to discuss the challenges we face and the efforts underway.

Simultaneously, a high level U. S. Space Delegation consisting of former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, NASA Associate Administrator Mike Gold, and Commerce Department's Director of Space Commerce Kevin O'Connell came here for meetings with Government of Luxembourg officials and a number of space companies to focus on space as one of our next frontiers.

Last year - before COVID 19, Speaker Gingrich and I co-authored an article entitled "[WHY LUXEMBOURG MATTERS IN SPACE.](https://delano.lu/d/detail/news/opinion-why-luxembourg-matters-space/208715)" In Delano magazine
<https://delano.lu/d/detail/news/opinion-why-luxembourg-matters-space/208715>

Here in Luxembourg the Space Delegation could see first hand the relationships and cooperation between the United States and Luxembourg fostering collaboration in space commercialization.

The Space Delegation left Luxembourg impressed with the innovation in Luxembourg's space industry, including rovers and robotic arms conceived and created by companies in the Grand Duchy and giving 'Made in Luxembourg' a whole new meaning. Luxembourg had indeed moved from the hypothetical to the real.

Following these visits here, I traveled to Washington, D.C. for follow-up meetings, including consultations with Luxembourg Ambassador Gaston Stronck, on these important initiatives. And then, this week, NASA signed the Artemis Accords with Luxembourg Space Agency - one of just seven other space agencies around the world.

As a result of all of these efforts, relationships, and collaborations, we will look back on these difficult times and know that notwithstanding the challenges we faced, we

nonetheless took the steps to land the first woman and the next man on the Moon by 2024. We can watch with pride and know we helped make that happen.

But, the goal is to not just return to the Moon. The goal is to create the ability to maintain a sustainable presence there for many generations to come. That effort will require the cooperation of many countries alongside NASA and the Artemis Program and will be the greatest example of international partnership in space in history.

These efforts will not stop at the Moon. The ultimate goal is to travel to Mars and beyond to find resources, solve challenges, and enhance the safety and progress of all mankind. It will be made possible by not only recognizing the role of commercial partnerships in the future of space travel and sustained lunar exploration and development – but in making that a priority.

Years ago, Luxembourg identified the growth of the commercial space industry as a contributor to its national economy, successfully building a space agency that aspires to foster new commercial opportunities and partnerships - putting it in prime position globally in this next chapter of space exploration. Now, NASA and the U.S. Department of State has selected Luxembourg as one of the first countries in the world to help draft and shape these historic Artemis Accords.

When I first arrived, I said this in my introductory remarks: “While never forgetting the important lessons of the past, Luxembourg looks toward the future, the stars. Luxembourg has emerged as a leader in the space sector, and I look forward to strengthening U.S. and Luxembourg collaboration to develop the technologies of the future together.” Well, we have done that - even amidst a pandemic.

The only Grand Duchy in the world has in its own right demonstrated remarkable foresight. The partnership and collaboration between the United States and Luxembourg on space has never been stronger. Luxembourg is and remains an internationally recognized leader in commercial space resources and space policy.

Take notice: while the present remains challenging, the future has never been brighter.

-Ambassador J. Randolph Evans

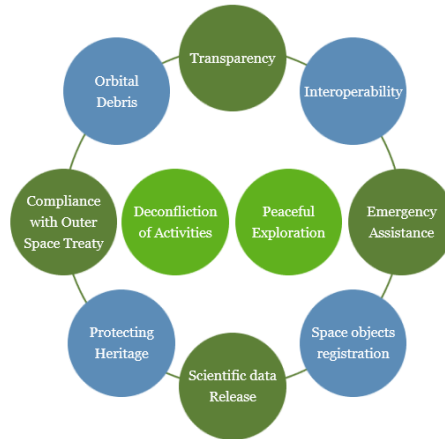


2. **“Chasing with Artemis”, an excellent article from our Corporate members, Hogan Lovells, Luxembourg.**

In Greek mythology, Artemis was the Goddess of hunting, wildlife, the moon and the protector of young children. Last month, Luxembourg, together with NASA and six other countries, signed the

[Artemis Accords](#): chasing the moon, the stars and the wild unknown for the benefits of future generations!

On 13 October 2020, NASA, Luxembourg, Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, UAE and the UK signed an agreement setting down 10 main principles aiming to explore space together peacefully.



The first project aims to send the first female astronaut to the Moon in 2024. What a thrill and a treat for Luxembourg to be part of such a project. Well, not that surprising in fact. Space industry has clearly been a priority of the Luxembourg government for several years now, starting with its former Economy Minister Etienne Schneider, and now Franz Fayot. HE Ambassador Randy Evans has been a vocal support of the space initiative since its launch as evidenced in an interview given to Delano in 2018 “*I think Luxembourg is perfectly positioned to assume an enormous leadership role in the space sector*”.

This new treaty is perfectly aligned with Luxembourg’s space sector strategy, and the economic cooperation between the US and Luxembourg, and will contribute to reinforce Luxembourg’s position on the space map, if some skeptics still doubted the relevance of such a program for a small country.

The key legal question remains though: who will become the owner of the natural resources coming from space? The Artemis Accords are placing peace at the centre of all space, activities including the exploration of its natural resources. However, economic pragmatism will also be required given the amount of money necessary for space activities: the question of the return on investment is also key. Ultimately the ownership of space resources (which is still inaccurate under Luxembourg law, albeit [considered](#)) will have to be clearly defined, particularly to prevent any conflict between nations and companies.

The [Moon Agreement](#) (never signed by Luxembourg) and the [Outer Space Treaty](#) (ratified by Luxembourg) are stating that: “*The exploration and use of outer space, including (the moon and other celestial bodies) shall be the province of all mankind and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries.*” – Outer Space Treaty Article 1 (and Moon Agreement, Article 4). A new space mining bill is currently under discussion by the Luxembourg Parliament. Clearly, according to the number of [Memoranda of Understanding](#) signed by Luxembourg, including the Artemis Accords, Luxembourg wants to have a space mining regulatory framework that is relevant, covers all related fields but that is also compliant with international law and treaties.

Watch this space for more news on this lightning fast evolving sector.

To infinity and beyond!



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3. **Vision 2020** by Dr. Cristina Hubert

Almost 20 years ago, when I was starting the ophthalmology training, I was involved in a program called Vision 2020 – a global initiative to eliminate the avoidable blindness by the year 2020 launched by WHO together with several NGOs.

And here we are at the end of 2020, and few humanitarian missions later (Uganda, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Tanzania), and we are still far from achieving the 20/20 Vision or eliminating the avoidable blindness.

A lot of people in some parts of the world don't have access or can't afford healthcare. Diseases like cataract, refractive errors, diabetes, glaucoma, wet AMD, etc don't get diagnosed and treated in time.

Due to an ageing population, the risk of age-related diseases is higher, but also the near-sightedness is doubling due to the increased near work and screen time, since earlier ages in childhood, as said in the last article of AmCham newsletter.

Cataract surgery is a 15 minutes out-patient procedure that can replace the opaque lens with a transparent one. It is becoming a routine in the western world, but in third world countries people still go blind because of cataract. The replacement of the opaque crystalline lens can be achieved fast and safe with premium artificial lens implants that can correct every refractive problem of any power: farsightedness (myopia), near-sightedness (presbyopia), hyperopia or astigmatism. After the surgery, the patient can achieve 20/20 vision without the need of glasses. The surgery is becoming so common and safe, that people demand it also as a refractive option, for not wearing glasses anymore, especially in very high refractive powers.

Glaucoma is a vision threatening disease that can be diagnosed by measuring the intraocular pressure by regular check-ups to the eye doctor. It leads to an optic nerve damage and reduces the visual field. It is a treatable disease if early recognised, but due to

the lack of symptoms, its early detection can be done only by getting the eyes checked regularly.

Diabetes, hypertension, AMD can be identified during regular check-ups with dilated fundus. They can lead to vascular leakage, proliferation and central swelling of the retina. There are treatments available if early detected. Monthly intravitreal injections can restore or keep the vision stable.

There is more than meets the eye, but that is the subject of another Amcham article. Until then, stay safe and keep your 20/20 vision with regular check-ups.

Dr Cristina Hubert is a respected eye surgeon with offices in Belgium who will be opening a Luxembourg practice in Bertrange in the coming months. Many thanks for this article!

4. **BCC & Amcham Joint Tax Event 9th November, 2020**

Thanks go to all who participated in the Personal Tax event and special thanks to Laura Foulds of Amelie Tax & Consulting for a very interesting webinar. The full webinar can be viewed here: <https://www.amcham.lu/our-videos/> and slides can be viewed here: <https://www.amcham.lu/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Laura-Foulds-event.pdf>

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5. **Managing your Workforce throughout the Pandemic, a Webinar by one of our Corporate members, Allen & Overy, the link is reproduced here with kind permission from them.** <https://www.allenoverly.com/en-gb/global/news-and-insights/publications/covid-19-coronavirus-and-global-employment-law-managing-your-workforce-throughout-the-pandemic>



6. **Healthier Coq au Vin**



This Healthier Instant Pot Coq au Vin is for those cold fall and winter nights when you want a fancy slow braised chicken, but you want it ready in less than an hour. All made in the instant pot (or the slow cooker), using simple, wholesome ingredients that you might already have on hand. This dish is warm, flavourful, hearty but healthy, and so delicious. Great for both a simple family dinner and holiday entertaining.

Ingredients

- 2-3 slices thick cut bacon, chopped
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced or grated
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 4 carrots, chopped
- 1 1/2 pounds boneless chicken breasts
- 2 cups cremini mushrooms, sliced
- 1 1/2 cups dry red wine, such as Cabernet Sauvignon
- 1 cup low sodium chicken broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 thyme sprigs
- kosher salt and black pepper
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- mashed potatoes, for serving

Method

INSTANT POT

1. Set Instant Pot to sauté. Add the bacon and cook until crisp, about 5 minutes. Remove the bacon. If there's excess bacon grease, drain off all but 1 tablespoon.
2. To the instant pot, add the onion, garlic, and tomato paste and cook an additional 5 minutes. Turn the instant pot off.
3. Add in the red wine, chicken broth, bay leaves, thyme, chicken, carrots, and mushrooms. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and cook on high pressure for 8 minutes.
3. Once done cooking, use the natural or quick release function. Set the Instant pot to sauté and bring to a boil, boil 5 minutes or until the liquid reduces slightly. Turn the instant pot off. Remove the bay leaves and thyme and discard. Stir in the parsley and reserved bacon.
4. Serve the chicken and sauce over mashed potatoes.

SLOW COOKER

1. Cook the bacon in a large skillet over medium heat until crisp, about 5 minutes. If there's excess bacon grease, drain off all but 1 tablespoon.
2. To the skillet, add the onion, garlic, and tomato paste and cook an additional 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and transfer the mixture to the bowl of your slow cooker.

3. To the slow cooker, add in the red wine, chicken broth, bay leaves, thyme, chicken, carrots, and mushrooms. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and cook on low for 6-7 hours or on high for 4-5 hours.
3. Once done cooking, cook, uncovered on high for 15-20 minutes to reduce the sauce. Remove the bay leaves and thyme and discard. Stir in the parsley and reserved bacon.
4. Serve the chicken and sauce over mashed potatoes.

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

<https://www.halfbakedharvest.com/the-30-most-popular-fall-recipes/>