The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

1999

Service Information et Presse
Luxembourg

In the back, from the left: Mr Joseph Schaack, Mr François Biltgen, Mr Charles Goerens, Mrs Anne Brasseur, Mr Henri Grethen, Mr Carlo Wagner et Mr Eugène Berger
In the front, from the left: Mr Luc Frieden, Mrs Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Mr Fernand Boden, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, Mrs Lydie Polfer, Mrs Marie-Josée Jacobs et Mr Michel Wolter

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The Government of the **Grand Duchy of Luxembourg**

1999

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The formation of the **new Government**

The formation of the new Government

The distribution of the seats

After the legislative elections of June 13th 1999, the distribution of seats in the Chamber of Deputies is as follows:

	1999	(1994)
Christian Social Party	19	(21)
Democratic Party	15	(12)
Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party	13	(17)
Action Committee for Democracy and Pension Rights	7	(5)
The Green Party	5	(5)
The Left Party	1	(-)

On June 14th 1999, the day after the elections, the Grand Duke and the Crown Prince gave an audience to Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, who presented the Grand Duke with the Government's resignation following the legislative elections held on June 13th 1999.

In the meantime, the Head of State asked the Government to remain in office until the formation of a new Government. Until then its actions should remain restricted to the management of daily administrative matters.

The designation of the formator

On June 15th 1999, the Grand Duke gave audiences respectively to Mr Jean Spautz, outgoing President

of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr Paul Beghin, President of the Council of State, and the Chairmen and representatives of the political parties and groups which won mandates to the Chamber of Deputies in the legislative elections held on June 13th 1999, that is to say: the Chairman of the Christian Social Party, Mrs Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, the Chairman of the Democratic Party, Mrs Lydie Polfer, the Chairman of the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party, Mr Jean Asselborn, the Chairman of the ADR Action Committee for Democracy and Pension Rights, Mr Robert Mehlen, the spokespersons for the Green Party, Mrs Marthy Thull and Mr Carlo de Toffoli, and the candidate for the Left Party, Mr André Hoffmann. The Grand Duke wanted to consult them regarding to the formation of the new Government.

Following these consultations, the Grand Duke and the Crown Prince received Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister, Minister of State in order to charge him with forming the Government.

The Christian Social Party and the Democratic Party

During the afternoon of June 16th, the National Council of the Christian Social Party instructed the directorate of the party to enter into coalition negotiations with the Democratic Party. During an audience at the Grand Ducal Palace, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker reported to the Grand Duke and the Crown Prince on steps to be taken to fulfil his task. During a press conference, Mr Juncker then informed the press on the phases by which he will form the Government.

On June 18th, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, charged with

the formation of the Government and acting as the Prime Minister had a first interview with Mrs Lydie Polfer, Chairman, and Mr Henri Grethen, Secretary General of the Democratic Party.

On June 22nd, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker reported to the Grand Duke and the Crown Prince regarding his interviews with the Chairman of the Democratic Party, Mrs Lydie Polfer.

The coalition negotiations

The coalition negotiations started on June 24th 1999, with a first meeting of the delegations of both parties at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, Mrs Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Mr Michel Wolter, Mr Fernand Boden, Mrs Marie-Josée Jacobs, Mr Luc Frieden, Mr Jean Spautz, Mr Lucien Weiler and Mr Claude Wiseler took part in the negotiations on behalf of the Christian Social Party. The Democratic Party was represented by Mrs Lydie Polfer, Mr Henri Grethen, Mrs Anne Brasseur, Mrs Colette Flesch, Mr Charles Goerens, Mr Paul Helminger, Mr Jean Krantz, Mr Kik Schneider and Mr Carlo Wagner.

On June 25th, July 2nd, July 8th, July 16th, July 23rd, July 27th and August 5th the Grand Duke and the Crown Prince gave audiences to Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, charged with the formation of the Government, who reported to them on the progress made in the coalition negotiations.

Press conferences took place on June 24th and 29th, on July 1st, 8th, 17th and 27th as well as on August 4th.

The nomination and swearing in of the members of the new government

On August 6th 1999, the results of the negotiations were confirmed by the competent authorities of both parties.

On August 7th 1999, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker gave an account of the fulfilment of his mission as formator to His Royal Highness, the Grand Duke, and His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince.

In the morning of the same day, the Grand Duke gave audience to the leaving members of the government: Mr A. Bodry, Mrs M. Delvaux-Stehres, and Mr G. Wohlfahrt. Due to health reasons, Mrs Lydie Err could not receive the audience of the Grand Duke.

Then he swore in the new members of the government and signed the grand-ducal decree writing down the nomination of the new government.

Declaration of the Governement on August 12th 1999

The Parliament met again on August 12th 1999 in order to listen to the declaration of the governement which was presented by Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister, Minister of State. The debates on the declaration were held on August 13th 1999.

The Government of the **Grand Duchy of Luxembourg**

...since **August 7th 1999**

Jean-Claude **Juncker** PCS

Prime Minister / **Minister** of State
Minister of Finance

Lydie **Polfer** PDL

Vice-Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Foreign Trade
Minister of the Civil Service
and Administrative Reform

Fernand **Boden** PCS

Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture
and Rural Development
Minister of Middle Classes,
Tourism and Housing

Marie-Josée **Jacobs** PCS

Minister of Family,
Social Solidarity
and Youth
Minister for the Advancement of Women

Erna **Hennicot-Schoepges** PCS

Minister of Culture,
Higher Education
and Research
Minister of Public Works

PCS = "Parti Chrétien Social" / In English: Christian Social Party PDL = "Parti Démocratique Luxembourgeois" / In English: Luxembourg Democratic Party

Michel **Wolter** PCS

Minister of the Interior

Luc **Frieden** PCS

Minister of Treasury and Budget
Minister of Justice

Anne **Brasseur** PDL

Minister of National Education,
Vocational Training
and Sports

Henri **Grethen** PDL

Minister of the Economy
Minister of Transport

Charles **Goerens** PDL

Minister of Co-operation,
Humanitarian Affairs
and Defence
Minister for the Environment

Carlo **Wagner** PDL

Minister of Health
and Social Security

François **Biltgen** PCS

Minister of Labour and Employment
Minister of Relations with the Parliament
Minister of Cults
Minister in charge with Communications

Joseph **Schaack** PDL

State Secretary for the Civil Service
and Administrative Reform

Eugène **Berger** PDL

State Secretary for the Environment

The Government of the **Grand Duchy of Luxembourg**

...**Biographies**

Jean-Claude **Juncker**

Prime Minister / **Minister** of State
Minister of Finance

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker was born in Redange-sur-Attert, on December 9th 1954. He is married and lives in Capellen.

He went to primary school in Belvaux (mining region) and to secondary school in Clairefontaine (1967-1974). He obtained his final secondary school diploma at the Lycée Michel Rodange in Luxembourg City. Mr Juncker went on to the Faculty of Law at the University of Strasbourg (1975-1979), where he got a Master's degree in Law in 1979. He was admitted to the Bar of Luxembourg in February 1980.

He became President of the Christian Social Youth from 1979 to 1985 after having joined the Christian Social Party in 1974. Mr Juncker was entrusted with the post of Parliamentary Secretary of the Christian Social Party from October 1979 until December 1982, when he was appointed State Secretary for Labour and Social Affairs.

In June 1984, he was first elected Member of Parliament in the southern district constituency on the Christian Social Party's list. Mr Juncker was appointed Minister of Labour and Minister in charge of the Budget on July 20th 1984. In the second half of 1985, Mr Juncker chaired the Council of Ministers for Social Affairs and the Budget of the European Community.

He was re-elected in the southern district constituency on the Christian Social Party's list in June 1984. He was then appointed Minister of Labour and Minister of Finance by Prime Minister Jacques Santer – from July 14th 1989 to July 12th 1994. In the first half of 1991, he chaired the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs, Economic, Financial Affairs and of the Budget of the European Community. He was also President of the Intergovernmental Conference on Economic and Monetary Union.

After the general elections of June 12th 1994, Mr Juncker was appointed Minister of Labour and Minister of Finance – from July 13th 1994 to January 20th 1995. On January 20th 1995, Mr Juncker became Prime Minister following Jacques Santer's nomination for the Presidency of the European Commission. In the government he formed on January 26th 1995, he assumed the responsibilities of Prime Minister, Minister of State, Minister of Finance and Minister of Labour and Employment.

Chief candidate of his party at the legislative elections and candidate for the legislative and European elections of June 13th 1999, he was elected deputy in the southern district constituency on the PCS list and obtained the highest number of votes. Concurrently, he was elected on the first place at the European elections, but he rejected his mandate on July 21st 1999 in order to dedicate himself to the national political scene.

Furthermore, Jean-Claude Juncker was President of the Christian Social Party from January 20th 1990 to February 4th 1995 and President of the European Union of Christian Democratic Workers from March 16th 1993 to January 12th 1995.

Mr Juncker was Governor of the World Bank from August 5th 1989 to February 23rd 1995. On February 6th 1995 he was nominated Governor of the European Investment Bank, as well as Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (B.E.R.D.). He became Governor of the International Monetary Fund on February 16th 1995.

During the second half of 1997, Mr Juncker chaired the European Council, which opened the doors of the Union to ten central and eastern European countries, as well as to Cyprus. The Council has also permitted to get over the last obstacles on the way to the single currency. Likewise, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker presided over the European Council, the extraordinary Council on Employment, the Council of Ministers of Finance and Economy and the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs.

On August 7th 1999, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker's appointment as Prime Minister, Minister of State and Minister of Finance was confirmed.

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Lydie **Polfer**

Vice-Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Foreign Trade
Minister of the Civil Service
and Administrative Reform

Mrs Polfer was born on November 22nd 1952 in Luxembourg. She has one daughter, Nora Wurth.

In July 1972, Mrs Polfer graduated from the Lycée Robert Schuman. Four years later she took a BA in Law at the University of Grenoble, and in 1977 joined the Luxembourg Bar. That same year she took an advanced studies diploma in European integration at

the University Centre for International and European Research in Grenoble.

Mrs Lydie Polfer began her political career in 1979 when she was elected to the Luxembourg Parliament for the first time. Thereafter she was successively re-elected in 1984, 1989, 1994 and 1999.

She was a member of the Steering Committee of the Chamber of Deputies as well as of the following committees: the Committee for Local Affairs, Housing and Urban Planning, the Special Committee on "Equal Opportunities for Men and Women", and the Public Service Committee.

In 1982, Mrs Lydie Polfer became Mayor of the City of Luxembourg following the local elections held in October 1981. After that, she was re-elected in 1987 and 1993. Following the June 13th 1999 legislative elections, Mrs Polfer gave up her position as Mayor to enter the Government. She was a Member of the European Parliament from 1985 until 1989 and from 1990 until 1994. It was during that same year that she became Chairwoman of the Democratic Party.

She has been a member of the Committee of the AIMF (International Association of Mayors and Leaders of Towns and Cities either partially or entirely French-speaking). Since 1980 she has been President of the "Racing" basketball club of Luxembourg.

Outgoing Deputy and candidate for her party at the legislative and European elections held on June 13th 1999, she was re-elected Deputy in the Central constituency on the list for the Democratic Party.

After the 1999 legislative elections, she was appointed

Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade and Minister of the Civil Service and the Administrative Reform.

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Fernand **Boden**

Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development
Minister of Middle Classes, Tourism and Housing

Mr Fernand Boden was born in Echternach on September 13th 1943. He is married and has two sons. He still lives in his native town. After completing his secondary education at Echternach's High school, he went on to study mathematics and physics at the "Cours Supérieurs" in Luxembourg and later at the University of Liège where he obtained the title of Doctor of Mathematics and Physics. He taught at Echternach's Classic School from 1966 to 1978.

Mr Fernand Boden enjoys social life and sports; he is a former Luxembourg table tennis champion. He is honorary President of the National Table Tennis Federation and is still actively practising this sport.

As Deputy Mayor of his hometown Echternach from 1970 to 1976, he was also a member of the local council and was elected Member of Parliament for the Christian-Social Party for the first time in 1978 in the eastern district constituency. He was re-elected in 1979 and entered the Cabinet as Minister of Education and Youth as well as Minister of Tourism. He held the same portfolio until 1989.

In 1989, Mr Boden was appointed Minister of Family and Solidarity, and Minister of Middle Classes and Tourism. After the 1994 elections, he became Minister of the Civil Service. The reshuffled cabinet January 26th 1995 gave Mr Boden the duties of Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Minister of Middle Classes and Tourism, as well as Minister of Housing.

Candidate of his party for the legislative elections of June 13th 1999, he was re-elected in the eastern district constituency on the list of the Christian Social Party.

After the elections of June 13th 1999, Mr Boden was confirmed in the posts of Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Minister of Middle Classes, Tourism and Housing.

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Marie-Josée **Jacobs**

Minister of Family,
Social Solidarity
and Youth
Minister for the Advancement of Women

Mrs Marie-Josée Jacobs was born on January 22nd 1950 in Marnach, in the north of Luxembourg.

After completing her secondary school at the private school "Saint-Anne" in Ettelbruck, she attended a nursing-school. She obtained her diploma in 1969. Four years later, she got a diploma in nursing-anaesthesiology. Mrs Jacobs worked in this field until her nomination to the post of minister.

While practising her profession, Mrs Jacobs started a political and labour union career.

In the union domain, she is a member of the Christian trade union LCGB. She was President of the private employee's section from 1980 to 1992 and Vice-President of the union from 1981 to 1992.

Mrs Jacobs began her political career in 1967 as a member of the Christian Social Party (PCS). From the start she was part of the committee of the northern region. She was elected President of the Christian Social Women and then President of the PCS of the same region.

Finally, she was elected Vice-President of her party at the national level. In 1984, Mrs Jacobs was first elected deputy in the northern district constituency. She was re-elected in 1989 and in 1994. In 1987, she became city councillor of Luxembourg City.

On December 9th 1992, Mrs Jacobs was appointed Minister of Agriculture, of Viticulture and of Rural Development, as well as Delegate Minister for Cultural Affairs. This job allowed her to participate actively in the organisation of the European Year of Culture in 1995 and thus in the project of Luxembourg City, European capital of culture.

Re-elected in the legislative elections of June 12th 1994, Mrs Jacobs was entrusted with the same ministerial portfolio than in 1992 in the Government formed by the Prime Minister Mr Jacques Santer. After the appointment of Mr Santer to the post of President of the European Commission, Mrs Jacobs was nominated for Minister of Family, Minister for the Advancement of Women, Minister for the Handicapped and Disabled.

Candidate for her party in the legislative elections of June 13th 1999, she is re-elected deputy in the northern district constituency on the list of the Christian Social Party.

Since August 7th 1999, she has been Minister of Family, Social Solidarity and Youth and Minister for the Advancement of Women.

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Erna **Hennicot-Schoepges**

Minister of Culture,
Higher Education
and Research
Minister of Public Works

Mrs Hennicot-Schoepges was born in Dudelange, on July 24th 1941. She lives in Walferdange, is married and has three children.

She is a former speaker of Radio Luxembourg. She was a piano teacher at the Academy of Music of Luxembourg City and enjoys a good reputation as a concert pianist.

She was member of the local council of Walferdange

from 1976 to 1987. She became the Mayor of that same town on January 1st 1988 and stayed in this position until January 25th 1995.

On July 24th 1979, she became Member of Parliament after she had been elected on the list of the Christian Social Party in the central district constituency. From 1979 to 1989 she was Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Commission for Education and Culture.

Mrs Hennicot-Schoepges was President of the Parliament with no interruption from July 18th 1989 until her appointment as minister on January 26th 1995. At Parliament she was President of the Parliament Office, President of the Commission for Work and member of the Commission for Petition as well as member of the Commission for Media and Culture. From 1984 to 1989, she was also a member of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe. In this international institution, she was Parliamentary Secretary of the Christian Social Group and member of the Commission for Migrants and Refugees and of the Commission for Education and Culture.

From September 1989 to May 1993 she was Vice-president of the Interregional Parliamentary Council, then President of the same assembly from May 7th 1993 to April 22nd 1994, and finally member from the end of April 1994 to the end of January 1995. Mrs Hennicot-Schoepges was also a member of the parliamentary assembly of the O.S.C.E from July 1991 to January 1995. President of the Luxembourg section of the International Assembly of the frenchspeaking parliamentarians, she was also National Chairwoman of the Christian Social Women (CSF) from 1979 to 1988 and President of the International Foundation

for the Dialogue between Christians, Jews and Moslems until 1997.

Since February 4th 1995, Mrs Hennicot-Schoepges has been President of the Christian Social Party (CSV).

Mrs Hennicot-Schoepges was Minister of Education and Vocational Training, Minister of Culture and Minister of Cults in Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker's government from January 26th 1995 until June 14th 1999.

Candidate of her party for the European and legislative elections of June 13th 1999, Mrs Hennicot-Schoepges was re-elected deputy in the central district constituency on the list of the Christian Social Party.

Since August 7th 1999, she has been Minister of Culture, Higher Education and Research and Minister of Public Works.

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Michel **Wolter**

Minister of the Interior

Mr Wolter was born in Luxembourg City on September 13th 1962. He is married, has three children and lives in Hautcharage.

Mr Wolter grew up in Esch-sur-Alzette where he attended primary school. He went to secondary school in Esch-sur-Alzette and Echternach. He registered at the University of Paris (Panthéon-Sorbonne) which he left in 1985 with a BA in economics, option world economics.

He started his professional career in a captive reinsurance management company. In 1992, he became a managing director at a reinsurance company.

Member of the Christian Social Party (CSV) since 1980, Mr Wolter also became Member of Parliament for the first time in 1984. Being elected at the age of 21 he was the youngest Member of Parliament ever.

He was re-elected in 1989, 1994 and 1999. Member of the Commission for Finance and Budget, he was appointed reporter for the budget draft for the financial years 1994 and 1995. He was also Vice-president of the Commission for Sports and Youth.

From 1988 to August 1992, Mr Wolter was a city councillor in Esch-sur-Alzette. Then he moved to Hautcharage. After the local elections in October 1993, he was town councillor in Bascharage from January 1994 to January 1995.

From 1985 to 1990, Mr Wolter chaired the Christian Social Youth (CSJ). He was an international table tennis player in the early 80s and was President of the Luxembourg Tennis Federation from March 1987 to January 1994. Today, he is the honorary President of this federation.

He was Minister of the Interior, Minister for the Civil Service and Administrative Reform from January 26th 1995.

Following the elections held on 13th June 1999, he became Minister of the Interior.

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Luc **Frieden**

Minister of Treasury and Budget
Minister of Justice

Luc Frieden was born in Esch-sur-Alzette on September 16th 1963. He is married and has two children.

He went to primary school in Esch-sur-Alzette and then on to secondary school at the "Lycée de Garçons" in Esch. In 1982, he obtained his final secondary school diploma (classics/economic science section) at the "Athenée de Luxembourg".

Then, he started studying law at the "Centre universitaire de Luxembourg" and went on to study law at the

"Université de Paris I" (Panthéon-Sorbonne) graduating with a Master's degree in Business Law in 1986.

In 1987, he obtained his Master's degree in comparative Law and Legal Philosophy from the University of Cambridge (UK) and in 1988 a Master of Laws from the Harvard Law School in the United States. He wrote a post-graduate thesis on "Media Newsgathering by Satellites", which was published in 1989 in the Stanford Journal of International Law. He also studied at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

From 1989 to 1998, Luc Frieden was an attorney at the bar of Luxembourg. During the same period, he taught public law at the "Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg" and he wrote a number of articles on banking law and constitutional law. Between 1981 and 1994 he was a regular commentator on legal issues and foreign politics on the Luxembourg radio programme, RTL. He is a member of the "Institut Grand-ducal" (Grand-ducal Institute), in the moral and political science section.

He was first elected Member of Parliament for the Christian Social Party in the central district constituency during the elections of June 12th 1994. He was in office from 1994 to February 1998 and acted as Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, Chairman of the Institutions and Constitutional Reform Committee.

On February 4th 1998, Luc Frieden was appointed Minister of Justice, Minister of Budget and Minister of Relations with the Parliament. He was responsible for co-ordinating government business in connection with the introduction of the single European currency to Luxembourg.

Running for his party for the legislative and European elections of June 13th 1999, he was re-elected as a deputy in the central district constituency on the list of the Christian Social Party.

On August 7th 1999, he was nominated to the posts of Minister of Treasury and Budget and of Minister of Justice.

Mr Frieden has also been Governor of the World Bank since February 4th 1998.

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Anne **Brasseur**

Minister of National Education,
Vocational Training
and Sports

Mrs Anne Brasseur was born on May 19th 1950 in Luxembourg.

She graduated in 1969, and then left for Germany to study psychology at the Universities of Tübingen and Mannheim. In 1975 she obtained her degree in psychology and became a psychologist with the Psychology and Careers Advisory Department at the Technical College and boys' High school in Esch-sur-Alzette.

From 1976 until 1979, Mrs Brasseur ran the Central

Social Aid Department of the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Her political career began in 1975, when she became a Councillor for the City of Luxembourg. In 1979 she became a Deputy. First, she is a member of the North Atlantic Assembly, then of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Western European Union. Within the Chamber of Deputies she takes the role of Chairman of the Petitions Committee. In addition, she is a member of the Finance and Budget Committee and the Defence Committee. She is also a member of the Committee on Media, Research and Culture. She is Vice-Chairman of the Transport and Public Works Committee.

In 1981, Mrs Brasseur was given the post of deputy-mayor of the city of Luxembourg responsible for municipal construction, civil engineering, road maintenance, traffic, sports and nurseries. She had assumed these responsibilities until she was appointed minister.

She is a member of the Committee for the Regions and President of the SICEC (Inter-communal Association for the Construction and Operation of a Crematorium). She has also been President of the Association of Liberal Women.

Outgoing Deputy and her party's candidate at the legislative elections held on June 13th 1999, she was elected Deputy in the Central constituency on the list for the Democratic Party.

On August 7th 1999, she was appointed Minister of Education, Vocational Training and Sports.

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Henri **Grethen**

Minister of the Economy
Minister of Transport

Mr Henri Grethen was born on 16th July 1950 in Esch-sur-Alzette. He is married to Blanche Moutrier.

After attending primary school in his native town, Mr Grethen went to high school in Echternach. He graduated in 1969, and took university courses in Luxembourg before enrolling at the University of Liege, where he studied from 1971 until 1975.

In 1976, Mr Grethen began his professional career as an economic adviser with the "Fédération des Commerçants" (Trade Federation). In 1978 he was

appointed Secretary General. In 1979, Mr Henri Grethen became a member of the Economic and Social Council and in 1980, Secretary General of the Luxembourg Confederation of Trade. Since 1989 he has been an independent economic adviser.

His political career began in 1980 when he became Secretary General of the Democratic Party, a post he occupied until 1989 and again since 1994.

Mr Grethen was elected to the Chamber of Deputies for the first time in 1984. Since then he has been re-elected in 1989 and 1994. As a Deputy, he was also Chairman of the parliamentary group of his party from 1989 until 1999, and Vice-Chairman of Parliament from 1998.

Candidate in the legislative elections held on June 13th 1999, he was re-elected Deputy of the southern constituency on the list for the Democratic Party.

On August 7th 1999, he was appointed Minister of the Economy and Minister of Transport.

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Ministry of Transport
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Charles **Goerens**

Minister of Co-operation,
Humanitarian Affairs
and Defence
Minister for the Environment

Mr Charles Goerens was born on 6th February 1952 in Ettelbruck. Married and father of three children, he lives at Mathgeshof/Schieren.

After attending primary school in Schieren, Mr Goerens went to High school in Carlsbourg (Belgium) and then to agricultural college, to become an agronomist.

His political career began in 1979 when he was

elected in the northern district constituency first on the list of the Democratic Party. Thereafter he was regularly re-elected, in the elections of 1984, 1989, 1994 and 1999.

Mr Goerens was a Member of the European Parliament from 1982 until 1984. In 1994 he joined that institution once again, to assume responsibility as a co-ordinator of the Liberal group for "political freedom" and "human rights".

He was President of the Assembly of the Western European Union from 1987 until 1990. From 1989 until 1994, Mr Goerens was Chairman of the Democratic Party.

In 1995, the Prime Minister asked him to write a report on the role of national Parliaments within the European Union.

Candidate for his party at the legislative and European elections held on June 13th 1999, he was elected as a Member of Parliament in the northern district constituency on the list of the Democratic Party.

On August 7th 1999, Mr Charles Goerens was appointed Minister of Defence, Humanitarian Affairs, External Trade and Co-operation, Minister for the Environment.

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Carlo **Wagner**

Minister of Health
and Social Security

Mr Carlo Wagner was born on July 3rd 1953 in Wormeldange. He is married and the father of three children. He is an economic advisor.

He studied at the "Athénée" in Luxembourg, and then he went to Freiburg in Switzerland to begin his University studies. He obtained his degree in social and economic science.

From 1990, Mr Wagner has been Chairman of the Democratic Party for the eastern constituency, and a member of both the Board and the Executive

Committee. Between 1991 and 1994, Mr Wagner was Secretary General of the Democratic Party.

In 1994 he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies for the first time, and occupied the post of Vice-Chairman of the Agriculture and Viticulture Committee, as well as the Committee for Middle Classes and Housing.

In addition, he was elected Mayor of Wormeldange in 1994.

Outgoing Deputy and candidate for his party in the legislative elections held on June 13th 1999, he was re-elected Deputy for the eastern constituency on the list for the Democratic Party.

It was after the legislative elections held in June 1999, that he was appointed Minister of Health and Minister for Social Security.

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François **Biltgen**

Minister of Labour and Employment
Minister of Relations with the Parliament
Minister of Cults
Minister in charge with Communications

Mr François Biltgen was born on September 28th 1958. He lives in Esch-sur-Alzette, is married and has two children.

Mr Biltgen studied Law and political science at the University in Paris. A short time after he obtained his degree, in 1983, he accepted the post of Secretary to the parliamentary group of the Christian Social Party, succeeding Mr Jean-Claude Juncker.

In 1987, Mr François Biltgen was elected to the local council in Esch-sur-Alzette. In 1997, he became Deputy Mayor in charge of finance and social affairs. Mr Biltgen was elected to the Chamber of Deputies at the legislative elections held in 1994.

At the age of 36, he recommenced his studies, and qualified to begin his career as a barrister in Esch-sur-Alzette.

Mr Biltgen has been the reporter of the laws on legal aid, the reform of the Divorce Law, the reform of the Regulations on interruptions for periods of bad weather in the construction sector, improvements in consumer protection, reform of insurance contracts, various fiscal allowances and so on. Furthermore, he actively took part in drawing up the reform of the Council of State and the creation of an autonomous administrative jurisdiction. In addition he was reporter of the State Budget for the 1999 financial year.

Author of a column "Recht hun – recht kréien" (Be right – and obtain justice), in the daily newspaper "Luxemburger Wort" and contributor to the unionist publication "Soziale Fortschrëtt" (Social progress), he was concerned with the public being better informed about judgements given in the Courts and the most important laws.

Outgoing Deputy for his party, and candidate in the legislative elections held on June 13th 1999, he was elected Deputy for the Southern constituency on the list for the Christian Social Party.

Since August 7th 1999, Mr Biltgen has been Minister of Labour and Employment, Minister of

Relations with the Parliament, Minister of Cults and Minister in charge with Communication.

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Joseph **Schaack**

State Secretary for the Civil Service
and Administrative Reform

Mr Joseph Schaack was born in Luxembourg on March 26th 1945. He is married and has two children.

When he was 21, he became a civil servant at the Tax Administration. .

In 1975, he started a union career within the General Civil Servant Trade Union (CGFP). Mr Schaack has been President of the Trade Union of the Senior Civil Servants of the Tax Administration since 1981. Since 1985, he has been President of the General

Association of Managers and member of the Economic and Social Council since 1991. He has also been member of the executive committee of the CGFP since 1995. Since 1997, Mr Schaack has been President of the Unified Trade Union of Taxes.

Mr Schaack also follows a union career on a European basis too. Thus, he has been member of the Committee of the Union for Finance Personnel in Europe (UFE) since 1981. From 1993 to 1996, he had been Secretary general of the UFE before he became President of this same committee.

He was candidate in the central district constituency at the legislative elections held on June 13th 1999 on the list for the Democratic Party.

On August 7th 1999, Mr Joseph Schaack was appointed State Secretary for the Civil Service and Administrative Reform.

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Eugène **Berger**

State Secretary for the Environment

Mr Eugène Berger was born on December 4th 1960 in Bettembourg. Today he lives in Peppange. He is married and has two children.

He attended primary school in Howald and then the "Lycée de Garçons" in Luxembourg.

He began his professional career in 1980, as a junior lecturer in primary education. From 1983 until 1985 he was a junior civil servant at the Registry and Public Property Office. In 1985 he continued his studies, to become a primary school teacher three years later. From 1988 until 1994, he worked as a teacher in Roeser.

Mr Berger's political career began in 1994, when he was elected Deputy for the first time. In this position he became Vice-Chairman of the Committee for National Education and Professional Training, Family, Youth and Sports, as well as that of Environment and Regional Planning.

The same year he became a member of the Executive Board of the Democratic Party, and in 1997 Chairman of the Roeserbann section of his party. In addition, Mr Berger was a member of the Higher Board of National Education from 1991 to 1994.

He dedicates his free time, above all, to rock climbing and mountaineering. He is the first and only Luxembourger who climbed the Mount Everest (1992).

Outgoing Deputy and candidate for his party at the legislative elections held on June 13th 1999, he was re-elected Deputy in the southern constituency on the list for the Democratic Party.

On August 7th 1999, he was appointed State Secretary for the Environment.

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