

PRESS RELEASE (23/03/2022)

# Ambassadors of the BENELUX countries visit the banking association

As part of a one-day visit to Liechtenstein, the ambassadors of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg also visited the Liechtenstein Bankers Association on Wednesday morning. The meeting focused on the mutual exchange of ideas and opinions on current economic and financial topics as well as the cultivation of friendly relations. But the war in Ukraine was also a central topic of discussion.

Planned for some time, the agenda originally included in particular EU internal market issues as well as topics such as sustainability and digitalisation, which will significantly change and shape the financial sector, the economy and our society today and in the future. However, the ongoing Ukraine war and the human suffering caused by it has moved to the forefront of the meeting and discussion. The delegations were both very concerned and strongly condemned the unprovoked and unjustified military aggression of the Russian Federation as well as the ongoing warfare in Ukraine.

In this context, the interlocutors devoted part of the discussions to the implementation of the sanctions imposed on Russia.

The ambassadors from the Benelux countries showed great interest in the so-called FAST initiative to combat modern slavery and human trafficking, which was initiated by Liechtenstein and is supported by the Netherlands and the banking association, among others. The two delegations also agreed that the social aspect will continue to gain importance in the sustainability discussion, not least because of Covid and the current war in Ukraine.

In addition, the LBA also took the opportunity to present the Roadmap 2025 to the visiting delegation and how the banking centre is jointly making itself fit for the future.

*"This was our first meeting in this form. But we quickly agreed that we would like to continue and institutionalise these meetings in the future. Today's discussion topics were a colourful bouquet and ranged from sustainability and digitalisation to the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking - all of which are issues that concern us all and that we can only tackle together and where dialogue and cooperation are absolutely essential," said Dr Hans-Werner Gassner, Chairman of the Liechtenstein Bankers Association.*



Legend (from left): Simon Tribelhorn (LBA), Koen Gabriels (Consul Belgium), I.E. Hedda Samson (Dutch Ambassador), Dr. Hans-Werner Gassner (LBA), Rogier van der Heide (Dutch Honorary Consul), S.E. Jean-Claude Meyer (Ambassador of Luxembourg), S.E. Willy De Buck (Belgian Ambassador), Marcel Müller (Honorary Consul of Luxembourg)

### About the LBA:

The Liechtenstein Bankers Association was founded in 1969 and is the voice of Liechtenstein banks at home and abroad. It is one of the most important associations in the country and plays an important role in the successful development of the financial centre. As a member of the European Bankers Federation (EBF), the European Payments Council (EPC), the European Parliamentary Financial Services Forum (EPFSF), the Liechtenstein Bankers Association is an important member of key bodies at European level and plays an active role in the European legislative process. Since 2017, the Liechtenstein Bankers Association has also been a member of the Public Affairs Council (PAC) with offices in Washington and Brussels, and since 2018, a member of the international network "Financial Centres for Sustainability" (FC4S). With the Roadmap 2025, the LBA has placed an even stronger focus on the topic of sustainability. Since 2021, it has been an official supporter of the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and the Net-Zero Banking Alliance.

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