



**SPEECH BY MR CLAUDE WISELER
SPEAKER OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
ON THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS GRAND DUKE GUILLAUME**

Chamber of Deputies, Luxembourg, 3 October 2025

Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses,

Your Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the history of a country, an accession to the throne amounts to a change of epoch. Each Head of State makes a mark on their epoch, just as they are marked by it.

Your Royal Highness,

We clearly remember Your great-grandmother, Grand Duchess Charlotte. She symbolised the generations who lived through the War. She left her impression on us with her charm and persuasiveness, and she guided Luxembourg through difficult periods in its history. Thanks to her international presence, our country regained its independence and acquired a strong position on the world stage.

The reign of Your grandfather, Grand Duke Jean, stood for a period of growth and change during which our country underwent a fundamental transformation, from a country dominated by industry to one focused on providing services. With discretion and empathy, Grand Duke Jean supported and represented this transformation.

Your father, Grand Duke Henri, together with Grand Duchess Maria Teresa, supported the modernisation of our country for 25 years and helped to strengthen the institution of the monarchy and adapt it to modern times. These 25 good years have carried our country forward, as well as its identity and its openness.



It is thus an honour and a great pleasure to welcome Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa to the Chamber of Deputies today. I would like to thank them for everything they have done for our country over said quarter of a century.

We are also proud to be able to welcome the Heads of State of the Netherlands and Belgium to the Chamber of Deputies today.

Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses,

I am delighted by Your presence among us on this historic day at the Chamber of Deputies. It is a strong symbol of the ties between Your dynasties and the Grand Ducal Family. Your presence embodies the deep and unwavering connection that unites our three countries.

We are also very honoured and deeply touched to welcome among us today the highest European authorities.

Madam President of the European Parliament, Mr President of the European Council,

Given that the swearing in of the Grand Duke as the Head of State shall, according to Article 57 of Luxembourg's Constitution, be performed before the Chamber of Deputies, before Luxembourg's Parliament as representative of the country, and that this is a highly symbolic act enshrining the constitutional monarchy in our parliamentary democracy, it seemed self-evident to us to have you here with us today as representatives of the two European co-legislative institutions.

Your presence demonstrates your support for the new Grand Duke and the important place that our country holds within your institutions.

Your Royal Highness,

Today is above all an important day for You.

You were born and raised here in Luxembourg. You know our country and its people. From a young age, You were prepared for Your role as Grand Duke and Head of State and You took on the role of Lieutenant-Representative almost a year ago.

Today, the moment has come. Grand Duke Henri has decided to pass on the throne to You.

Because the time is right.

Because You are ready.

In a few moments, as the Grand Duke, You will become the Head of State of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The role of Head of State is hereditary through direct descent from Grand Duke Adolphe, who acceded to the throne 135 years ago. After him, You are the 7th Grand Duke of Luxembourg hailing from the House of Nassau-Weilbourg and the 10th Grand Duke since



the creation of the Grand Duchy in 1815. You are also the 5th Luxembourgish Head of State bearing the name of Guillaume, after the three Dutch-Luxembourgish Kings Grand Dukes and Your great-great-grandfather, Guillaume IV.

Your Royal Highness,

You are the first Grand Duke to take the oath of office since the new Constitution came into effect. Your institutional role is defined therein. “The Grand Duke is the Head of State. He represents the State. He is the symbol of national unity and independence”, as stated in Article 44.

As a symbol of national unity, You have the important task of building bridges between tradition and the future, between generations, between Luxembourgers and non-Luxembourgers, between our country and its partners within the Benelux, within Europe and worldwide.

Your Royal Highness,

You will be faced with different challenges than Your ancestors. The world in which we live today increasingly challenges the values which we hold dear and which form the foundations of our society. Democracy, freedom, the rule of law, human rights and, yes, even peace, are increasingly under threat. Our greatest challenge in the coming years will be to fight for what we stand for, for what we believe in and for what defines us: our values.

Our country will experience good times over the coming years, but also more difficult times. We are convinced that we can overcome these challenges. And this is so much easier when a country has a Head of State who will, come what may, defend the values of our country and our society: democracy, solidarity, freedom and respect.

The institution of the Grand Duke is a guarantee of stability.

Luxembourg stands for stability: of our society, our economy and our values.

Our stability can actually be explained by a very simple fact: we want to preserve what is important to us, but we are not afraid of moving forward, adapting and making changes where necessary. We are accustomed to conducting many discussions, sometimes lengthy ones, before finding the best solution.

Moreover, our stability can be mainly explained by the fact that everyone can freely express their opinion, here in the Chamber of Deputies and everywhere else.

Of course, there may be disagreements.

But this does not mean that we allow ourselves to be divided, neither by others, nor by ourselves.

This is what characterises Luxembourg.



And this is also my message to You.

We will turn to You especially in more difficult times, expecting that You will remind us, through Your dignity and Your integrity, that the recipe for stability in our country lies in standing together, even if we do not always agree.

I am convinced that this will be an easy task for You.

Your ancestors traced this path for You, but it is Your task to shape it in a way that fits You and is also suited to our modern times. I am convinced that You will do Your best and that You will add Your individual touch to this reign. In all of this, you will have Grand Duchess Stéphanie by Your side.

Madam,

Grand Duke Guillaume, Your husband, will now become the Head of State. As Grand Duchess, You will be for him a valuable source of support. Thanks to the respect that the people have shown You over the years, You can advance the issues that You care about. Your role is not described in the Constitution, but it is rooted in the hearts of the people, where You already have Your place.

As parents, You were also keen to bring Prince Charles to the Chamber of Deputies. This has worked wonderfully so far and we appreciate this symbolic gesture of long-term continuity.

Your Royal Highness,

I hope that this new stage fills You with joy and confidence and that You never lose the enthusiasm which You have shown as Hereditary Grand Duke and Lieutenant-Representative for Your tasks.

You meet all the conditions required for this role.

Your Royal Highness, I wish You sound judgment at the head of our country.

Your Royal Highness, these were a few words to tell You, on behalf of Luxembourg's Parliament, but also on behalf of the country, that we trust You, just as we trusted Your father. We know that You will do everything for the good of our country, its people and its values.