2004

The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Biographies
and Remits
of the Members
of Government

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July 2006

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Contents

		remits	biographies
The Formation of the New Government	**7**		
The Members of Government / Remits	**13**		
• Jean-Claude Juncker		**15**	**19**
• Jean Asselborn		**15**	**23**
• Fernand Boden		**15**	**25**
• Marie-Josée Jacobs		**15**	**27**
• Mady Delvaux-Stehres		**15**	**29**
• Luc Frieden		**15**	**31**
• François Biltgen		**15**	**33**
• Jeannot Krecké		**15**	**35**
• Mars Di Bartolomeo		**15**	**37**
• Lucien Lux		**15**	**39**
• Jean-Marie Halsdorf		**15**	**41**
• Claude Wiseler		**15**	**43**
• Jean-Louis Schiltz		**15**	**45**
• Nicolas Schmit		**15**	**47**
• Octavie Modert		**15**	**49**

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François Biltgen

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Mady Delvaux-Stehres

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Jean-Louis Schiltz

Luc Frieden

The Formation of the New Government

The Formation of the New Government

The distribution of seats in Parliament

After the parliamentary elections of 13 June 2004, the distribution of seats in Parliament was as follows:

	1999	2004
CSV Christian Social Party	19 (+1)*	24
DP Democratic Party	15 (-1)*	10
LSAP Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party	13	14
ADR Action Committee for Democracy and Pensions Justice	7	5
Déi Gréng – The Greens	5	7
Déi Lénk – The Left	1	0

* During the 1999-2004 term, Mr Théo Stendebach, elected in 1999 on the DP list, left that party to join the CSV.

The day after the elections, namely 14 June, the Grand Duke granted an audience to Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister, who presented the Grand Duke with the resignation of the government after the parliamentary elections of 13 June 2004.

Having regard for major European events, the Head of State asked for the government to remain in office and to deal with current matters until the formation of the new government.

Jean-Claude Juncker appointed to form the government

During the day on 15 June, the Grand Duke granted successive audiences for consultation after the election results to Jean Spautz, departing president of the Parliament, Pierre Mores, president of the Council of State, as well as presidents of the parties and representatives of the political groups represented in Parliament, namely: the president of the Christian Social Party, François Biltgen; the president of the Democratic Party, Lydie Polfer; the president of the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party, Jean Asselborn; the president of the ADR – Action Committee for Democracy and Pensions Justice, Robert Mehlen; the representative of The Greens, François Bausch; and the representative of The Left, André Hoffmann.

After those meetings, the Grand Duke recalled Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker. On that occasion, the Grand Duke charged him with forming the new government.

On 21 June, Jean-Claude Juncker had successive meetings with the representatives of The Left, François Bausch, Viviane Loschetter and Henri Kox; the LSAP, Jean Asselborn, Lucien Lux, Mars Di Bartolomeo, Jeannot Krecké and Alex Bodry, and the DP, Lydie Polfer and Henri Grethen, for preliminary discussions with a view to the formation of a new government.

The next day, 22 June, Jean-Claude Juncker again received a delegation from the LSAP for a brief interview.

Within the context of his task to form a new government, Jean-Claude Juncker was received at his request at the Grand-Ducal Palace on 25 June. On that occasion, he informed the Grand Duke of the consultations with the various parties.

Christian Social Party and the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party

In the evening of 26 June, the national council of the Christian Social Party charged the party's directorate with entering into coalition negotiations with the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party, and on 28 June, the management committee of the LSAP for its part gave its approval to opening coalition negotiations with the Christian Social Party.

The coalition negotiations

The coalition negotiations began on 1 July with an initial meeting of the delegations from the two parties at the Ministry of Labour and Employment, and were closed on 27 July after 15 meetings.

These negotiations were attended, in addition to Jean-Claude Juncker, by:

- for the Christian Social Party: François Biltgen, president of the CSV and the departing ministers, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Michel Wolter, Fernand Boden, Marie-Josée Jacobs, Luc Frieden as well as Lucien Weiler, Jean-Louis Schiltz and Frank Engel;
- and for the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party: the president of the LSAP, Jean Asselborn, as well as Alex Bodry, John Castegnaro, Mady Delvaux-Stehres, Mars Di Bartolomeo, Ben Fayot, Jeannot Krecké, Lucien Lux and Étienne Schneider.

It should be revealed that on 19 July, Mrs Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, who had that day resigned as Minister so as to take up a mandate in the European Parliament, was replaced by Claude Wiseler in the delegation from the CSV.

That first meeting was essentially dedicated to establishing the timetable of meetings to come and the agenda of the latter.

The delegations from the Christian Social Party and the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party met again on 6 and 7 July. These meetings were exclusively dedicated to an analysis of the economic and financial situation of the State. The delegations heard statements from the director of Statec, Serge Allegrezza, the director of the Tax Inspectorate, Jeannot Waringo, the director of the Treasury, Jean Guill, the director of the Department of Registration and Land, Paul Bleser, the director of the Direct Contributions Department, François Blaeser, and the directors of the Central Bank of Luxembourg, Serge Kolb and Andrée Billon. The analysis of the economic and financial situation continued on 7 July with reports from the president of the Union of Sickness Funds, Robert Kieffer, the director-general of the Social Security Inspectorate, Georges Schroeder and the president of the Court of Auditors, Norbert Hiltgen.

Following those two meetings, seven separate working parties were formed to deal with certain subjects in depth. So the "Economy and Finance" and "Family, Equality of Opportunities and Social Solidarity" working parties met on 8 and 9 July. The other five working parties, which met in particular on 14 and 15 July, dealt with the following matters: IVL and Home Affairs, Labour and Employment, Social Security and Health, National Education, Research and Culture, Environment and Sustainable Development.

On 13 July there was a meeting with the managers of Luxembourg Railways, Jeannot Waringo, chairman of the board of directors and Alex Kremer, managing director of CFL.

The negotiations continued in plenary sessions on 16, 17, 19 and 20 July.

On 21 July, Jean-Claude Juncker reported to the Grand Duke on the state of progress at an audience in the Grand-Ducal Palace.

Plenary meetings were again held on 22 and 24 as well as 26 July and a last meeting took place on 27 July.

Press conferences attended, in addition to Jean-Claude Juncker, by the president of the CSV, François Biltgen, and the president of the LSAP, Jean Asselborn, were held on 12, 17, 20, 26 and 28 July.

On 27 July, Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, charged with the formation of the government, reported to the Grand Duke on the state of progress of his task of forming the new government.

The coalition agreement was signed on 29 July by Jean-Claude Juncker and the presidents François Biltgen (CSV) and Jean Asselborn (LSAP), and the following day Mr Jean-Claude Juncker informed the Grand Duke that he had accomplished his task.

That same day, the results of the negotiations were ratified by the competent bodies of the two parties.

The swearing in of the new government

On the morning of 31 July, the Grand Duke granted an audience to the departing members of government at Berg Castle: Michel Wolter, Anne Brasseur, Henri Grethen, Charles Goerens, Carlo Wagner, Joseph Schaack and Eugène Berger. The Ministers Lydie Polfer and

Erna Hennicot-Schoepges had already been granted an audience on 19 June after having tendered their resignation in order to take up their mandates as Members of the European Parliament.

During the afternoon of the same day the members of the new government were sworn in at Berg Castle. At the beginning of the official ceremony, the Grand Duke signed the various Grand-Ducal decrees relating to the formation of the new government. Then, Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister, swore the oath before the Grand Duke and then presented the other members of the government who for their part swore their oaths as provided in article 110 of the Constitution: "I swear loyalty to the Grand Duke, obedience to the Constitution and the Laws of the State. I promise to fulfil my tasks completely with precision and impartiality."

The government consists of 8 ministers including the Prime Minister (François Biltgen, Fernand Boden, Luc Frieden, Jean-Marie Halsdorf, Marie-Josée Jacobs, Jean-Claude Juncker, Jean-Louis Schiltz, Claude Wiseler) and a Secretary of State (Octavie Modert) from the CSV and 5 ministers including the Deputy Prime Minister (Jean Asselborn, Mars Di Bartolomeo, Mady Delvaux-Stehres, Jeannot Krecké, Lucien Lux) and a Deputy Minister (Nicolas Schmit) from the LSAP.

The ceremonies for handing over power in the different ministries took place on 2 August 2004.

The extraordinary sessions of Parliament

By Grand-Ducal decree dated 30 June 2004, an extraordinary session of Parliament was convened on 13 July. The constitutive meeting was chaired by the most senior Member, Mr Jean Asselborn, seconded by the two younger Members, Mr Xavier Bettel and Mr Claude Meisch.

As it is exclusively incumbent upon Parliament to pronounce the validity of electoral proceedings, a committee consisting of seven members, appointed by drawing lots, then proceeded with a verification of powers. After validation of the parliamentary elections, 49 of the 60 Members were sworn in on 13 July.

On the proposal of the president, the parliamentary executive for the extraordinary session was constituted as follows: Jean Asselborn, president, Lucien Weiler, Jos Scheuer and Lydie Err, vice-presidents, that is to say the four most senior Members, and as members, the seven younger Members: Xavier Bettel, Claude Meisch, Octavie Modert, Félix Braz, Jean-Louis Schiltz, Vera Spautz and Marc Spautz.

For validation of the European elections, Parliament then appointed a new special committee of seven members, by drawing lots. Following the report by this committee, Parliament validated the electoral proceedings for the European elections.

A second extraordinary session of Parliament was convened on 3 August 2005. During the session on 3 August, Parliament, with its new President Lucien Weiler following the departure of Jean Spautz for Strasbourg, proceeded with the swearing in of Members who had not been sworn in at the first extraordinary session.

The government declaration on 4 August 2004

Parliament met on 4 August to hear the government declaration by Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister. The debate on the government declaration took place in Parliament on 5 August.

Reshuffling of ministerial portfolios

On 17 February 2006, the Prime Minister announced a reshuffling of ministerial portfolios. This took effect on 22 February 2006.

The Members of Government / Remits

Jean-Claude Juncker CSV
- Prime Minister
- Minister of Finance

Jean Asselborn LSAP
- Deputy Prime Minister
- Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Fernand Boden CSV
- Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development
- Minister of the Middle Classes, Tourism and Housing

Marie-Josée Jacobs CSV
- Minister for Family and Integration
- Minister for Equal Opportunities

Mady Delvaux-Stehres LSAP
- Minister of National Education and Vocational Training

Luc Frieden CSV
- Minister of Justice
- Minister for the Treasury and the Budget

François Biltgen CSV
- Minister of Labour and Employment
- Minister for Culture, Higher Education and Research
- Minister for Religious Communities

Jeannot Krecké LSAP
- Minister of the Economy and Foreign Trade
- Minister of Sport

Mars Di Bartolomeo LSAP
- Minister of Health and Social Security

Lucien Lux LSAP
- Minister of the Environment
- Minister of Transport

Jean-Marie Halsdorf CSV
- Minister for Home Affairs and Town and Country Planning

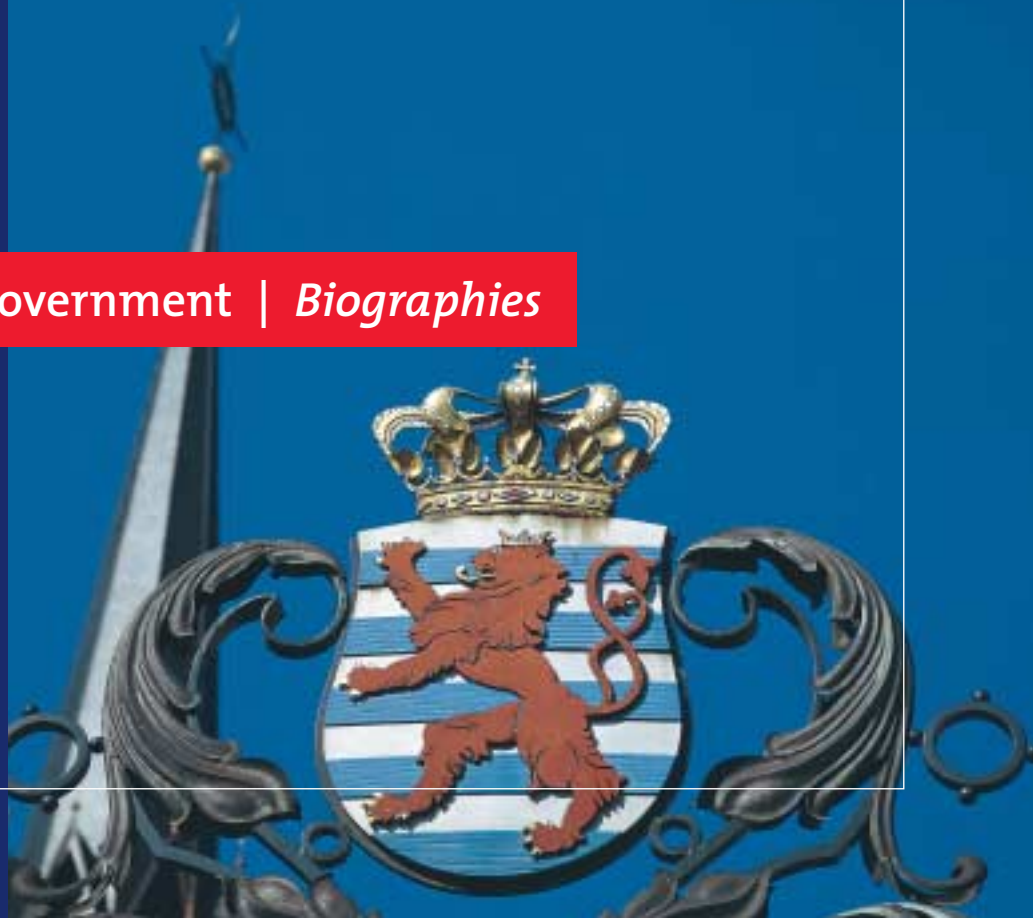
Claude Wiseler CSV
- Minister for the Civil Service and Administrative Reform
- Minister of Civil Engineering

Jean-Louis Schiltz CSV
- Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs
- Minister for Communications
- Minister of Defence

Nicolas Schmit LSAP
- Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Octavie Modert CSV
- Secretary of State for Relations with Parliament
- Secretary of State for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development
- Secretary of State for Culture, Higher Education and Research

The Members of Government | *Biographies*



Jean-Claude **Juncker**

- **Prime Minister**
- **Minister of Finance**

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Jean-Claude Juncker was born in Redange-sur-Attert in the west of Luxembourg on 9 December 1954 and spent his childhood and youth in Belvaux, in the south of the country, where his father was employed by one of the large steelworks. Life in this region, the stronghold of Luxembourg's socialist and communist movements and its large Italian and Portuguese immigrant community, made an impression on the young student who, due to his father's active involvement in the Luxembourg Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (Confédération syndicale chrétienne luxembourgeoise), soon became familiar with the realities of working life.

Following secondary school studies at Clairefontaine's boarding school in Belgium, Jean-Claude Juncker obtained his baccalaureate from the Lycée Michel Rodange in Luxembourg in 1974. He enrolled in the Law Faculty of the University of Strasbourg in 1975 and was awarded a Master of Law in 1979. He took his oath before the Luxembourg Bar Council in February 1980 but never actually carried out the profession of lawyer. It was also in the Alsatian capital that Jean-Claude Juncker met his future wife, Christiane Frising.

His political involvement as a member of the Christian Social Party (Chrëschtlech Sozial Volekspartei / CSV) dates back to 1974. His oratory skills and analytical mind in particular attracted the attention of the party's leaders and in October 1979 he was appointed Parliamentary Secretary of the party. Henceforth, his rise within the party was relentless and when a government post became available in December 1982, Jacques Santer, Minister of Finance at the time, urged Prime Minister Pierre Werner to appoint the young Jean-Claude Juncker, a few days before his 28th birthday, as Secretary of State for Labour and Social Security, a role in line with his preferred political interests.

In June 1984, Jean-Claude Juncker was elected to the Luxembourg Parliament (Chamber of Deputies) for the first time. He was appointed Minister of Labour and Minister Delegate for the Budget in the first government headed by Jacques Santer.

In 1985, Luxembourg presided over the Council of the European Communities and Jean-Claude Juncker chaired the "Social Affairs" and "Budget" Councils. This period also marked the beginning of Jean-Claude Juncker's resolutely pro-European stance, a pledge inspired by his profound conviction that European integration was the sole key to guaranteeing

lasting peace throughout Europe and thus to averting the tragedies and calamities of the past, with which Jean-Claude Juncker was all too familiar. As a matter of fact his father had been forcibly recruited by the German Wehrmacht during the Second World War and sent to the Russian front.

Following the general elections of June 1989, Jean-Claude Juncker entered a new chapter of his political career when he was appointed Minister of Finance and Minister of Labour. The Finance portfolio has traditionally been seen as a mandatory rite of passage for future Luxembourg Prime Ministers and so political observers throughout the country all concurred that Jean-Claude Juncker could now be considered Jacques Santer's heir apparent.

It was furthermore during the 1989-1994 term of office that Jean-Claude Juncker definitely proved himself to be an extraordinary politician and statesman, at both national and European level. In 1991, as incumbent President of the "Ecofin" Council, Jean-Claude Juncker became one of the principal architects of the Maastricht Treaty, in particular of the section on the Economic and Monetary Union of which he drafted large parts himself. He also salvaged Economic and Monetary Union negotiations during an informal meeting of the twelve Member States' Ministers of Finance in Luxembourg in May 1991 by creating the opting out principle for the United Kingdom. Jean-Claude Juncker was one of the signatories of the Maastricht Treaty in February 1992.

Jean-Claude Juncker's career, however, could have come to a dramatic end in 1989 when, following a serious road traffic accident, he fell into a coma from which he emerged only two weeks later.

On a national level, Jean-Claude Juncker began preparatory work in 1992 for the most significant tax reform the country had yet to experience. The tax reform entered into force on 1 January 1993.

From January 1990 to February 1995, Jean-Claude Juncker also took on the leadership of the Christian Social Party.

In June 1994, Jean-Claude Juncker was re-elected to Parliament and retained his Minister of Finance and Minister of Labour portfolios. On 20 January 1995, following the nomination of Prime Minister Jacques Santer as President of the European Commission by the European Council and the subsequent approval of this appointment by the European Parliament, Jean-Claude Juncker was appointed Prime Minister and Minister of State by His Royal Highness Grand Duke Jean. Despite now heading the government, he still continued to fulfil his functions as Minister of Finance, Minister of Labour and Employment and Minister for the Treasury.

In his position as head of government, Jean-Claude Juncker broke new ground by enhancing Luxembourg's profile abroad. He represented Luxembourg on numerous official and work-related visits throughout the world, often accompanied by an important economic delegation. At his instigation, political and economic ties with numerous countries were strengthened. Particular importance was assigned to development cooperation with Luxembourg's target countries. By 2001, with expenditures totalling 0.8% of its gross domestic product, Luxembourg ranked among the top five most involved countries in terms of development cooperation.

In December 1996, the international press dubbed Jean-Claude Juncker "the hero of Dublin" for his successful mediation during delicate negotiations between German

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Jacques Chirac on the subject of the Stability Pact accompanying the Economic and Monetary Union.

The Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 1997 provided Jean-Claude Juncker with the opportunity to highlight his ambitions for a more socially integrated Europe. In November 1997, the Extraordinary European Council on Employment saw the launch of the so-called "Luxembourg Process" requiring Member States to submit an annual action plan promoting employment and to meet quantified and verifiable criteria in the context of job creation and the fight against unemployment.

One month later, at the European Council of Luxembourg, the European Union opened its doors to the East. The same summit was witness to the creation of "Euro 11", the informal group of Ministers of Finance involved in the Economic and Monetary Union, since renamed the Eurogroup.

In June 1999, the Christian Social Party once again won the general elections and Jean-Claude Juncker was appointed Prime Minister of a government composed of members of the Christian Social Party and the Democratic Party (Demokratesch Partei / DP), thus putting an end to 15 years of governmental coalition between the Christian Social Party and the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (Lëtzebuerger Sozialistesch Arbechterpartei / LSAP). Jean-Claude Juncker retained his Finance and Communications portfolios.

On 31 July 2004, Jean-Claude Juncker was reappointed Prime Minister, Minister of State and Minister of Finance in the government formed as a result of the general elections of 13 June 2004, in which he obtained record personal votes. He is currently heading a government made up of the Christian Social Party and the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party.

On 1 January 2005, Jean-Claude Juncker was elected the first permanent president of the Eurogroup, which brings together the Ministers of Finance of the Eurozone Member States.

During the first six months of 2005, the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union allowed Jean-Claude Juncker to secure an agreement at the March 2005 European Council on a reform of the Stability and Growth Pact that did not affect the pact's fundamental principles. During this summit, Jean-Claude Juncker also succeeded in reviving the Lisbon Strategy, in a bid to reaffirm its social and environmental dimensions.

After the French and Dutch "no" to the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, Jean-Claude Juncker focused all his efforts in the victorious battle leading to a Luxembourgish "yes" in the referendum that took place on 10 July 2005.

A number of international universities have bestowed upon Jean-Claude Juncker the title of *doctor honoris causa* and he has also been the recipient of several international decorations. In recognition of his commitment to the European cause, Jean-Claude Juncker has been presented with a number of important political awards, notably the International Karlspreis of Aachen in 2006.

After his term as Governor of the World Bank from 1989 to 1995, Jean-Claude Juncker assumed the role of Governor of the International Monetary Fund and that of Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (BERD).

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- **Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration**

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Jean Asselborn was born on 27 April 1949 and lives in the town of Steinfort, where he served as mayor between 1982 and 2004.

In 1967 he left school to work for Uniroyal laboratories. He then became involved in the trade union movement and was soon elected to the post of youth representative of the Federation of Luxembourg Workers (Lëtzebuerger Aarbechterverband), precursor to the current OGB-L (Independent Federation of Trade Unions of Luxembourg).

In 1968 he joined the civil administration of Luxembourg City, but left a year later to return to Steinfort and serve in the local administration.

In 1976 he enrolled in evening classes and obtained his secondary education diploma from the Athénée de Luxembourg. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed administrator of the intermunicipal hospital of Steinfort.

In 1980 he married Sylvie Hubert. They now have two children: Anne, born in 1982, and Julie, born in 1987.

He then enrolled as a student at the University of Nancy, where he was awarded a Master of Private Judicial Law in October 1981, only three days before his first election to the post of mayor of the municipality of Steinfort.

In 1984 he was elected to the Luxembourg Parliament for the first time and has been returned to his seat there at each subsequent election.

In 1989 he was appointed head of the parliamentary group of the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP), and was elected chairman of the party in 1997.

From 1999 to 2004, he served as vice-president of the Luxembourg Parliament. In addition to his national mandate, he was appointed member of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union and served as vice-president of the European Socialist Party from 2000 to 2004.

On 31 July 2004, following the June 2004 parliamentary elections, Jean Asselborn was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration.

Fernand **Boden**

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Fernand Boden was born in Echternach on 13 September 1943. He has two sons and lives in his native town.

After completing his secondary education at the grammar school in Echternach, he went on to study mathematics and physics at the Cours supérieur in Luxembourg and later at the Université de Liège where he obtained the title of Doctor of Mathematics and Physics. From 1966 to 1978 he taught at the grammar school in Echternach.

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 (Chrëschtlech Sozial Volleksparte i / CSV) 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 portfolios until 1989.

In 1989, Fernand Boden was appointed Minister for Family and Solidarity, and Minister of the Middle Classes and Tourism. After the 1994 elections, he became Minister for the Civil Service until 26 January 1995 when the Cabinet reshuffled and Fernand Boden became Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Minister for the Middle Classes and Tourism, as well as Minister of Housing.

In the Cabinet of 1999-2004 Fernand Boden was confirmed in the posts of Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Minister of the Middle Classes, Tourism and Housing.

After the legislative elections of 13 June 2004 Fernand Boden has reassumed positions as Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Minister of the Middle Classes, of Tourism and Housing.

Marie-Josée **Jacobs**

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- **Minister for Equal Opportunities**

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Marie-Josée Jacobs was born on 22 January 1950 in Marnach, in the north of Luxembourg. After completing her secondary school at the private school Saint-Anne in Ettelbruck, she attended nursing-school. She obtained her diploma in nursing in 1969 and one in nursing-anaesthesiology in 1973. Marie-Josée Jacobs worked in this field until her nomination to the post of minister.

While practising her profession, Marie-Josée Jacobs started a political and union career. 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.

Marie-Josée Jacobs began her political career in 1967 as a member of the Christian Social Party (Chrëschtlech Sozial Vollekspartei / CSV). 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 CSV of the same region. Finally, she was elected vice-president of her party at the national level. In 1984, Marie-Josée Jacobs was first elected Member of Parliament in the Northern district constituency. She was re-elected in 1989 and in 1994. In 1987, she became municipal councillor of Luxembourg City.

On 9 December 1992, Marie-Josée Jacobs was appointed Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, as well as Minister Delegate for Culture. This position allowed her to participate actively in the organisation of Luxembourg, European Year of Culture in 1995.

Re-elected in the legislative elections of 12 June 1994, Marie-Josée Jacobs was entrusted with the same ministerial portfolio in the government formed by Prime Minister Jacques Santer.

After the appointment of Jacques Santer to the post of president of the European Commission, Marie-Josée Jacobs was appointed Minister for Family, Minister for the Advancement of Women, Minister for the Handicapped and Disabled on 26 January 1995.

Candidate for her party in the legislative elections of 13 June 1999, she was re-elected Member of Parliament in the Northern district constituency on the list of the Christian Social Party. In the Cabinet 1999-2004, under Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, Marie-Josée Jacobs was appointed Minister for Family, Social Solidarity and Youth and Minister for the Advancement of Women.

After the legislative elections of 13 June 2004 Marie-Josée Jacobs was appointed Minister for Family and Integration, Minister for Equal Opportunities.

Mady **Delvaux-Stehres**

- **Minister of National Education and Vocational Training**

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Mady Delvaux-Stehres was born in 1950 and has three children. She studied classics at the Sorbonne prior to teaching at the Lycée Michel-Rodange in Luxembourg up until 1989.

Having joined the LSAP (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party) in 1974, Mady Delvaux-Stehres was initially active in the Socialist Women group. She joined the LSAP Management Committee in 1985 and remained a member until 1989, when she was appointed to the Government. She was also elected Municipal Councillor of Luxembourg City in October 1987.

Named as chief candidate for the Centre constituency in 1989 (and in 1994), she came out first in the general election and joined the CSV-LSAP government of 1989 as State Secretary for Health, Social Security, Youth and Sport. Following the 1994 elections, she became Minister for Communications, Transport and Social Security.

During the 1989-1994 legislature period she began reforming health insurance. From 1994 to 1999, she dealt with the introduction of the new long-term care insurance.

As Minister of Transport, between 1994 and 1999, she was to reorganise the railways in accordance with European directives and as Minister for Communications, she implemented the liberalisation of telephone services.

In June 1999, Mady Delvaux-Stehres was re-elected to Parliament and four months later, she obtained a new term of office in the municipal council of Luxembourg City. During her term as Member of Parliament, Mady Delvaux-Stehres was, within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, a member of the Committee on Culture and the Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee). In October 2003, she became one of its co-rapporteurs for the monitoring of Turkey.

Following the general election on 13 June 2004, Mady Delvaux-Stehres was appointed Minister of National Education and Vocational Training on 31 July 2004.

Luc **Frieden**

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- **Minister for the Treasury and the Budget**

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

After his primary education in Esch-sur-Alzette, he attended secondary school at the Lycée de garçons in Esch-sur-Alzette and the Athénée de Luxembourg. In 1982, he was awarded his secondary education diploma (focus on classics and economics).

He went on to study law at the Centre universitaire de Luxembourg and the Université de Paris I (Panthéon Sorbonne), where he graduated in 1986 with a Master of Business Law.

In 1987 he obtained a Master of Comparative Law and Legal Philosophy from the University of Cambridge (UK) and in 1988 a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School in the United States. During his studies at Harvard he also took classes at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. His post-graduate thesis on "Media newsgathering by satellites" was published in 1989 in the *Stanford Journal of International Law*.

From 1989 to 1998 Luc Frieden worked as an attorney-at-law in Luxembourg. He taught public law at the Centre universitaire de Luxembourg and wrote a series of articles on banking and constitutional law. From 1981 to 1994 he was a regular commentator on legal issues and foreign affairs on RTL Luxembourg Radio. He is a member of the moral sciences and politics section of the Institut grand-ducal.

He was first elected Member of Parliament for the Christian Social Party (Chrëschtlech Sozial Vollekspartei / CSV) in the Centre constituency at the parliamentary elections of 12 June 1994. From 1994 to February 1998 he chaired the Finance and Budget Committee, as well as the Committee on Constitutional Affairs.

On 4 February 1998, at the age of 34, Luc Frieden was appointed Minister of Justice, Minister for the Budget and Minister for Relations with Parliament. He coordinated the government's preparations for introducing the single European currency in Luxembourg.

As a party candidate in the general elections of June 1999, he was re-elected and subsequently reappointed Minister of Justice and Minister for the Treasury and Budget of the new government.

Following the general elections of June 2004, Luc Frieden was reappointed Minister of Justice and entrusted with all matters of internal security, as well as Minister for the Treasury (responsible for the financial sector) and the Budget.

Luc Frieden was also Minister of Defence from June 2004 to February 2006.

During the Luxembourgish presidency of the Council of the European Union, Minister Luc Frieden chaired the Councils of the Ministers of Justice, Home Affairs and Defence.

As of 4 February 1998, Luc Frieden is also Governor of the World Bank.

In recognition of his commitment to his country and his contribution to transatlantic relations, the American Sacred Heart University of Fairfield, Connecticut, conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, in 2006.

François **Biltgen**

- **Minister of Labour and Employment**
- **Minister for Culture, Higher Education and Research**
- **Minister for Religious Communities**

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

François Biltgen studied law at the Université de Paris. He obtained a Master of Law and also a DEA postgraduate certificate in community law and political sciences at the Paris Institut d'études politiques.

Shortly after obtaining his qualifications, he accepted the position of secretary of the parliamentary group of the Christian Social Party (Chrëschtlech Sozial Volleksspartei / CSV) in 1983, where he succeeded Jean-Claude Juncker.

In 1987, François Biltgen was elected onto the Esch-sur-Alzette town council. In 1997, he acted as deputy mayor, in charge of finance and social affairs. In the 1994 general elections, François Biltgen was elected to Parliament.

At the age of 36, after being elected Member of Parliament, he resumed his studies and passed his final exam after legal training. Shortly afterwards, he embarked on a career as a lawyer in Esch-sur-Alzette.

Between 1994 and 1999, François Biltgen made a name for himself as a parliamentary rapporteur on a number of bills, notably in the field of labour and institutional law. Throughout this period, François Biltgen was also the author of scientific and general contributions on a number of legal issues.

Between 1999 and 2004, François Biltgen assumed the responsibilities of Minister of Labour and Employment, Minister for Relations with Parliament, Minister for Religious Communities and also Delegate Minister in charge of Communications. In this last capacity, he was also responsible for the e-Luxembourg plan.

In particular, he successfully saw through the new laws on collective labour relations and on the freedom of expression in the media.

On 18 January 2003, he was elected chairman of the Christian Social Party.

Following the elections on 13 June 2004 and the great success of the Christian Social Party, François Biltgen was reappointed on 31 July 2004 to his duties as Minister of Labour and Employment and Minister for Religious Communities, and found himself entrusted with the duties of Minister for Culture, Higher Education and Research.

Jeannot **Krecké**

- **Minister of the Economy and Foreign Trade**
- **Minister of Sport**

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Jeannot Krecké was born on 29 April 1950 in the City of Luxembourg. He is married to Monique Giver and lives in the city centre.

After completing his secondary education in Luxembourg, in 1969 he begins studying at the Free University in Brussels. Graduating in sport and physical education, he commences his teaching career in the Grand Duchy in 1973, taking a post as assistant to the ULB until 1976.

As an attaché to the Minister of Sport from 1979 to 1980, he familiarises himself with the internal operation of the civil service. However he leaves the civil service to take his first steps on the political ladder, becoming local councillor for Kopstal in 1981, before joining the capital's city council in 1989.

In 1983, he decides to make a change of professional direction. His interests lead him towards economics, accountancy and taxation. He commits himself to his training, in particular in the United States. He also teaches these subjects himself until he is elected Member of Parliament in 1989.

He gives his party the benefit of his knowledge, and is appointed general treasurer in 1985 joining the central committee of the LSAP. Forging ahead, once he is elected Member of Parliament he becomes involved in economic and financial questions, which leads him inter alia to become president of the Economic Affairs Committee and the Committee for Controlling Budget Implementation. In 1995 he is appointed government budget reporter for the 1996 financial year.

His intense interest in taxation leads him in 1992 to be co-author of a manual on personal taxation in Luxembourg, published annually since then. A little later, his expertise enables him to become an external consultant to the companies Mazars (1994-1999), Arthur Andersen (1999-2003) and Ernst & Young (2003-2004). In 1997, on a request from the Prime Minister, he produces a report on tax fraud in Luxembourg.

His activities go beyond politics and economics, however. As a consequence of the unfortunate experience of his father, he becomes involved with the fight against Alzheimer's disease and in 1987 he is co-founder of the Luxembourg Alzheimer's Association, of which he is president until 1997, before running the Alzheimer's Foundation in Luxembourg. His efforts to unite forces at a European level result in the creation of the association Alzheimer's Europe of which he is head from 1996 to 2001 and its European coordination office is established in the Grand Duchy on his impetus.

Passionate about sport, he is selected 19 times to play international football and, during his studies in Brussels, leads a semi-professional career as a footballer.

After playing international football, he becomes an enthusiastic sailor. Jeannot Krecké is a member of the team which wins the Constitution Race across the Atlantic in 1987. After that he gains a taste for polar navigation and becomes an explorer on expeditions to the Greenland Sea and around Spitzbergen.

Following the parliamentary elections on 13 June 2004, Jeannot Krecké is appointed Minister of the Economy and Foreign Trade as well as Minister of Sport as from 31 July 2004.

Mars **Di Bartolomeo**

- **Minister of Health and Social Security**

Mars Di Bartolomeo was born on 27 June 1952 in Dudelange.

After his secondary education at the Lycée de garçons in Esch-sur-Alzette, he was a journalist at *Tageblatt* from 1972 to 1984.

Appointed secretary of the parliamentary group of the LSAP (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party) in 1984 to replace Robert Goebbels who had become a member of the government, Mars Di Bartolomeo first stood for a seat in the municipal elections of 1987, when he was voted onto the Dudelange council. In the wake of this, he was elected to Parliament in 1989.

He was re-elected to the Chamber in 1994 and found himself promoted to mayor of the town of Dudelange after the municipal elections in October 1993. He took office on 1 January 1994 and also retained the post after the October 1999 elections. Four months earlier, the voters in the South constituency gave him a third term of office in Parliament.

Mars Di Bartolomeo has published a tax guide in collaboration with Jeannot Krecké. He has also become deeply involved in social issues, the problems of economic diversification and the promotion of cultural activities in Luxembourg's mining region.

From 2000, he fulfilled the role of chairman of the South constituency of the LSAP and was elected first chairman of Pro-Sud, the association for the promotion of the south of Luxembourg.

Following the elections on 13 June 2004, Mars Di Bartolomeo was appointed Minister of Health and Social Security on 31 July 2004.

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Lucien Lux

- **Minister of the Environment**
- **Minister of Transport**

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Lucien Lux was born on 13 September 1956 in Troisvierges. He lives in Bettembourg, is married and has two children.

Like his father, Lucien Lux first worked for the SNCFL, the Luxembourg National Railway Company before joining the OGB-L trade union confederation as union secretary in 1978, but left this post – while remaining a union adviser – after being elected as a Member of Parliament in 1989. Lucien Lux was re-elected to Parliament in 1994, 1999 and 2004.

Chairman of the Bettembourg branch of the LSAP (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party) from 1986, he became mayor of this town on 1 January 1988 at the head of a socialist majority. He was reappointed to this position in 1993 and in 1999.

At the municipal level Lucien Lux mainly focused and made headway in the fields of environment, development cooperation and gender equality.

As Member of Parliament, he took a special interest in social and family affairs, in employment and labour rights. Lucien Lux served as reporter and co-reporter for the employment bill which introduced compulsory dependency insurance, known as PAN (National Action Plan). He was the author of several bills, resolutions and motions underpinning the LSAP's political approach to the battle against unemployment.

In 1997, Lucien Lux was confided the important mission of reporter of the Parliamentary Commission for Budget and Finances for the government's draft budget for 1998.

At the party congress in Vianden in March 2002, he was elected secretary-general of the LSAP, taking on the challenge to organise and see the general election campaign of 13 June 2004 through to a successful end.

Following the general election on 13 June 2004, Lucien Lux was appointed Minister for the Environment and Minister for Transport on 31 July 2004.

Jean-Marie **Halsdorf**

- **Minister for Home Affairs and Town and Country Planning**

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Jean-Marie Halsdorf was born on 1st February 1957 in Luxembourg. He is married, has three children and lives in Lamadelaine.

After completing his secondary education at the Echternach high school, Jean-Marie Halsdorf enrolled at the Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg and left in the early 1980s with a State qualification as a doctor of pharmacy.

He practised his profession in pharmacies and hospitals, particularly the Luxembourg Clinique Sacré-Cœur.

Deeply involved in local politics, but also in issues relating to health and social security, Jean-Marie Halsdorf was elected municipal councillor of the municipality of Pétange on 1st January 1988. In the year 2000, he became mayor of the municipality of Pétange.

Since 2000, Jean-Marie Halsdorf has occupied the post of secretary-general of Syvicol (the Association of Luxembourg Towns and Municipalities). He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Regional Association of Municipalities for the Promotion and Development of the South Region (Pro-Sud). Between 2001 and 2004, he was chairman of the Committee of the Intercommunal Association of the Hôpital Princesse Marie-Astrid in Niederkorn.

In 1994, he was elected Member of Parliament of the Christian Social Party (Chrëschtlech Sozial Vollekspartei / CSV) in the South constituency. He was re-elected in 1999 and 2004. In 2003, Jean-Marie Halsdorf was also designated as rapporteur on the government's budget for the 2004 financial year. During his term of office as deputy, Jean-Marie Halsdorf was also a full member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and a deputy member of the European Union's Committee of the Regions, the Benelux Interparliamentary Consultative Council and the Inter-regional Parliamentary Council.

Following the elections on 13 June 2004, Jean-Marie Halsdorf was appointed on 31 July 2004 as Minister for Home Affairs and of Town and Country Planning.

Claude **Wiseler**

- **Minister for the Civil Service and Administrative Reform**
- **Minister of Civil Engineering**

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Claude Wiseler was born on 30 January 1960 in Luxembourg. He is married and has three children.

After his secondary education at the Athénée de Luxembourg (1972-1979), Claude Wiseler enrolled at the Université de Paris III (Sorbonne nouvelle), where he obtained a Master of French Language and Literature and a degree in general and comparative literature (1983). In 1989, he obtained a doctorate at the Université de Paris-Sorbonne.

Between 1983 and 1987, Claude Wiseler taught languages at the Athénée de Luxembourg and the Lycée technique du Centre. From 1987 to 1989, he was a teacher attached to the Ministry for National Education, before occupying the post of government advisor to the Ministry for Family and Social Support and also the Ministry of the Middle Classes and Tourism (1989-1999).

Having been secretary-general of his party from 1995 to 2000, Claude Wiseler was elected, following the general elections of June 1999, Member of Parliament for the Centre constituency on the list of the Christian Social Party (Chrëschtlech Sozial Vollekspartei / CSV). In the national parliament, he assumed the role of vice-chairman of the CSV parliamentary group, vice-chairman of the Committee for National Education, Vocational Training and Sport, and became a member of various other committees.

From 2000 to 2004, he was also deputy mayor of Luxembourg City, with responsibility for teaching and social affairs.

Following the general election on 13 June 2004, Claude Wiseler was appointed as Minister for the Civil Service and Administrative Reform and Minister of Civil Engineering on 31 July 2004.

Jean-Louis **Schiltz**

- **Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs**
- **Minister for Communications**
- **Minister of Defence**

Jean-Louis Schiltz was born on 14 August 1964 in Luxembourg. He is married with three children and lives in Luxembourg.

Jean-Louis Schiltz was elected to Parliament for the first time in the general elections of 13 June 2004 and appointed Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs on 31 July 2004. At the same time he was put in charge of Communications and in this capacity he actively promotes Luxembourg in the fields of telecommunications and information technology. On 22 February 2006, Minister Schiltz was entrusted a third ministerial portfolio, that of Defence.

In charge of the communications dossier within the government, Minister Schiltz is responsible for the promotion of Luxembourg in the fields of telecommunications and information technologies.

As minister for Development Cooperation, Jean-Louis Schiltz was, during Luxembourg's Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first half-year of 2005, the key figure in negotiating the agreement whereby each Member State of the European Union will spend 0.7% of its gross domestic product on development aid by 2015. The negotiations on the revision of the Cotonou Agreement were also successfully concluded under his chairmanship, the signature of the Revised Cotonou Agreement took place in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005.

Since 6 September 2004, Jean-Louis Schiltz is the governor of the Asian Development Bank for Luxembourg.

Since 2000, Jean-Louis Schiltz is general secretary of the Christian Social Party. He was re-elected a first time to this post in 2003 scoring 88% of the votes and a second time at the end of 2004 with 97%. His third and last mandate will come to a term in 2006. As general secretary he was the main driving force behind the new party programme adopted in 2002. He was the campaign manager of his party for the general elections of June 2004.

From 1989 to 2004, Jean-Louis Schiltz worked as a lawyer in the firm Schiltz & Schiltz. As a lawyer, he joined the Young Bar Association and became in 1990 a member of the Committee. From 1997 to 1998 he held the post of

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chairman. He then became a member of the Bar Council.

In parallel to his work as a lawyer, Jean-Louis Schiltz pursued an academic career. From 1989 to 1991 he worked as academic assistant at the Law Faculty of the Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne. From 1991 to 2004 he was first assistant, then chargé de cours at the Centre universitaire de Luxembourg where he taught civil and business law. He is the author of a number of articles on banking and insurance law. From 1994 to 2004 he was the co-editor of the scientific journal *Assurances et Responsabilité*, which was edited by the Luxembourg section of the International Association of Insurance Law. He was a member of the editorial board of the monthly *European Lawyer* and the International Bar Association, but left these positions when he joined the government in 2004.

Jean-Louis Schiltz received a Master of Law in 1987 at the Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne. In June 1988 he obtained a postgraduate diplôme d'études approfondies (DEA) in business law from the same university. In 1991 he passed the bar exam first in his class.

Keen on sports, Jean-Louis Schiltz was a Luxembourg team champion of fencing in 1983 and regularly goes running and biking. For ten years he was a member of the Legal Commission of the National Olympic Committee.

Nicolas **Schmit**

- **Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Immigration**

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Nicolas Schmit was born on 10 December 1953. He is married and has four children.

Nicolas Schmit obtained a doctorate in economics and a degree from the Paris Institut des études politiques. He holds a postgraduate DEA (Diplôme d'études approfondies) in international relations and a Master of Arts.

He started his professional career as a researcher in international economic relations at the Université d'Aix-Marseille III, a post he held from 1978 to 1979.

From 1979 Nicolas Schmit served as attaché with responsibility for economic affairs in the Prime Minister's Office. In 1983, he joined the Luxembourg Diplomatic Service as *secrétaire de légation* in the Political Department. He assumed the post of principal private secretary to Foreign Minister Jacques F. Poos in 1984.

In 1989 he became secretary of the parliamentary group of the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP). In 1990 he assumed the post of counsellor at Luxembourg's Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels. He participated in the works of the Intergovernmental Conference preparing the Maastricht Treaty.

In 1991 Nicolas Schmit was appointed member of the State Council. From 1992 to 1998 he was head of the Department for International Economic Relations and Cooperation at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

In 1998 he became Luxembourg's Permanent Representative to the European Union in Brussels. From 2000 to 2001 he was the personnel representative at the Intergovernmental Conference preparing the Nice Treaty. From 2002 to 2003 he represented the government as an Alternate Member at the Convention on the Future of Europe.

On 31 July 2004 Nicolas Schmit was appointed Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Immigration.

Octavie **Modert**

- **Secretary of State for Relations with Parliament**
- **Secretary of State for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development**
- **Secretary of State for Culture, Higher Education and Research**

Octavie Modert was born on 15 November 1966 in Grevenmacher. She is married to Jean-Pierre Stronck and lives in Greiveldange, in the Moselle Region.

After her secondary education at the Echternach high school, Octavie Modert studied law at the Université Robert Schuman in Strasbourg, where she obtained a Master of Law in 1990. She completed her university education in 1991 with a Master of Arts in European Studies from Reading University (UK).

Having briefly occupied a post as attaché to the staff pool of the parliamentary group of the Christian Social Party (Chrëschtlech Sozial Volleksparteï / CSV), Octavie Modert started working for the State in 1992, where she was assigned to the presidential offices of the government and to the office of the Prime Minister. In 1998, at the age of 31, she was named secretary-general of the Cabinet, which makes her the youngest person and first woman to take on this high office. In 1999, she was the first woman to be promoted to the grade of top government adviser.

Ever since she was 20 years old, Octavie Modert has been involved in a number of different positions within committees and the executive organs of the Christian Social Party and its sub-organisations, the Christian Social Youth (CSJ) and the Christian Social Women (CSF) – both at a national and a local level.

Having been elected to Parliament for the first time in the general election of 13 June 2004, Octavie Modert was invested on 31 July 2004 with the role of Secretary of State for Relations with Parliament, Secretary of State for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, and Secretary of State for Culture, Higher Education and Research. She is the youngest member of the 2004 government.

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