

SPEECH
OF
HIS SERENE HIGHNESS
HEREDITARY PRINCE ALOIS OF
LIECHTENSTEIN

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
NATIONAL DAY 2025

ON 15 August 2025



Dear People of Liechtenstein
Excellencies
Dear Guests

We are celebrating today's National Day in a new format. This also applies to the morning event here at the castle. I am particularly pleased that Bishop Benno Elbs will bless our country, our municipalities and our people at the end of the state ceremony this year.

The National Day is always an opportunity to reflect on the foundations and values on which our state and society are built. This is particularly true in today's world, where we are confronted with considerable new challenges.

One such challenge is the fundamental changes taking place at the international level. Unfortunately, we can rely less and less on a rules-based world order. This leads to a changed security situation, more difficult conditions for our companies and can therefore also have an impact on the further prosperous development of our society.

At the same time, we are challenged by rapid technological developments, particularly artificial intelligence and the smartphones that accompany us everywhere today. The new possibilities offered by these technological developments open up many advantages and opportunities for us personally and for our companies. However, they also bring with them difficult challenges, such as new psychological stresses or social destabilization caused by the problematic use of social media.

Finally, we continue to be challenged by demographic developments. The financing of our pension and care systems will remain an issue until we have a method of automatically adjusting them to demographic developments. When the baby boomers are mostly retired, we will also lack the workforce for our companies and for that part of the population that is dependent on services such as care and similar support.

The sum of these developments leads to a feeling of uncertainty and loss of control in many people. In such a phase, it is particularly important that we analyze the challenges carefully, assess ourselves correctly, continue to rely on those foundations and values that will remain strengths in the future, but at the same time, where adjustments and reforms are necessary, prepare them well and implement them quickly. With this in mind, I would like to share with you today some thoughts on the changed security situation, rapid technological development and the demographic development.

As the security situation has changed comprehensively, we should also fundamentally revise our security policy. Until not too long ago, our security policy was largely focused on traditional internal security and regional disaster management. More recently, we have also addressed cyber security and taken measures in this regard.

This was important because our state, our economy and our society are increasingly dependent on a functioning digital infrastructure. However, in addition to cyber security, we also need good regulation for a stable digital infrastructure – not least to ensure the necessary trust through efficient and high-level data protection in sensitive areas such as health. In addition, we need energy security, especially with regard to the electricity grid, and a society that knows how to use digital tools, especially artificial intelligence, on the one hand, and can deal with their dangers on the other.

We should therefore fundamentally revise our security policy with the broad involvement of the population and the companies, adding external security, digital security and strengthening social resilience, among other things. In this context, I see three areas of action as crucial:

- Educational measures to prepare all sections of the population as well as possible for an increasingly digital world, especially artificial intelligence.
- Communication appropriate for the digital age between government bodies, the companies, the media and the population as a whole– not least in order to maintain our special sense of community and our high level of trust in our state institutions.
- Integration measures to increase social resilience, such as improving the framework conditions for voluntary work and for our non-profit associations.

On the one hand, measures in the field of education should create the conditions necessary for us to successfully apply our particular innovative strength and strong entrepreneurial spirit also to artificial intelligence and other technological developments. On the other hand, we should all educate ourselves on how to deal with the dangers of the technological development. For example, in order to prevent the enormous social consequences of psychological damage, we should raise awareness of the dangers posed by smartphones and social media to young children, schoolchildren and adults alike.

With regard to demographic developments, an age strategy has already been developed, which we should now implement consistently. This includes necessary reforms in the areas of healthcare, nursing care and the first and second pillars of old-age provision. It also includes further demographic measures such as flexible working conditions. In addition to the intelligent use of new technologies, measures to increase the attractiveness of our workplaces – including for the older population – are crucial to ensuring that we continue to have the necessary workforce in the future.

Dear People of Liechtenstein

We can be proud of how we have tackled such challenges together so far. Let us continue to strike the right balance between long-term orientation, stability, continuity and closeness to the citizens on the one hand, and constant development through innovation and entrepreneurship on the other. Then we can look to the future with optimism, especially given our excellent starting position.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who have helped organize the National Day celebrations and wish you all a wonderful holiday and God's blessing.