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Taiwan Newsletter

Headline News

Luxembourg ratifies tax pact with ROC

On July 9, Luxembourg's parliament approved an agreement with the ROC to avoid double taxation and prevent fiscal evasion, according to the MOFA. "The law, scheduled to take effect on 1 January 2015, is a milestone in efforts to establish a friendly business environment and fair taxation practice as well as to boost bilateral investment between the two countries," MOFA said.

This is the 27th comprehensive pact regarding double taxation avoidance Taiwan has signed with other countries. In the EU, Luxembourg is the 12th country that has concluded such an agreement with Taiwan. Other European countries include Belgium, France, Germany and the UK. According to statistics, bilateral trade between Taiwan and Luxembourg amounted to US\$33.98 million in 2013.

EU-Taiwan Relations

ROC parliamentary delegation visits EU & Belgium

The ROC legislator LU Hsueh-Chang headed the "Republic of China and European Parliament Amity Group," consisting of 5 other members of the Legislative Yuan: TING Shou-Chung, LEE Tung-Hao, CHENG Ru-Fen, LO Shu-Lei and CHIANG Chi-Chen, on their visit to the EU and Belgium from July 12 to 15. The Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium invited them to visit the Saint-André de Bruges Abbey on July 13, owing to the fact that it is the resting place of Lou Tzeng-Tsiang, who was the first foreign minister of



the Republic of China.

The room in the Abbey where Lou stayed has been made into a memorial room with an exhibition of his personal possessions including several precious documents from the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, following the end of WWI. A seating chart, among other things, clearly indicates Lou then headed the ROC delegation participating in the Conference together with the other war victors.

Lu Hsueh-Chang also said that these documents as well as Lou's letters, are silent witnesses of diplomatic history from the founding period of the Republic of China, and he went on to suggest that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) should assist Academia Sinica, the highest research institution in Taiwan, along with the Saint-André de Bruges Abbey, in their joint efforts to properly preserve these precious historical artifacts.

Apart from visiting the Memorial Room, the delegation also laid flowers on Lou's tomb. They also met with key officials from the European Union, Belgian parliamentarians, and paid a visit to the European Parliament.

Cultural News

ROC First Lady visited northern Europe to support Taipei orchestra

As the honorary leader of the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra (TSPO), ROC First Lady Chow Mei-ching joined the orchestra on its tour of the Baltic states and Finland. The TSPO, also known as the Taipei Sinfonietta & Philharmonic Orchestra, performed in Estonia on 15 July and in Latvia and Finland on 16-18 July. The programme covered both classical and contemporary music, including Mozart's piano concertos and pieces from Taiwan and northern Europe.

Founded in 1985, the TSPO quickly gained widespread renown under the



baton of late American conductor Henry Mazer, who was its music director for 17 years until his death in 2002. Mazer greatly contributed to the improvement of classical music performances in Taiwan and to the success of local musicians, by helping them to gain recognition. Since 1993, the orchestra has toured many European countries, including Finland, Estonia, Russia, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and France.

Information

Taiwan dance groups coming to Belgium

During July and August, two Taiwanese dance groups will bring traditional dances from Taiwan to the Belgian audience. The *Fang-shiang Dancing Theatre* and the *Yi Tzy Folk Dance Theatre* will be performing at various folk festivals around the country. Both groups bring the best of Taiwan's cultural splendor and rich traditions in a mix of music, theatre, singing and dance. Their costumes, makeup and stage props immerse the spectators in an oriental dream world.



[Faluintjes – Pikkeling](#)

24-29 July

[Hoogstraten International Folk Festival](#)

1 & 2 August

[Edegem World Dance Festival](#)

6-13 August

[Dendermonde Reynout Festival](#)

14-20 August