



MEDIA RELEASE FROM THE PRINCELY HOUSE

Hereditary Prince Alois and Hereditary Princess Sophie attend meeting of German-speaking heads of state in Tyrol (Austria)

1 September 2026 – H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois and H.R.H. Hereditary Princess Sophie of Liechtenstein are attending the meeting of the heads of state of the German-speaking countries on 1 and 2 September 2026 in Innsbruck and Alpbach, Austria. This year's gathering is hosted by Austrian Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen and First Lady Doris Schmidauer.

Other participants include King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium, German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his wife Elke Büdenbender, Grand Duke Guillaume and Grand Duchess Stéphanie of Luxembourg, as well as Swiss Federal President Guy Parmelin and his wife Caroline Parmelin.

The two-day programme began today in Innsbruck with an official welcome ceremony and a working luncheon, during which the heads of state discussed current domestic and foreign policy developments. Another key topic of the meeting was climate change and its impact on the Alpine region. The heads of state and their spouses visited the Stubai Glacier, where leading scientists from Austria, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium provided insights into current glacier and climate research.

"We were shown very clearly how profoundly our Alpine landscape is changing and how great the responsibility we bear is," said Hereditary Prince Alois. "Climate change is increasing natural hazards, threatening our water resources, and negatively affecting agriculture, tourism and infrastructure." He stressed the importance of direct exchanges with experts and cross-border cooperation in addressing these global challenges.

In the evening, a traditional regional reception will be held in front of the Imperial Hofburg in Innsbruck, followed by an official dinner at the House of Music. As the longest-serving head of state represented at the gathering, Hereditary Prince Alois will deliver a toast in honour of the hosts and assembled guests.

On the second day, the delegations will travel to the European Forum Alpbach, where they will participate in a working session entitled "How Europe Wins." Discussions will focus on Europe's future, its competitiveness, and the political and economic challenges of the coming years. Hereditary Prince Alois will also contribute Liechtenstein's perspectives and experiences to the discussion. "Many of the issues currently facing Liechtenstein are relevant across all German-speaking countries. These include security in both the physical and digital domains, the competitiveness of our economies, and the long-term safeguarding of prosperity, stability and social cohesion," says the Hereditary Prince.

The programme will conclude with an exchange with scholarship holders of the European Forum Alpbach, providing an opportunity for dialogue between political decision-makers and young people from across Europe.

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