



THE PARLIAMENT OF THE
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

LEGAL NOTE

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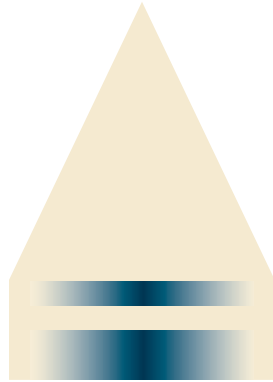
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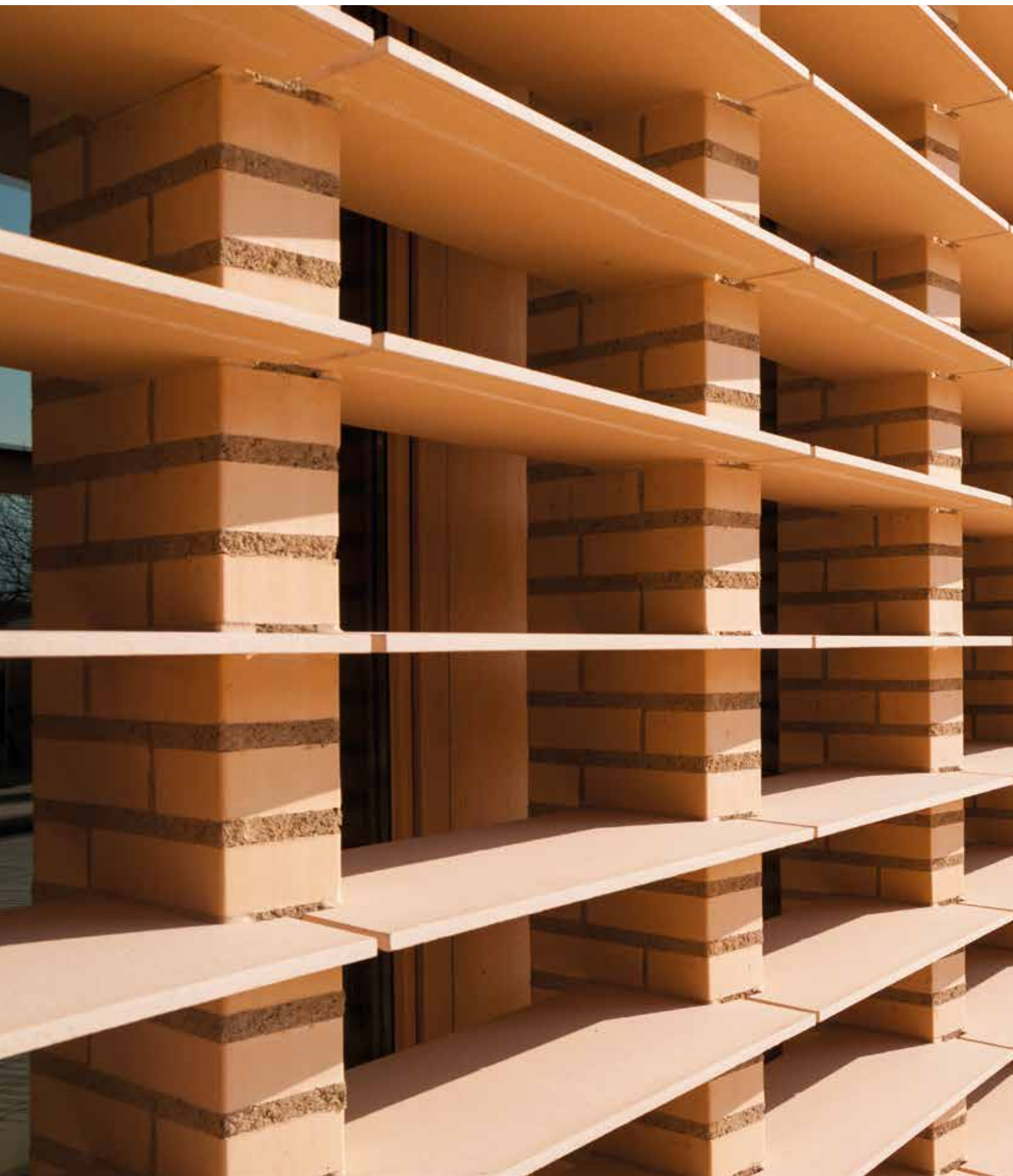
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LANDTAG
OF THE PRINCIPALITY
OF LIECHTENSTEIN



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EDITORIAL

This brochure is the new edition of the documentation initiated successfully four years ago of the Parliament of Liechtenstein – the Landtag – which celebrated its 150th anniversary last year. With this publication, we would like to give you a brief and concise idea of this institution as the legislative body of

Liechtenstein. With the move to its own building in a striking pyramidal form – the High Building – at 3, Peter Kaiser Square in February 2008, the Liechtenstein Parliament, with its dramatic and distinguished architecture, has rapidly acquired a clearer identity and attracted more attention from the public. With this step, we want to give you a better appreciation of the internal workings of Parliament and its representatives, newly elected this year, and acquaint you with their functions in the form laid down by law.

Following the introductory words by the President of Parliament and Madam Vice-President, the brochure presents descriptions of the State structure with its dual character, the work and instruments of the Members, the history of the places where the representatives of the Liechtenstein people once held Parliamentary (Landtag) meetings, the electoral system of Liechtenstein and the current election results of February 2013 when, for the first time in Parliamentary history, four parties won seats and have formed Parliamentary groups. The brochure then introduces the elected Members of Parliament – the representatives of the People for the mandate



JOSEF HILTI
SECRETARY OF PARLIAMENT

period 2013–2017 – and the various commissions and delegations. With effect from 1 March 2013 and in addition to the revised Parliamentary Procedure Act regulating business between Parliament and the Government and the supervision of the State Administration, it is the revised Rules of Procedure

for the Liechtenstein Parliament that are especially noteworthy. These include some new features and contain new rules which should speed up Parliamentary business. As a consequence of this, Parliamentary Secretariat has been renamed the Parliamentary Service and its structure and work are likewise briefly outlined in this brochure. The Parliamentary Service is located in the Long House where there are also various meeting rooms and offices for the Parliamentary groups and the President of Parliament which is next to the High House.

This publication is intended to not only give the reader an idea of what goes on behind the scenes in the Parliament of Liechtenstein but at the same time is also a cordial invitation to pay a visit to the Government district and especially to the actual Parliament Building. We hope you enjoy reading it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Josef Hilti'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josef Hilti
Secretary of Parliament



FOREWORD

The Parliament of Liechtenstein celebrated the jubilee of its 150th anniversary last year. The history of the representation of the People in our country was commemorated at a formal ceremony. It was in 1862 that Reigning Prince Johann II introduced a constitutional monarchy which described Parliament

as «the representative body of all the citizens of the country». In 1921, Reigning Prince Johann II signed the currently valid Constitution which was revised in 2003. In the course of the years, the Landtag, now known as the Liechtenstein Parliament, has experienced change and continuous development. In the recent past, notable changes have been the increase in the number of Members to 25 in 1988, the establishment of the Parliamentary Service and the move to the new Parliamentary Building in 2008.

In the new building at 3 Peter Kaiser Square in Vaduz, Parliament finally disposes of the infrastructure which its importance in the structure of our State really merits. In its first full legislative period in the new «High House», Parliament has introduced the legal basis of a reform for it to achieve a more meaningful and efficient procedural approach to its work.

On 3 February 2013, a new Liechtenstein Parliament was elected. The election produced a totally new political setup for our country. It was the first time that four political groups took their places in Parliament as Parliamentary groups. The Government coalition of the two large parties was continued with the Progressive Citizens'



ALBERT FRICK
PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT

Party assuming the leadership role for the first time. The Coalition parties still hold 18 seats in Parliament. The two Opposition parties are entitled to seven seats in all. This is quite a drastic change in the composition of the Liechtenstein Parliament and was a clear expression of the dissatisfaction and uncertain-

ty in the population. The deficit in the State finances and other well known problems was the cause of unease everywhere.

What the People want is clear enough: an honest and unconditional determination to work together. We have to close ranks and solve the problems of the country. The Government and the Members of Parliament of all the parties should make a joint effort to tackle the tasks confronting us. I see this point in time as a chance for the Parliamentary scene in our country. We have the opportunity to find a new approach to Parliamentary collaboration. We have to win back the trust of the population and to make sure that Parliament enjoys a solid reputation. To assure and extend the dignity and reputation of Parliament must be our constant aim. Responsible Parliamentary work marked by mutual respect will help us achieve this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Albert Frick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Albert Frick
President of Parliament



FOREWORD

The Members of the Liechtenstein Parliament exercise their mandate as representatives of the People in addition to continuing their professional activities. Although demands in respect of technical competence and time have increased enormously in view of the greater complexity of the matters to be examined, there is great support for the concept of a non-professional Parliament. In contrast to full-time Parliamentarians, Liechtenstein MPs cultivate an ongoing discussion with the population and are usually just as much personally affected by the Parliamentary agenda as the inhabitants of Liechtenstein. The close links with general public have a long tradition in the Liechtenstein political system. Nevertheless, adequate structures and instruments are needed to ensure that Parliament is able to deal with its constitutional tasks in the best possible manner. These structures and instruments must be continuously adjusted to take account of socio-political changes and challenges and are therefore subject to constant corrective pressure. The latest reform concerning improvements in the efficiency and quality of Parliamentary work and the consolidation of the position of Parliament is expressed in a full amendment of the Rules of Procedure for Parliament which became law on 1 February 2013.

The Executive Committee of Parliament is re-defined in the organizational respect. It consists of the President, the Vice-President and the spokespersons of the Parliamentary Groups. Of central importance is the right to charge the Parliamentary Service with the active procurement of information. An element of similar im-



VIOLANDA LANTER-KOLLER
VICE-PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT

portance is the right of the Parliamentary Service to order the active procurement of information. Through this, Parliament is now able to receive independent, high quality and objective information. In addition and on request, the Government must inform Parliament about all the documents relevant for the

processing of its reports and motions. Another new advance is the upgrading of the Substitute Members through the possibility of inclusion in the commissions. This involves them more effectively in Parliamentary work and allows the burden of the commissions to be spread over a greater number of shoulders.

Another reform point which I would like to mention here is the restructuring of Parliamentary motions. The clear regulation of the formal pre-conditions, the procedure and completion deadlines is to facilitate the application of these instruments. A new feature is the «topical debate slot» when the Parliamentary Groups can take turns to put forward an issue of national importance for discussion. This enables the general public and also the Government to obtain a concentrated idea of political opinion in regard to matters of topical importance. I look forward with interest to seeing the effect that the new general conditions will have on the work of Parliament.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'V. Lanter-Koller'.

Violanda Lanter-Koller
Vice-President of Parliament



THE STATE STRUCTURE

OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

THE STATE ORGANISATION

«The Principality of Liechtenstein is a constitutional hereditary monarchy on a democratic and parliamentary basis. The State authority is anchored in the Reigning Prince and in the People ...», as affirmed in Article 2 of the Liechtenstein Constitution. The State structure is characterized by the dualism of Reigning Prince and People, they stand side by side on the same level.

THE PEOPLE AND THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE

Under the Constitution, the People can exercise its rights directly through elections and by referendums. Other direct democratic rights include the right to submit a call for an initiative or referendum in regard to laws or the Constitution. Men and women entitled to vote are obliged to take part in elections and referendums. The Hereditary Reigning Prince, Parliament and citizens entitled to vote have the right to submit an initiative to the legislature.

PARLIAMENT

In the dualistic State structure of the Principality of Liechtenstein, Parliament – the Landtag – has the important function of representing all the citizens of the country as their Constitutional body. The Liechtenstein Parliament is elected directly by the People in a proportional voting system. 15 MP's come from the Oberland electoral district and 10 from the Unterland electoral district. Parliament is convened and closed by the Reigning Prince. He also has the right to dissolve Parliament for an important reason. The principal task of Parliament is lawmaking. For a law to be valid, not only is the agreement of Parliament required but also the sanction of the Reigning Prince, the countersignature of the Head of Government and an announcement in the national legal gazette. Every law adopted by Parliament and not declared by it as urgent and also every treaty approved by it under international law is subject to an optional referendum. The right of proposal in the appointment of the

Government, for which the agreement of both the Reigning Prince and Parliament is mandatory, also falls within the competence of Parliament. In addition to collaboration in the drafting of laws, financial sovereignty and the control of the State administration, including the administration of justice, are also of special importance. Various appointments also have to be made.

GOVERNMENT

The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein is based on the principle of collective responsibility (Collegial Government). It consists of the Head of Government and four other Government ministers. They are appointed by the Reigning Prince and as proposed by Parliament. All important matters are subject to consultation and the adoption of resolutions by the Collegial Government. Within the Government, work is handled by the Ministries concerned. The Head of Government is the Chairperson of the College, signs and implements the decrees and dispositions adopted and completes the course of business. Like the other members of the Government, he has only one vote. However, his powers are greater than those of the other members of the Government through the control of the legality of College resolutions, the right to report to the Reigning Prince and the requirement for his countersignature on laws sanctioned by the Reigning Prince. The countersignature by the Head of Government in accordance with Article 86 of the Constitution is of particular significance with regard to collaboration with the Reigning Prince.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters is exercised on behalf of the Reigning Prince in the first instance by the Regional Court, in the second instance by the High Court of Appeal and in the third and last instance by the Supreme Court. Administrative jurisdiction is exercised by the Administrative Court and in certain cases also by the State Court.



President of Parliament Albert Frick and H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein.



Swearing in of the Vice-President of Parliament Violanda Lanter-Koller by H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein.

PARLIAMENT

DUTIES AND POSITION IN THE STATE STRUCTURE

BASIS

According to the Constitution, the Principality of Liechtenstein is «a constitutional hereditary monarchy on a democratic and parliamentary basis». Parliament – the *Landtag* – is the representation and «body» of the People and as such its function is to exercise its rights and interests.

LEGISLATION

The most important task of Parliament is the part it plays in legislation. Without the Parliament, no law can be passed, no law can be amended. Parliament (and also the Reigning Prince and the People) has the right to constitutional and legislative initiative. In practice, most bills are prepared by the Government or by its experts. Parliament can send bills back to the Government or form commissions of its own for the revision of such. An opening debate is held on every bill, followed by two readings and a final vote. In the opening debate, it is decided whether Parliament wishes at all to prepare a bill. In the first reading, suggestions can be made which are then examined by the Government before the second reading. In the second reading, a vote is taken on every individual article. If deputies submit motions for amendments, a vote must first be taken on these. With the article by article vote, the text of the article is also finalized. After the second reading, a final vote takes place by which the bill is adopted as a whole.

TREATIES

Treaties in which dispositions in regard to sovereign rights are made, by which new responsibilities are adopted or which affect the rights of the citizens, must be submitted to Parliament. Parliament may not change a treaty which has been signed by the Government but can only accept or refuse it as a whole.

FINANCIAL SOVEREIGNTY

The State budget is drawn up by the Government and adopted by Parliament. It has the right to

change individual positions. If, in the course of the year, the Government needs additional funds for new tasks or if individual budget positions are exceeded, it must get a supplementary credit from Parliament. For projects associated with financial commitments extending over several years (e.g., major construction projects), the Government must seek a loan commitment from Parliament.

FORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

An essential task of Parliament is the forming of an effective government. At the start of its four-year term of office, Parliament elects the members of the Government whereby this election is formally only a proposal for submission to the Reigning Prince. He does not have the right to appoint the Government but is bound to a proposal of Parliament. For the whole of its term of office, the Government needs the confidence not only of Parliament but also of the Reigning Prince. If Parliament or the Reigning Prince withdraws this confidence, its authority to exercise its function as the Government lapses. In this case, the Reigning Prince appoints an interim transitional government. In contrast, an individual member of the Government cannot be dismissed either by the Reigning Prince or by Parliament alone but only with the consent of both.

APPOINTMENTS

Parliament is also responsible for various appointments. It thus elects not only the Government but also the members of various appeal commissions such as the Data Protection Commission or the National Real Estate Transfer Commission, for instance. As part of the overhaul of the Constitution in 2003, the right of Parliament up to then to select the judges was transferred to a newly established Judge Appointment Board in which members of Parliament are also represented. Parliament can now only elect the candidates proposed by the Board. If it does not agree, it may nominate its own candidates who are then subject to election by the People.



Swearing in of Helene Konzett Bargetze, Member of Parliament.



Swearing in of Harry Quaderer, Member of Parliament.

CONTROL FUNCTION

Parliament has the right and the duty to monitor the whole of the State administration including the judicial system. For this task, Parliament charges the Audit Commission with this task on the one hand while on the other it also exercises this function directly by its examination of the annual reports of the authorities and of the national audit report. Furthermore, Members can also submit written and oral questions to the Government about any area of the State Administration. A powerful control instrument are the Parliamentary committees of enquiry appointed for specific reasons.

DELIBERATIVE FUNCTION

An important aspect of Parliamentary work is the public discussion of the better political arguments. This helps opinion-forming and decision-taking.

RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE

The People not only has the right to elect Parliament. Through an initiative, it may also force the convening of Parliament or a referendum on its dissolution. However, up to now, no use has ever been made of this theoretical right. With the right to demand a referendum, voters can have resolutions of Parliament submitted to a popular vote. For resolutions concerning laws and finance, 1,000 voters must sign a petition for a referendum to be held; for amendments to the Constitution and treaties 1,500 signatures are needed. However, Parliament can declare amendments to laws, the Constitution and financial resolutions as imperative and thus block a referendum.

RIGHTS OF THE REIGNING PRINCE

The Reigning Prince can influence the resolutions of Parliament and even its very existence. Every law needs the assent of the Reigning Prince (sanction) and this also applies to financial resolutions. If the sanction of the Reigning Prince is not given within six months, it is then deemed to have been refused.

The Reigning Prince is entitled to represent the State externally without regard to the necessary involvement of the Government. Treaties affecting State sovereignty rights or the rights of its citizens or resulting in new burdens require the consent of Parliament.

The Reigning Prince appoints the judges with due observance of the provisions of the Constitution. For the selection of judges, the Reigning Prince and Parliament refer to a joint committee. In this committee, the Reigning Prince has the chair and also the casting vote with regard to the candidates proposed to Parliament for the judicial office in question.

Under Art. 10 of the Constitution, the Reigning Prince temporarily takes the place of the legislative body for the issue of an Emergency Order. This is an emergency law which is independent of Parliament. Emergency Orders lapse after six months at the latest. According to Arts. 85 and 86 of the Constitution, Emergency Orders require the countersignature of the Head of Government.

The Reigning Prince has the right to convene Parliament at the beginning of a year and to close it at the end of a year. Traditionally, he opens Parliament with a Speech from the Throne. Without this regular convocation at the beginning of the year, Parliament does not have the right to convene itself during the year. During the year, the Reigning Prince may postpone or dissolve Parliament for important reasons for not more than three months. Reigning Prince Hans-Adam II of Liechtenstein transferred the exercise of the sovereign rights held by him to his deputy, Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein, on 15 August 2004 in accordance with Art. 13 bis IV of the Constitution.



The Members of Parliament 2013 – 2017: front row from left Gerold Büchel, Helene Konzett Bargetze, Judith Oehri, Christine Wohlwend, President of Parliament Albert Frick, Vice-President of Parliament Violanda Lanter-Koller, Christoph Beck, Peter Büchel; centre row from left Christoph Wenaweser, Johannes Kaiser, Pio Schurti, Erich Hasler, Karin Rüdiger-Quaderer, Wolfgang Marxer, Eugen Nägele, Alois Beck; back row from left Frank Konrad, Manfred Batliner, Herbert Elkuch, Wendelin Lampert, Harry Quaderer, Christian Batliner, Thomas Vogt, Thomas Lageder and Elfried Hasler.





Foreign Affairs Commission: from left Thomas Lageder, Karin Rüdissier-Quaderer, President of Parliament Albert Frick (Chairperson), Alois Beck and Pio Schurti.



Finance Commission: from left Wendelin Lampert, Herbert Elkuch, Johannes Kaiser (Chairperson), Andreas Heeb and Thomas Vogt.

THE INSTITUTION OF PARLIAMENT

THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The Parliament of Liechtenstein consists of 25 members. It exercises its rights in the sessions of the complete Parliament. Deliberations on laws are also usually carried out in the Plenary Assembly. This is why Parliament is described as a «working Parliament». In comparison with other Parliaments, not many tasks are delegated to commissions. When commissions are formed, it is mainly the case that they only have to prepare certain aspects of business for the complete Parliament and to formulate the corresponding motions.

THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

All the members of Parliament are «part-time Parliamentarians». They have a political function but follow their occupation at the same time. They receive an all-in remuneration of CHF 20,000 per year and a daily allowance. Members of Parliament cannot be held legally accountable for their remarks in Parliament. They enjoy immunity to the extent that during Par-

liamentary sessions they may only be arrested with the consent of Parliament (except when they are caught in the act).

THE PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT

The President of Parliament and the Vice-President are each elected for the current year at the Opening Session. The President of Parliament convenes the sessions in the course of the year; he chairs the sessions and represents Parliament externally. The Vice-President of Parliament represents him when he is prevented.

STANDING COMMISSIONS

Also at the Opening Session, Parliament elects three standing commissions for the current year: the Foreign Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission and the Audit Commission. Only the Finance Commission has decision-making powers in that it can take decisions in respect of certain financial transactions. The standing commissions each consist of five Members of Parliament.



Audit Commission: from left Rainer Gopp, Erich Hasler, Patrick Risch, Wolfgang Marxer (Chairperson) and Peter Büchel.



EEA Commission: from left Christoph Beck, Christian Batliner (Chairperson) and Thomas Rehak.



Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: from left Rainer Gopp (Substitute Member), Karin Rüdiger-Quaderer (Substitute Member), Judith Oehri and Gerold Büchel (Chairperson).



Lake Constance Parliamentary Commission: from left Christoph Beck, Helene Konzett Bargetze, President of Parliament Albert Frick (Chairperson) and Peter Wachter.

NON STANDING COMMISSIONS

According to the Rules of Procedure, Parliament may also appoint special commissions. They constitute themselves as either special commissions or as investigative commissions and may consist of three or five members. Their term of office ends with the completion of their task but at the latest with the expiry of their mandate period. The task of the special commissions is to prepare individual laws or other business and to submit a corresponding motion to the complete Parliament. The EEA Commission checks EEA legal regulations to determine whether they require the consent of Parliament. Investigative commissions are formed under a strong minority right: on the application of only seven members, Parliament is obliged to appoint an investigative commission.

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

At the start of a mandate period, Parliament elects the delegations to the international Parliamentary committees in which it is represented. In each case, these are two delegates and two substitutes for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the EFTA/EEA Committees and the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, four delegates for the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and four delegates for the Lake Constance Parliamentary Commission. The election of these delegations is for the whole mandate period, i.e., for four years. Parliament can also appoint special delegations for the cultivation of relations with other Parliaments.

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

The Parliamentary Bureau consists of the President of Parliament, the Vice-President and the spokespersons for the Parliamentary Groups. The Parliament Secretary belongs to it in an advisory capacity. The Parliamentary Bureau advises the President, especially when the agenda for the sessions of Parliament is to be drawn up. It prepares the Parliamentary budget and decides the employment of staff for the Parliamentary Service.

PARLIAMENTARY RECORDER

In the opening session each year, Parliament traditionally elects two secretaries who count the votes.

PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

For the forming of a Parliamentary Group, at least three Members are required, otherwise it is a question of an Elector Group. The Parliamentary Groups form a bridge between the Parties and the Members. Before a matter is discussed in Parliament, Members come together in internal Party meetings of the Groups. These serve for Group opinion-forming. This does not mean there is a Party whip but a certain Group discipline does apply. The opinion of the Group is made known in Parliament by the Group spokesperson. The Parliamentary and Elector Groups are entitled to a conference rooms of appropriate size.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The National Committee exercises the rights of Parliament when Parliament is not in session and therefore cannot exercise its functions (i.e., from the adjourning of Parliament at the end of one year to its reopening at the beginning of the following year) or in the case of the suspension or dissolution of the Parliament. The National Committee consists of the President of Parliament and four other Members whereby the two electoral districts must be equally represented. The National Committee cannot enter into permanent obligations for the country.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The duties and method of work of Parliament are governed by the Constitution, the Conductance of Business Act, the Control of Administration Act and the Rules of Procedure.



EFTA/EEA Parliamentary Committees:
from left Harry Quaderer, Albert Frick
(Chairperson), Eugen Nägele (Substitute)
and Manfred Kaufmann (Substitute).



Delegation to the Interparliamentary
Union (IPU): from left Helmuth Büchel,
Violanda Lanter-Koller (Chairperson), Pio
Schurti (Substitute) and Wolfgang Marxer
(Substitute).



Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE: from left Helene Konzett Bargetze, Karin Rüdiger-Quaderer
(Chairperson), Elfried Hasler (Substitute) and Judith Oehri (Substitute).

METHOD OF WORK AND INSTRUMENTS OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS

In the course of a year, Parliament meets for about eight to ten sessions lasting from one to three days, depending on the amount of work in hand. Parliamentary sessions are shown in full length and live on the Liechtenstein TV channel and published by Livestream on the Parliament website. There are also non-public sessions, however, when the Government communicates information that has to be handled confidentially or internal Parliamentary business or personnel matters have to be discussed. Laws and financial bills, however, must be discussed and adopted in public Parliamentary sessions.

MINUTES

The debates of Parliament are recorded and a verbatim report is then prepared by the Parliamentary Service. In addition, reports of decisions are prepared which only note the item on the agenda, the proposer(s) and the resolution. Verbal questions, known as Simple Questions, are likewise included.

VOTING PROCEDURE

For a resolution of Parliament to be valid, at least two-thirds of the Members (17) must be present. For an amendment of the Constitution, a unanimous vote is required or a three-quarters majority in two successive sessions. For all other resolutions of Parliament, a simple majority of the Members present suffices.

PARLIAMENTARY SUBMISSIONS

Members dispose of various instruments for the submission of motions or for exercising their control functions. Parliamentary submissions have to be made to the Parliamentary Service in the written form and are then automatically placed on the agenda of the next or next but one session of Parliament.

INITIATIVES

Members have the right to make proposals for the passing of a new law and to amend or cancel an existing law. Parliamentary initiatives are

dealt with in the same way as bills submitted by the Government.

MOTIONS

The Government may be requested in the form of a motion to submit a law (or another Parliamentary resolution) to Parliament. A motion to be put before the Government will indeed state the aim and the reasons for it but the Government is not obliged to follow the ideas of the Members submitting the motion. It is rather the case that it is free to prepare a bill according to its own ideas. The Members submitting the motion may, however, require certain matters to be included. A motion may also demand action by a Parliamentary Commission. At all events, it is Parliament that decides whether a motion is to be put forward.

POSTULATES

A postulate is a motion that invites the Government to examine a certain matter or take a certain action. Postulates should be normally answered within four sessions of Parliament. A vote is likewise taken on the passing of a postulate to the Government.

INTERPELLATIONS

Interpellations are questions to the Government in the written form. They are an important control instrument which can also be used by individual Members since they are put before the Government without a vote. With an interpellation, Members can demand information in writing on every aspect of the State administration. Interpellations are to be answered in writing within three sessions of Parliament following reception.

QUESTIONS

In addition to these Parliamentary instruments, Members may ask oral questions at the start of every session of Parliament. These should be brief and are usually answered by the Government at the end of the same session by word of mouth.



Judge Selection Committee: from left Pio Schurti, Thomas Lageder, Manfred Batliner and Thomas Vogt.



Vice-President of Parliament
Violanda Lanter-Koller and
President of Parliament Albert Frick.



The women in Parliament: from left Helene Konzett Bargetze, Karin Rüdisser-Quaderer, Vice-President of Parliament Violanda Lanter-Koller, Christine Wohlwend and Judith Oehri.

TOPICAL DEBATE SLOT

The Topical Debate Slot allows Parliamentary Groups alternately to have an important subject of national importance (e.g., education, traffic) discussed at relatively short notice by the Plen-

ary Assembly. The Topical Debate Slot is consequently an essential source of information for the general public and is therefore an important instrument for familiarizing citizens with politically relevant matters.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

ELECTORAL SYSTEM

ELECTION DISTRICTS

The 25 Members of Parliament are elected in two election districts, 15 in the Upper Country election district, 10 in the Lower Country election district.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

The election procedure is general, secret, equal and direct. All citizens of 18 years of age or older who live in the country are entitled to vote. Members of Parliament are elected according to the system of proportional representation: Seats are first allocated to the political parties in proportion to the total number of votes attained by each party (or its candidates) in an electoral district. Within each party, those candidates are then considered elected who gained the most votes.

RESTRICTIVE CLAUSE

Only those political parties are assigned seats that have gained at least 8% of the votes cast in the entire country.

TERM OF OFFICE (MANDATE)

The term of office is four years. Under the Constitution, regular Parliamentary elections always take place in February or March of the fourth year.

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The election of Substitute Members of Parliament is a feature particular to Liechtenstein: For every three seats that a political party obtains in an election district, that party is entitled to one Substitute Member of Parliament. Every party represented in Parliament is entitled to at least one Substitute Member, however, so that small parties are not excluded from the rule pertaining to Substitute Members.

The function of the Substitute Members is primarily to ensure the majority balance in Parliament if a Member is unable to attend a session of Parliament. Substitute Members can be elected to Parliamentary committees and to Parliamentary delegations for international organisations. However, most of the places in commissions and delegations and also the positions of chairpersons are reserved for regularly elected Members of Parliament.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



**BATLINER
CHRISTIAN**

07.09.1968
Lawyer
FBP
Bergstrasse 45
9495 Triesen
In partnership, 1 child
In Parliament since 2009

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Chairperson of EEA Commission



**BATLINER
MANFRED**

01.10.1963
Businessman
FBP
Tonagass 33
9492 Eschen
Married, 2 children
In Parliament since 2009

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Judge Selection Committee



**BECK
ALOIS**

27.09.1962
Banker
FBP
Im Duxer 7
9494 Schaan
Married, 2 children
In Parliament from 1993–
2009 and since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Foreign Affairs Commission



**BÜCHEL
GEROLD**

14.06.1974
Businessman
FBP
Mühlegarten 8
9491 Ruggell
Married
In Parliament since 2009

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Head of Delegation, Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe



**FRICK
ALBERT**

21.10.1948
Retired School Inspector
FBP
Winkelgass 33A
9494 Schaan
Widowed, 3 adult
children
In Parliament since 2009

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- President of Parliament
- Chairperson Parliamentary Executive
Committee
- Chairperson of Foreign Affairs Commission
- Head of Delegation EFTA/EEA
Parliamentary Committees
- Head of Lake Constance Parliamentary
Commission



**HASLER
ELFRIED**

11.06.1965
Financial expert
FBP
Ruggellerstrasse 60
9487 Gamprin
Married, 2 children
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Substitute Member Parliamentary Assembly
of the OSCE



KAISER JOHANNES

29.06.1958
Businessman
FBP
Platta 39
9488 Schellenberg
Married, 2 children
In Parliament since 2001

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Chairperson of Finance Commission
- Clerks of Parliament



LAMPERT WENDELIN

21.04.1970
Head of specialised Unit
for Public Procurement
FBP
Lavadinastrasse 9
9497 Triesenberg
Married, 2 children
In Parliament since 2001

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Finance Commission



NÄGELE EUGEN

10.08.1964
Rector of Liechtenstein
Grammar School and
Teacher
FBP
Im Zagalzel 65
9494 Schaan
Married, 2 children
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Substitute Member of EFTA/EEA
Parliamentary Committees



WOHLWEND CHRISTINE

31.07.1978
Managing Partner
FBP
Alte Churerstrasse 34
9496 Balzers
Single
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- FBP Spokesperson
- Member Parliamentary Executive Committee



BECK CHRISTOPH

17.10.1978
Site Manager
VU
Steinortstrasse 3
9497 Triesenberg
Married, 3 children
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Lake Constance Parliamentary
Commission
- Member of EEA Commission
- Clerks of Parliament



BÜCHEL PETER

02.08.1958
Industrial Engineer NDS
VU
St. Georg-Strasse 8
9488 Schellenberg
Married, 4 children
In Parliament since 2009

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Audit Commission

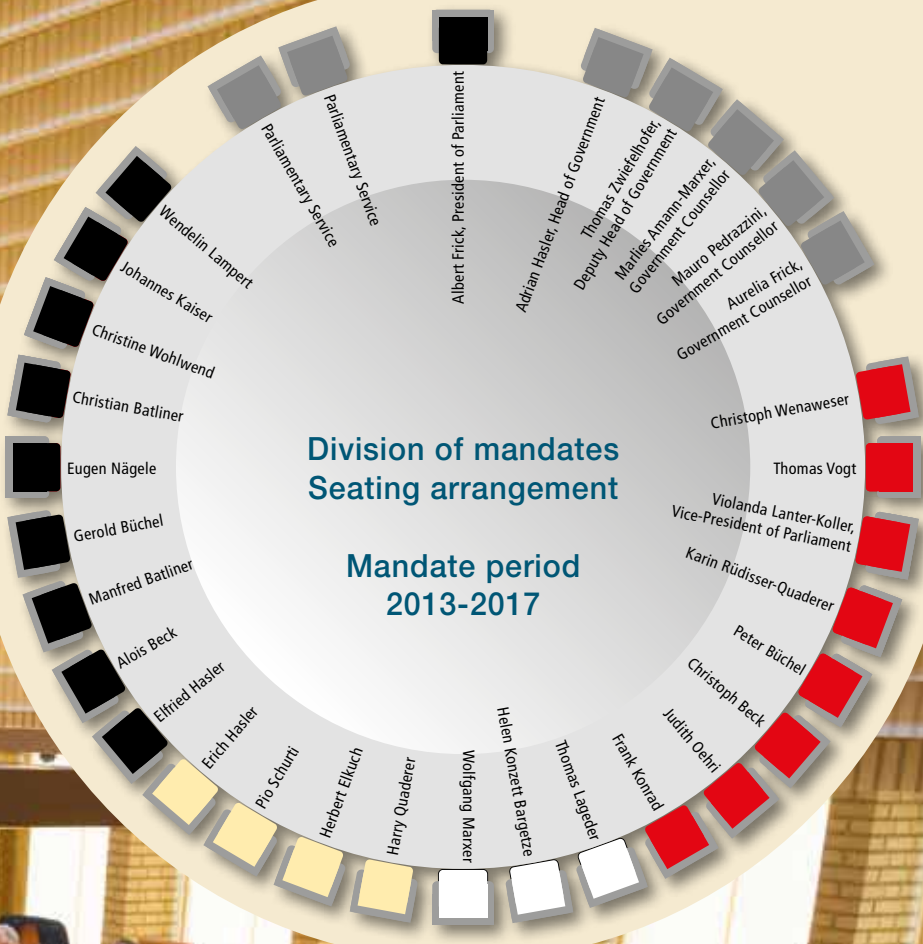
RESULT OF PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS 3 FEBRUARY 2013





**Division of mandates
Seating arrangement**

**Mandate period
2013-2017**



MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



**KONRAD
FRANK**

09.05.1967
Businessman
VU
Lettstrasse 67
9490 Vaduz
Married, 1 child
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

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**OEHRI
JUDITH**

21.05.1968
Integration Consultant /
Career Consultant
VU
Geisszipfelstrasse 38
9491 Ruggell
Single
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Substitute Member of Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE



**VOGT
THOMAS**

24.02.1976
Lawyer
VU
Dorfstrasse 7B
9495 Triesen
Married, 2 children
In Parliament since 2009

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Finance Commission
- Member of Judge Selection Committee



**LANTER-KOLLER
VIOLANDA**

01.01.1964
Lawyer / Housewife
VU
Spiegelstrasse 8
9491 Ruggell
In partnership
2 children
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Vice-President of Parliament
- Member Parliamentary Executive Committee
- Head of delegation to the Interparliamentary Union (IPU)



**RÜDISSER-QUA-
DERER KARIN**

15.05.1958
Psychiatrist
VU
Im Malarsch 78
9494 Schaan
Married, 1 child
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Foreign Affairs Commission
- Head of delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE
- Substitute Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe



**WENAWESER
CHRISTOPH**

13.06.1963
General Manager
VU
Tanzplatz 31
9494 Schaan
Married, 2 children
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- VU Spokesperson
- Member Parliamentary Executive Committee



ELKUCH HERBERT

30.12.1952
Mechanic
DU
Platta 44
9488 Schellenberg
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Finance Commission



HASLER ERICH

28.12.1956
Patent Agent
DU
Kappelestrasse 15
9492 Eschen
Married, 2 children
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Audit Commission



QUADERER HARRY

07.09.1959
General Manager
DU
Bildgass 25
9494 Schaan
Married, 3 children
In Parliament since 2005

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- DU Spokesperson
- Member Parliamentary Executive Committee
- Member of EFTA/EEA Parliamentary Committees



SCHURTI PIO

08.06.1964
Communication Consultant
DU
Feldstrasse 100
9495 Triesen
Married, 4 children
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Foreign Affairs Commission
- Member of Judge Selection Committee
- Substitute Member of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU)



KONZETT BAR- GETZE HELENE

20.09.1972
Ethnologist
FL
Römerstrasse 12
9495 Triesen
Married, 2 children
In Parliament since 2009

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- FL Spokesperson
- Member Parliamentary Executive Committee
- Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE
- Member of Lake Constance Parliamentary Commission



LAGEDER THOMAS

05.02.1980
General Manager
FL
Hopmaswingert 4
9495 Triesen
Single
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Foreign Affairs Commission
- Member of Judge Selection Committee



MARXER WOLFGANG

04.11.1960
Financial Consultant
FL
Oberstädtle 4
9485 Nendeln
Single
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Chairperson of Audit Commission
- Substitute Member of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU)

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



BÜCHEL HELMUTH

25.03.1957
Trustee /
Swiss. dipl. Banker
FBP
Gamslafina 13
9496 Balzers
Married, 3 children
In Parliament since 2009

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU)



GÖPP RAINER

01.08.1971
Business Developer
FBP
Im Kellersfeld 20
9491 Ruggell
Married, 1 child
In Parliament since 2009

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Audit Commission
- Substitute Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe



MARXER NORMAN

25.07.1960
Banker
FBP
Wingertgasse 24
9490 Vaduz
Married, 3 children
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

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KAUFMANN MANFRED

09.10.1978
Dipl. Auditor
VU
Streue 8
9496 Balzers
Married, 1 child
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Substitute Member of EFTA / EEA
Parliamentary Committees



KRANZ WERNER

08.02.1965
Head of Office for
Vocational Training
and Guidance
VU
Schulstrasse 59
9485 Nendeln
Married, 3 children
In Parliament since 2009

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

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REHAK THOMAS

21.01.1971
Telecom Engineer
DU
Büchele 15
9495 Triesen
Married, 1 child
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of EEA Commission



WACHTER PETER

04.09.1949
Retired Grammar School
Teacher
DU
Nolla 14
9488 Schellenberg
Divorced, 2 children
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Lake Constance Parliamentary
Commission



HEEB ANDREAS

23.04.1977
Grammar School Teacher
FL
Reberastrasse 8
9494 Schaan
Single
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Finance Commission



RISCH PATRICK

27.09.1968
Programmer
FL
Kesse 14
9488 Schellenberg
Civil partnership partner
In Parliament since 2013

CURRENT FUNCTIONS OR COMMISSION POSTS

- Member of Audit Commission



THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING

GOVERNMENT QUARTER

PETER KAISER SQUARE

The new Parliament Building (designed by the German architect Hansjörg Göritz), known as the High House together with the Long House, where the Liechtenstein Parliament has its own conference facilities for the first time in its history, forms the Government District together with the Government Building and the Archives Building. The unifying link in the Government Quarter is provided by Peter Kaiser Square, the largest public square of Vaduz. The square bears the name of a prominent Liechtenstein politician of the 19th c., honoured for his great services to the cause of Liechtenstein sovereignty. The square is not only a place where people like to linger but is used from the start also as a venue for diverse officially permitted shows, meetings, manifestations and exhibitions. Under Peter Kaiser Square, there is an underground car park with space for more than 50 vehicles.

HIGH HOUSE – FOYER AND PLenary CHAMBER

The main entrance, where for important occasions and important visits a blue carpet is rolled out (in contrast to the red carpet in front of the Government Building), leads into the foyer which is also described as a columned hall. The foyer is also used in particular for official receptions and exhibitions. Through the foyer, visitors to public sessions of Parliament can access the Plenary Chamber where the 25 representatives of the People, including the Government and supported by the Parliamentary Service, meet. An appropriate number of seats is provided in the Plenary Chamber for interested visitors. The official participants in the sessions are taken to the Plenary Chamber by a separate and very attractive staircase in keeping with the dignity of the House which for security reasons cannot be accessed by the general public. It is here

that the Members of Parliament deliberate at the round table in the truest sense of the word, a seating arrangement which is unique in Europe up to now. The Plenary Chamber with a maximum height of some 19 metres is a very impressive sight. Both the lighting and also the acoustics in the High House must be described as exceptional. The Chamber is equipped with a modern electronic speaker-display panel with an integrated adjustment system, a technical facility for the telecasting of the Plenary sessions on the national channel and a translation cabin. Since Parliament and its delegations now hold an increasing number of meetings within the country by virtue of its international obligations, this infrastructure has now become an absolute necessity. Both the North Wall and the South Wall of the Plenary Chamber are decorated with a work of art entitled «Constant Progression» by the German artist Sabine Laidig.

LONG HOUSE – GROUND FLOOR: CAFETERIA, CONFERENCE ROOMS, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

On the ground floor of the Long House, there are two conference rooms at the disposal of Parliament that are used in particular for the meetings of the various Parliamentary commissions and delegations, a library and an archives facility. There is also a cafeteria (Catering Service) on the ground floor.

LONG HOUSE – 1ST FLOOR: PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE AND LOUNGE

On the first floor in the Long House, opposite the Plenary Chamber, there is the Lounge. Members can meet here for an informal exchange of ideas and for refreshments between the long sessions. Adjoining the Lounge, there are the very elegant and appropriately furnished





offices of the Parliamentary Service where the Parliamentary Secretary, his Deputy and other staff members carry out their duties as specified in the Rules of Procedure.

LONG HOUSE – 2ND FLOOR: PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ROOMS AND OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

On the second floor of the building, there are the Parliamentary Group rooms for the political parties in Parliament which have Group status and the office of the President. All the conference rooms in the Parliament Building are decorated in warm colours with contemporary furniture and the latest communication equipment, ensuring pleasant and efficient work.

LONG HOUSE – 3RD FLOOR: ROOF TERRACE

Finally, on the level above, there is a roof terrace with a breathtaking panorama of the Swiss mountains and an impressive view of Peter Kaiser Square below. The roof terrace also offers a dramatic view of the steep wall behind the Parliament Building, some 26 metres long and secured by anchor elements of 15 metres in length. The construction of the wall with special concrete took about one year. This wall made it possible, on the one hand, to plan Peter Kaiser Square with its generous layout while on the other a full-length light-shaft, i.e., covering all three floors of the building, could be created. This impressive courtyard can be admired from the roof terrace which it would be possible to

use at some time in the future, if necessary, for additional offices or conference rooms.

NATIONAL COMMAND CENTRE

The new National Command Centre is housed on the same level as the car park area. It is here in extreme situations of an exceptional nature that Government control is assured on an emergency basis. A broadcasting station for Liechtenstein radio with a transmission installation for emergencies is also provided here.

BUILDING STATISTICS

The Parliamentary Building (start of construction: September 2002, opening: February 2008) cost CHF 42.2 million in all and the structural volume is 21,000 m³, each floor accounting for about 5,300 m². The materials used included about 500,000 ochre-coloured fired bricks, 600 tonnes of steel and 5,800 m³ of concrete. Since the official opening of the Parliamentary Building, the Parliamentary Service has arranged far more than a hundred guided tours of the building to give interested visitors a glimpse of the «heart» of the Liechtenstein Legislature.

Josef Hilti
Secretary of Parliament



THE PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE

The Liechtenstein Parliament (*Landtag*) was created as long ago as 1818 as an official institution and as one of the three powers representing the State. However, it was only in 1990 that the Parliamentary Service came into existence. Since the establishment of the Parliamentary Service and especially because of the general increase in the degree of internationalisation of Parliamentary activities and the complexity of the areas that have to be covered, there has been a massive rise in the volume of work carried out. It is consequently only since this date that there has been a real Parliamentary service in Liechtenstein. Today, the Parliamentary Service consists of the Parliamentary Secretary, his deputy, three full-time staff members and three part-time employee. Parliamentary Secretary and his deputy are appointed by Parliament. Josef Hilti has been Parliamentary Secretary since 2002 while his deputy, Philipp Pfeiffer, has been in office since 2008. The team is completed by Sandra Gerber-Leuenberger, Bruno Jehle, Gabriele Wachter, Rita Gerner, Monika Grigis und Gaby Lotzer.

The tasks and the list of duties of the Parliamentary Service are described in the Rules of Procedure for Parliament, LGBl. 2013 No. 9, Art. 16 and 17. In particular, these Rules set out the organisation, preparation, follow-up and servicing of the sessions of the Parliament, the recording of Parliamentary debates and sessions of the commissions and delegations and the preparation of Parliamentary resolutions. The Parliamentary Service is also the official contact office of Parliament for the requirements of the Government or administration, the public and other Parliaments and organizations. The Parliamentary Service currently disposes of 6.40 staff positions for the performance of its duties.

The Parliamentary brochures (in German and English) and brochures about the Parliament Building are available free of charge from the Parliamentary Service. More information can be found on the homepage of Parliament (www.landtag.li).



Staff of the Parliamentary Service: from left Sandra Gerber-Leuenberger, Gabriele Wachter, Parliamentary Secretary Josef Hilti, Rita Gerner, Deputy Parliamentary Secretary Philipp Pfeiffer, Monika Grigis, Gaby Lotzer and Bruno Jehle.



HISTORY

ABSOLUTISM

The institution of Parliament in the shape of the Landtag was created by the absolutist Constitution of 1818. The two Estates – the clergy and the peasantry – obtained the right to be represented by «deputies». Three priests represented the clergy in Parliament while the municipalities were represented by the 11 municipal heads and the treasurers of the municipal funds. This Landtag of the Estates – the Ständelandtag – was convened by the Reigning Prince to a meeting once a year. It possessed no rights of any kind, its sole function was assenting «with gratitude» to the annual demand for taxes.

CONSTITUTION OF 1862

The history of Liechtenstein's parliamentarianism begins with the Constitution of 1862. Parliament became a genuinely representative body of the People and was largely constituted through free elections. The number of Members was reduced to 15. Three Members were appointed by the Reigning Prince and twelve were elected indirectly by the People. The men in each municipality, who were solely eligible to vote, elected two electors for every 100 inhabitants. These electors then elected the Members of Parliament at an electoral meeting. Parliament now had the right to participate in the most important, if not all, functions of the State: the right to participate in the legislative process, the right to approve important international treaties, the right to approve taxes (fiscal authority), the right to supervise the State administration and the right to participate in military recruitment. The Landtag had no influence on the forming of the Government or on the appointment of the principal judge.

ELECTION DISTRICTS

The two historical districts of the country were abolished during the absolute monarchy. Although the people stubbornly opposed their abolition, even the Constitution of 1862 did not reverse the creation of a unitary State. During the «coinage turmoil» of 1877 in which the inhabitants of the Lower Country fought energetically against

the introduction of the gold standard, the conflict flared up again. In 1878, the country was then divided into two election districts. Seven Members of Parliament were now elected from the Upper Country, five from the Lower Country election district. In addition, the Reigning Prince appointed two Members from the Upper Country and one Member from the Lower Country. In the new Constitution of 1921, the Reigning Prince waived the appointment of the three Reigning Princely Members. The total number of 15 Members and the 60:40 ratio between the Upper Country (9) and the Lower Country (6) remained the same.

BLOCKING MINORITY

This ratio was also retained when the number of Members was increased to 25 in 1988 although this ratio (15:10) no longer corresponded exactly to the number of inhabitants in the two election districts. The Lower Country is given an advantage and protected as a minority. Since at least two-thirds of the Members (17) must be present for a resolution of the Landtag to be valid, the representatives of the Lower Country have been able since 1878 to block changes to the Constitution or, by walking out of the Landtag, to make it impossible for a resolution to come about at all.

CONSTITUTION OF 1921

The Constitution of 1921 placed the State of Liechtenstein on a new foundation. For the first time, the monarchical and democratic principles were recognized as equals. Since then, many functions of the State can only be exercised if different bodies of the State work together. A fundamental innovation compared to the Constitution of 1862 was the notion that the State rests on a «democratic and parliamentary basis». The People received far-reaching direct democratic rights (electoral, initiative and referendum rights). The Reigning Prince renounced the right to appoint three Members of the Landtag which became a totally representative body of the People. The rights of the Landtag were significantly increased. Since 1921, the Government has been formed through cooperation between the Reigning

Prince and the Landtag whereby the Landtag has the right to recommend appointments. Another new feature is that since then judges have been elected by the Landtag, either in the sense of a proposal to the Reigning Prince or directly.

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF 2003

As part of the revision of the Constitution of 2003, various rights and powers of the Landtag were modified or re-formulated. Thus, for example, the selection of the judges was transferred to a Judiciary Election Committee chaired by the Reigning Prince or the Head of State. The Government is appointed by the Reigning Prince in agreement with the Landtag following the latter's proposal. If the Government loses the confidence of the Reigning Prince or the Landtag, its authority to exercise its office lapses. For the period until the new Government takes office, the Reigning Prince appoints a transitional government for the interim administration of the country. Furthermore, when an emergency decree is issued, the

Reigning Prince temporarily takes the place of the legislative body. This is an emergency right not linked to the Landtag.

ELECTORAL LAW CHANGES

Secret and direct franchise was introduced only in 1918. Since then, the Members of the Landtag have no longer been elected through electors but at the ballot box by persons entitled to vote. Up to 1939, elections were decided by a simple majority. Shortly before the Second World War and with the threat from outside in mind, a truce was agreed by the feuding parties, resulting in a change to the proportional electoral system. At the same time, a qualifying clause of 18%, aimed at keeping extreme forces out of the Landtag, was included in the electoral law. This qualifying clause was removed by the State Court in 1962 since it had no constitutional basis.

A new qualifying clause of 8% was included in the Constitution in 1973. Initiatives for the removal or lowering of this qualifying clause have not so far been successful. Similarly, other attempts to change the electoral law (e.g., to introduce a



majority clause covering both election districts) were rejected by the electorate.

VOTING RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

The introduction of voting rights for women was rejected twice in a referendum in 1971 and 1973; only the third attempt in 1984 succeeded.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

The Parliament of Liechtenstein is small in international terms. Since 1919, repeated attempts have been made to increase the number of MPs but four referendums failed to bring about a change. It was only in 1988 that the nation agreed to increase the number to 25 MPs.

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

It was in 1986 that a woman was elected for the first time. In 1993, two women succeeded but from 1997 to 2001 there was only one regularly elected female Member of Parliament. Three women were elected to Parliament at the election of 2001. And at the elections of 13 March 2005 and 8 February 2009 six women were suc-

cessful (accounting for 24% of the seats). This figure fell to five in the Parliamentary election of 3 February 1913, equivalent to 20%.

THE PARTIES

The first parties were formed in 1918. Up to 1993, only the Progressive Citizens Party (FBP) and the Patriotic Union (VU) were represented in Parliament. Since the introduction of proportional representation (1939), elections usually led to very small majorities, resulting for a long time in the forming of coalitions (1938 to 1997). In 1993, a third party, the Free List (FL) overcame the 8% blocking clause and made its appearance in Parliament. The two legislative periods from 1997 to 2005 were each marked by single-party governments. This was in contrast to the coalition between the two large parties usual in the past. The model of the «big» coalition then came back into favour in 2005 and 2009 and was confirmed at the last election in 2013. At this election, with The Independents (DU) who won four seats straightaway at their first election, four groups took their seats in Parliament with political party status.



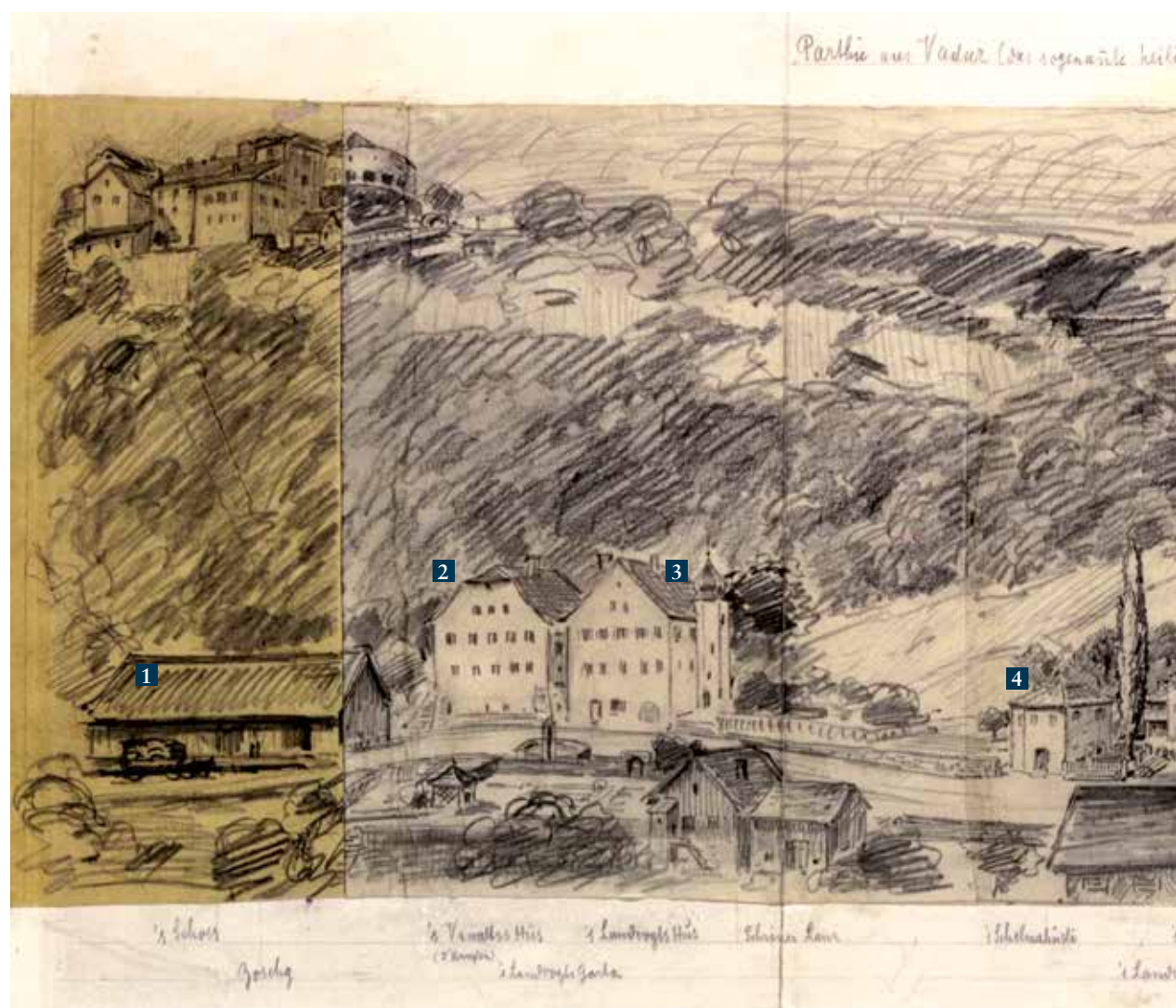
ASSEMBLY PLACES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATION IN LIECHTENSTEIN

The Landtag, our Parliament, moved to a new and elegant building in the center of Vaduz in February 2008. Following a resolution adopted by the Landtag, it was specially constructed for it in the direct vicinity of the Government Building. A review is given below of the places where the People's representatives of our country came together in the course of history, how the representation of the People came about, how it was made up and how it met. Its duties and powers are also of interest.

In the tour of the different places where the representative assemblies met, an outline and a partial view can be obtained of a small part of Liechtenstein constitutional history.

COURTS AND ASSEMBLIES AT THE COURT LINDEN TREE IN VADUZ, AT THE ROFENBERG CHAPEL SITE AND IN BENDERN

The County of Vaduz and the Lordship of Schellenberg each formed a public court district. Each appointed a court consisting of a bailiff or governor and 12 judges. From the late Middle Ages onward, the bailiffs and judges played a part in the organization of communal life. They represented the districts in their relations with the authorities and the ruler and were responsible for the organization of the community. They took a major part in the administration of the



Administrative district of Vaduz 1865:

«View of Vaduz, known as the Holy Cross, as it was in 1865». Pencil sketch. View from the west of the administrative district of Vaduz. Description of the buildings at the slope below the Castle along the main road from north to south:

- (1) «Zoschg». Shed of the Adler tavern, site of the House of the Estates built 1866/67 where the Landtag met between 1868–1905.
- (2) «s'Verwalters Hus (d'Kanzlei)». Adler tavern, Customs House, seat of the Gov 1856–1905, now the National Museum, Städtle No. 43.
- (3) «s'Landvogts Hus». 1613 New administrative building. Bailiff's House, to which the Landtag of the Estates was convened for its annual sessions between 1819–1847 and 1857–1862. Later the residence of the Land Administrator (Landesverweser), now the National Museum, Städtle No. 45, adjoining the new Landtag to the south.
- (4) «s'Schelmahüsli». Washhouse and detention building, demolished 1903. Now the area of the new Landtag building.
- (5) «s'Baumästr Segers Hus u. Shtall (where Peter Balzer was born)». demolished 1903, now the site of the Government Building, the place where the Landtag met after 1905.
- (6) «s'Försters Hus u. Shtall (where the composer Josef Rheinberger was born)». 1613 Old Prefecture. Now the Music School, St. Florinsgasse No. 1 where the sessions of the Landtag were held between 1969/70 and 1989–1996.
- (7) «s'Dr. Schädler's Hus (Czakathurm)». Known as the

Tschagga Tower. Official house for the Land Physician Dr. Karl Schädler, demolished 1873.

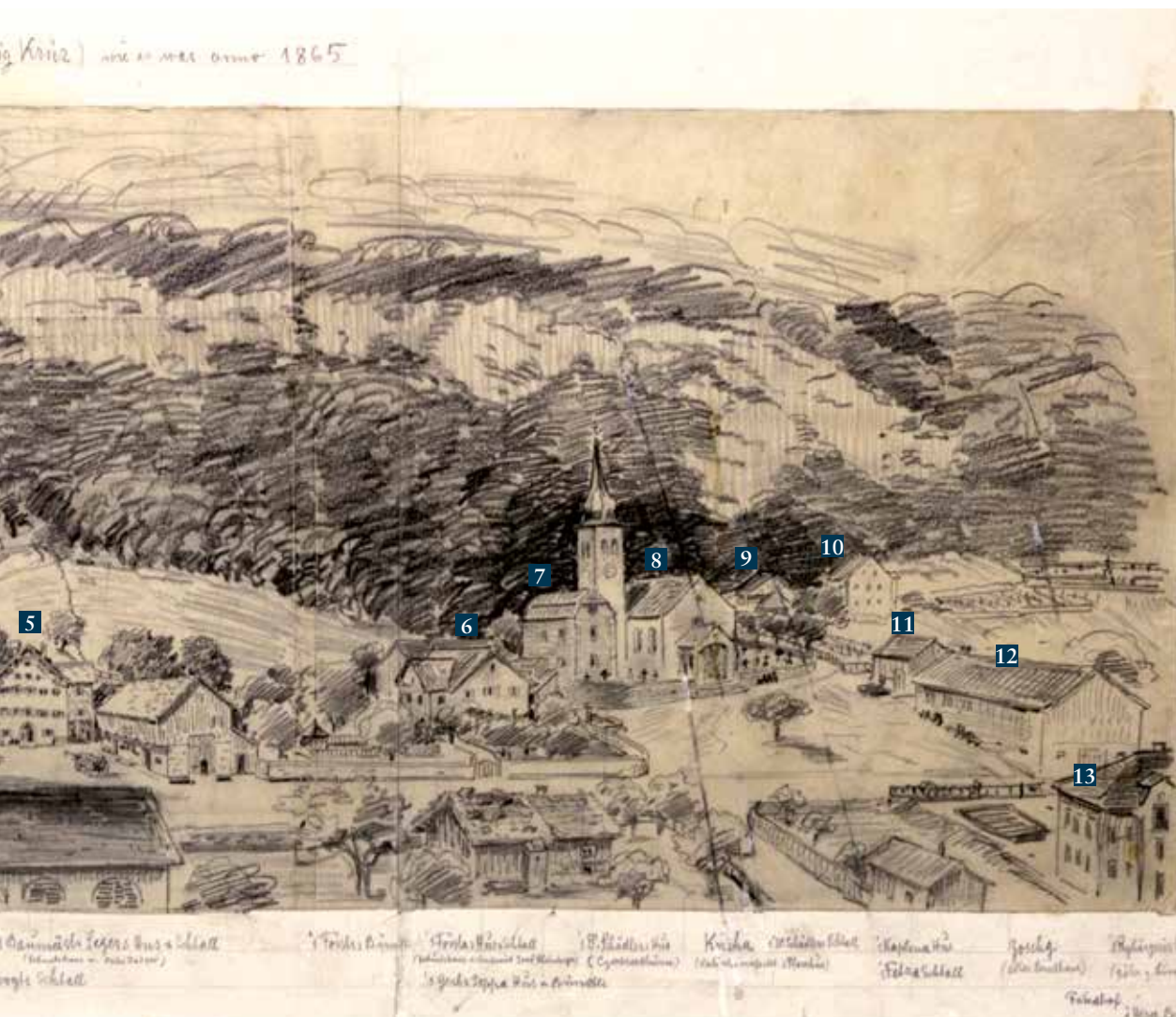
(8) «Kircha (dahinter verdeckt s'Pfarrhus)». St. Florin's Chapel, behind it the Old Priest's House, St. Florinsgasse No. 7. Chapel demolished 1874. Excavated foundations at the south-west corner of the Schädler House (Registry) to the north of the Parish Church now open to visitorP. The court location and the Land Assembly area of the Upper Country below St. Florin's chapel at the Court Linden Tree, surrounded by the buildings (6), (7), (8), (11) and (12) can be easily identified. The name «Linde» of the inn at the corner of Äulestrasse-Kirchstrasse recalls the Court Linden Tree while Platzstrasse, the former name of the Kirchstrasse, recalled the Landsgemeindeplatz or People's Assembly area.

(9) «s'Dr. Schädler's Shtall». Stables to the south-east of the Old Priest's House, demolished.

(10) «s'Kaplon's Hus». Upper Court Chaplain's House, demolished. Its vaulted cellar can still be found in the present Chaplain's House, St. Florinsgasse No. 15.

(11) «s'Fetza Shtall». Stables of the Upper Court Chaplain's House, named after Court Chaplain Fetz, demolished. Now the site of the Parish Church.

(12) «Zoschg» (Old Schoolhouse). Now the site of the Parish Church. The former Zuschg (goods depot of the old transport system) was used up to 1854 as the schoolhouse. Opposite and to the west of the main road, «s'Rybergers» (Haus z. Linde), property of Dr. Marxer, Heiligkreuz Nr. 2. (13)



Part of the Government quarter 1868: Excerpt from the panoramic view from the Rhine toward the village and Castle by Moriz Menzinger 1868. The buildings from north to south: (1) School, built 1854; (2) House of Dr. Grass, later the teacher's house; (3) House of the Estates, built 1867; (4) Government Building, former Customs House and tavern; connected to it (5) Land Bailiff's House.



The court venue of the Lower Country was at the Holy Cross Chapel on the Rofenberg in Eschen (view from north-west).

Schoolhouse and Bailiff's house on the Landstrasse in Schaan – this was the meeting place in 1848/49 of the National Committees and Electors.



Vaduz Schoolhouse and Land Assembly area In 1848, the Electors and National Committees met in the former 'Zuschg' (wagon shed) used as a schoolhouse in the Land Assembly area below the Chapel of St. Florin. At the Court Linden Tree on the Square, the voters of the Principality met for the last meeting of the Land Assembly on 20 May 1849.



country and the judicial system. Up into the 17th c., they dispensed justice at public court locations, for the Upper Country at the Court Linden Tree in Vaduz, in the vicinity of the Chapel of St. Florin, and for the Lower Country in Eschen, on the Rofenberg areal near the Holy Cross Chapel. The location where the public court was held was also the place where men able to bear arms met as a *Landsgemeinde* or People's Assembly and elected a bailiff and judges. The electoral venue of the Lower Country in the 18th c. was at the Schwibboga in Benden. The public assemblies were held every two years with a specific program and due ceremony. Up to the early 19th c., they were impressive testimony to the rights of the people.

VADUZ – STately CENTER AND MEETING PLACE OF REPRESENTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE

Together with the buildings at the foot of the steep hill on which it is built, Vaduz Castle formed a stately center. With the function of the Castle as the ruler's residence, Vaduz was not only a juridical and administrative center, customs station and market place since the 14th c. as shown by historical records, but also a place where elections and meetings were held. In 1392, Vaduz is mentioned by name as the location of a public court. In deeds from the 15th c., the Äuli is noted as a place where the public

court met (*Dingstätte* = place of assembly). At a later date, the Court Linden Tree location below St. Florin's Chapel is mentioned as the venue for the public court (May and Autumn Courts) and for the election of the bailiff. Up to 1808 and probably for 500 years, it was here that the *Landsgemeinde* or People's Assembly of the Upper Country held its meetings. In the vicinity of this historic place, in the former administrative district and present Government quarter, there were and are, almost without exception, also the various locations of the later People's Representations which appeared later after the bailiffs and judges.

THE LOSS OF THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS AND THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE

The emergence of the Principality of Liechtenstein and the transfer of power to the Reigning Princes of Liechtenstein was associated with a loss of the hitherto far-reaching rights of the People. In 1720, the bodies of the two areas of the country, the bailiffs and public courts, were abolished but, at the request of these two areas, were brought back again in 1733 but with greatly reduced rights. This lesser Bailiff Constitution and with it the old tradition of district assemblies remained in existence until 1808. It was in that year that the remaining ancient rights of the People were abolished by the Reigning Princely ruler of the country. The Upper and Lower Countries ceased to exist, there were no land and court districts any more and thus no longer any form of popular representation.

THE ESTATES PARLIAMENT IN THE LANDVOGTEIHAUS (BAILIFF'S HOUSE): 1819-1847 AND 1857-1862

In 1818, the Reigning Prince issued a Constitution which created the Parliament of the Estates or *Ständelandtag*. The Estates, consisting of the clergy and the peasantry, were entitled to send representatives to the Landtag. The clergy elected its three Members, the peasantry or the totality of the Reigning Prince's subjects was represented by the judges and treasurers of the parishes. These were not freely elected, but were selected by the authorities from a list of three submitted by the parish assemblies.

From 1819 to 1847, the Landtag met every year. An interruption of ten years then followed. The Estates Parliament was not convened in the revolution year of 1848. In the following year, it was replaced by the National Council formed by a provisional Constitution. This first democratic People's Representation of Liechtenstein lasted until 1852 when the articles of the provisional constitution were abolished again by a Reigning Princely decree. The constitution of 1818 took effect once more. However, it was only on 14 October 1857 that the Parliament of the Estates was once again invited to the *Landvogteihaus*. In the following years, it already participated in the negotiations concerning a new constitution which it adopted unanimously at its last meeting on 4 September 1862.

VARIOUS FORMS AND MEETING PLACES OF POPULAR REPRESENTATIONS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY YEAR OF 1848

In the Spring of 1848, revolutionary movements emerged all over Europe, demanding political, social and economic reforms. The people were active also in Liechtenstein and formulated their demands. Democratic rights, forms of political co-determination and types of popular representation were not only discussed but within a few months were tested and exercised in quick succession.

PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION OF 1849: THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENT OF LIECHTENSTEIN - 1849-1851

Through the transitional regulations issued by the Reigning Prince on 7 March 1849, Liechtenstein received a new provisional constitution. The People, represented by elector assemblies and the Constitutional Council, had taken a major part in its drafting. It formed the legal basis for the first democratic Parliament of Liechtenstein. Elections for the National Council were held in May 1849 and included significant new features. Not only house-owners, as was previously the case, but also resident citizens of the country were eligible to vote. The election was no longer decided indirectly by electors but directly, although in two stages. In the first stage, each parish provisionally nominated a

The old Quaderer Brewery in Vaduz, documented by Eugen Verling. Elector meetings took place in the hall of the Brewery in 1848. The hall was also used by the Landtag in 1849 for its regular sessions.



full National Council of 24 members for itself. From the results, a national election list of 45 men was prepared according to the number of parish votes. On the afternoon of Sunday, 20 May 1849, all the persons of the Principality who were entitled to vote gathered «with all due ceremony» at the historic place by the Court Linden Tree in Vaduz as a *Landsgemeinde* or People's Assembly. In a public vote by a simple show of hands, voting was carried out for each of the names on the list until the number of 24 councilors and 8 substitutes was reached. In many details, the first National Council election

recalled the last elections of the bailiff forty years previously. Now, however, the election was no longer held separately in two electoral districts but in the single electoral district formed by the country as a whole. And so it was that a state-ly gathering of some 1,800 persons entitled to vote was assembled and grouped around the headmen of their parishes. At two o'clock, all the bells of St. Florin's Chapel were rung and the Land Administrator, «on a raised platform» opened the meeting with a brief speech. There followed the election of the officers of the meeting, a president, minutes secretary, election official and four vote-counters. The election of the National Council then began as described.

The meetings of the electors from the whole of the country were held in the Great Hall of Vaduz Castle from 1862 to 1877 and from the Upper Country for the election of the Members of the Landtag until 1894.



On 23 May 1849, the National Council held its first constitutive meeting in the hall of the Brewery in Vaduz. In the following meeting on 4 June 1849, the representatives of the People decided that this hall in «Quaderer's Inn» was to be its regular venue for a provisional period of one year. In the first and only sessional period of the National Council, another four meetings were still held here. At the last meeting on 14 February 1850, the representation of the People elected a National Council Committee. This was to continue the business of the National Council until the National Council was convened again as expected. However, after the closing of the first sessional period, it was not convened any more by the Reigning Prince. On 15 March 1851, the National Council Committee also met for the last

time. In Austria and within the German Confederation, a reactionary policy had been adopted. Principles as were to be included in 1848 and 1849 in a new Liechtenstein constitution could no longer be implemented. On 20 July 1852, the Reigning Prince suspended the provisional constitutional articles of 1849. The absolutist constitution of 1818 was restored. The Parliament of the Estates, a people's representation without rights, was brought back again.

1862 – THE YEAR IN WHICH THE PRESENT LANDTAG WAS BORN

The Estates, convened again for the first time in 1857, used their meetings from the very start as a forum to present their wishes for reform to the Reigning Princely authorities. These wishes included primarily a new constitution for the country with a freely elected representation of the People. The Estates finally achieved their aim in 1862, the transition of Liechtenstein from absolutism to constitutionalism, a constitution freely agreed by Reigning Prince and People. The constitution of 26 September 1862 as a compromise largely established the present Liechtenstein form of government which unites the Monarchy and the People's Sovereignty. The Landtag again became a genuine representative body of the People with the right to participate in legislation and to approve the State finances. It consisted of 15 Members, twelve elected by the People indirectly through the electors, three appointed by the Reigning Prince.

ELECTORS' MEETINGS 1862–1914

The electors were elected in each community, two electors for each 100 inhabitants. With a population of 8200 (1861), this produced roughly 164 electors. Up to 1877, the country was a single election district. The electors gathered at Vaduz Castle for the election of the Members of the Landtag and their Substitutes. The first meeting took place on 24 November 1862.

In 1878, the country was divided into two election districts. In separate elector meetings, the Upper Country now elected seven representatives and the Lower Country five. In the Upper Country, the elector meetings were held until 1894 in the large dining room on the first floor of Vaduz Castle where the Castle Inn was also located. From 1898 to 1914, the Upper Country

electors met in Vaduz at the newly built «Nigg's Inn by the Castle» (now known as Schlössle), run by the landlord of the former Castle Inn. Up to 1886, the electors of the Lower Country gathered in «Batliner's Inn» (now known as the Rössle) in Mauren and from 1890 to 1914 in the Schoolhouse. The last meetings of the electors took place in 1914.

THE LANDTAG IN KIRCHTHALER'S INN 1862–1867

After a preparatory meeting on 10 December, the newly elected Landtag met on 29 December 1862 after a special service in St. Florin's Chapel for a solemn opening meeting in the hall of «Kirchthaler's Inn» (later known as the Vaduzerhof). Up to 1867, it was here that the Landtag met. It was named for its owner at the time, the pharmacist and textile manufacturer Franz Anton Kirchthaler. This property was the former brewery of Vaduz built by Johann Baptist Quaderer, the hall of which had already been used by earlier representations of the people for their meetings. Both proprietors, Kirchthaler and Quaderer – the latter had moved to Schaan in the meantime – were elected to the Landtag in 1862.

THE LANDTAG IN ITS OWN «HOUSE OF THE ESTATES» 1868–1905

The self-confidence of the Landtag is apparent from its efforts at an early stage to obtain a house of its own for the Representation of the People. As early as 4 August 1864, it examined a Government draft for the building of a «House of the Estates». On behalf of the Government, the Land Surveyor Peter Rheinberger prepared a construction project that comprised not only chambers for the sessions of the Landtag but also official and residential quarters for the judges and also arrest cells. The site on which the stables of the former tavern by the name of «Zum Adler» (the present National Museum) were located on the south side was made available as a gift by Reigning Prince Johann II in 1865. At the time (since 1856), the tavern served as the seat of the Government. Construction costs were established at 6,800 guilders and had to be financed by a loan. The first specially built Parliament building of generous dimensi-

The electors of the Upper Country met in the Castle Inn (now the Schlössle) in Vaduz from 1898 to 1914 for the election of the Members of the Landtag.



The electors of the Lower Country met in Batliner's Inn (now the Rössle) in Mauren from 1878 to 1886 for the election of the Members of the Landtag.



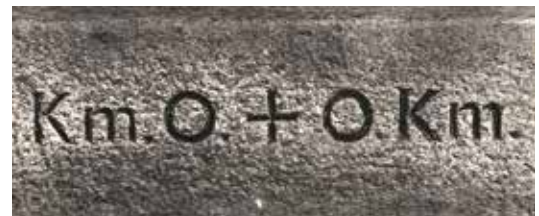
The Old Schoolhouse in Mauren (part of the building on the right) was the meeting-place of the electors from the Lower Country from 1890 to 1914.



ons for that time was erected in 1866/67 and was named after the Estates. The Landtag met for the first time in the new chamber on 18 May. The House of the Estates formed the center of the country. The sign «0 km» was engraved on the threshold. Distances up and down the country were measured from here. It was in 1864 that the Landtag passed the law for the surveying of the country.

THE LANDTAG IN THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING AFTER 1905

At about the turn of the 19th to the 20th c., the State authorities and departments were evidently in need of more space. In 1899, the Landtag requested the Government to take the necessary steps to construct a new and large administrative building. It was to house the Landtag, the Government and all the official departments and thus constitute the focus of the political life and administration of the country. The buildings which would then be vacated, such as the House of the Estates, were to be used as apartments for officials.



The threshold of the House of the Estate was the point from which the surveying of the country proceeded and from which the distances of the roads of the country were measured

The Landtag held its meetings from 1862 to 1867 in the hall of Kirchthaler's Inn (now the Vaduzerhof).



On the site of the former farm owned by the Reigning Prince near the church and the old assembly area, the present Government Building was erected between 1903 and 1905 to the plans of Gustav von Neumann, the Reigning Prince's architect. The costs were covered by a contribution from the Reigning Prince of 100,000 crowns and a loan from the *Landschäftliche Sparkassa* (savings bank) of 260,000 crowns. The new administrative building was officially opened at the Landtag meeting of 28 December 1905. The Landtag moved out of its own building and was given a new assembly chamber on the second floor of the new building.

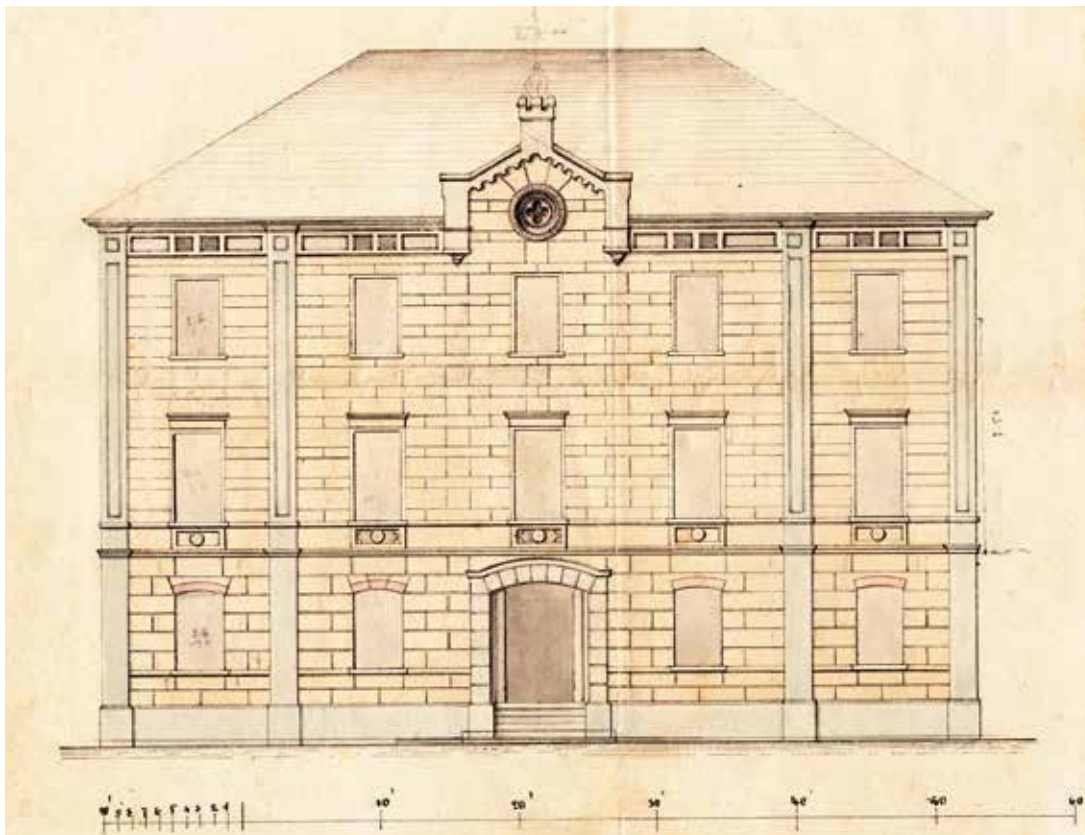
The artistic decoration of the Landtag chamber with portraits of the Reigning Princes and coats of arms in niches of the walls was carried out on the instructions and at the expense of the Reigning Prince. A large, wrought-iron chandelier was also a gift from him. The marble bust of Reigning Prince Johann II was presumably identical to that placed in the old Landtag chamber in 1902.

The transfer of the Landtag in 1905 to the dignified rooms of the imposing Government Building

was an outer sign, unnoticed by the people of the time, of a shift in political power between the Landtag and the Government which had been gradually taking place since 1862. Without any institutional change, the power and position of the Land Administrator, both within the Government and in relation to the Representation of the People, had increased greatly toward the end of the 19th c.. To the same extent, the awareness of a common interest between the Government and the People had disappeared. This unwelcome development was corrected by the constitution of 1921. As before, the Landtag consisted of 15 Members but they were all elected by the voters. The rights of the Landtag to control and participate in the administration of the State were extended. The most important change in comparison with the old constitution was the increase in the rights of the People by the rights concerning initiative and the holding of referendums.

PROVISIONAL RELOCATION OF THE LANDTAG TO THE MUSIC SCHOOL 1969/70 AND 1989–1996

The Landtag Chamber in the Government Building was renovated between 1969/70.



Plan drawing of the West façade of the House of the Estates by the Land Surveyor Peter Rheinberger, 1866

The Government Building in 1909



The original furnishings were replaced. The great chandelier was removed and modern lighting installed. During this time, the Landtag held its session in the lecture hall of the newly established Music School in the Rheinberger building. This had been built by the Count of Sulz as his bailiff's house in the 16th c..

Efforts to increase the number of the members of the Landtag failed for the first time in 1919 and then in three subsequent referendums in 1945,

1972 and 1985. In 1984, after two unsuccessful attempts, the majority of those entitled to vote approved female franchise in a referendum. This increased the motivation for having more representatives in Parliament. In 1988, the People voted for an increase in the number of Members of the Landtag to 25.

In December 1984, it advised the Government of its intention to have its own building on its own land and reasonably near the Government Building. With this resolution and the subsequent planning for the development of the Government Quarter, a series of important questions concerning the layout of the center of Vaduz were resolved and other proposals under discussion for a Landtag building elsewhere were dropped.

In 1989, due to lack of space in the Government Building, the Landtag with its 25 members mo-



The Landtag met in the House of the Estates, its first own Parliament building, from 1868 to 1905. To the north of the House of the Estates, there was the residence of the great founder and benefactor Dr. Ludwig Grass who gave the town of Vaduz land and money for a schoolhouse, his house as accommodation for the teachers and the country money for the establishment of a national school. The House of the Estates was converted in 1905 for use as the middle school. At a later date, it housed various official departments and the National Library. The House of the Estates was demolished together with the residence of Dr. Grass in 1970.

ved its sessions to the lecture hall of the Music School. Until 1996, the Rheinberger Building was once again the place where Parliament met.

TOWARD A NEW BUILDING OF ITS OWN FOR THE LANDTAG 1984–2008

The Landtag resolution of 1984 was followed in 1986 by an urban planning competition centered around the construction of a Landtag building. In the following year, the project of the Ticinese architect Luigi Snozzi was declared to be the best entry. His project in the final form for the redevelopment of the Government Quarter was presented in 1990. The Landtag Building and secure rooms for objects from the museum, archive and cultural area in a slope-face superstructure formed the first stage of an overall concept. In October 1992, the Landtag took note of this project work and approved a confirmed credit of 58.5 million francs for the Landtag building and the slope-face building. A referendum was demanded on this resolution and in March 1993 the electorate threw out the project and refused the credit by a large majority.

After this setback, it was only in 1995 that the question of a new location for the Landtag was taken up again. The Landtag decided to install the Landtag Chamber in the Government Building and, on a trial basis, to use it for its sessions. In the autumn of 1996, it finally decided on the layout of the Chamber which was now considered to be temporary. In the same year, namely, the Landtag Members had received a report from the Government on a scheme for constructing a new Landtag building. Locations were discussed, an urban planning expertise was obtained and an architecture and project competition organized. In 2000, a decision was taken in favor of the project, since implemented, submitted by the architect Hansjörg Göritz of Hannover. The budget for the new Landtag Building, the underground carpark and the landscaping of the square had previously been set at 36 million francs.

The Liechtenstein Parliament moved into its new conference center in February 2008. The new Landtag building provides it with the appropriate space for its work. Through its position, size and architecture, it expresses in the

spirit of our time the function of the Landtag as the legislative body of the State and the political importance resulting from this. The new building comes at the end, for the time being, of a century of development of the town center of Vaduz from the elegant administrative district of the mediaeval period to Liechtenstein's Government Quarter of today. Its proximity to an historic meeting place of the People symbolizes its significance for their representatives.

Dr. Alois Ospelt, historian

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The Landtag on the opening of Parliament in 1963. The special status of the President of the Landtag was emphasized by his position on a rostrum.



Landtag session 1969/70 in the Music School

The Landtag in 1974. In the course of the renovation of the Landtag Chamber in 1968/69, the President's rostrum, the impressive chandelier and the lectern removed.



The Landtag Chamber in the Government Building with the new furnishings after the renovation in 1996

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE LANDTAG SINCE 1862



Karl Schädler
1862-1870



Wilhelm Schlegel 1871-1876,
1878-1881, 1886-1889



Rudolf Schädler
1877



Albert Schädler
1882-1885, 1890-1918



Friedrich Walser
1919-1921



Wilhelm Beck
1922-1928



Anton Frommelt
1928-1944



David Strub
1945-1953, 1955, 1957



Alois Ritter
1954, 1956



Josef Hoop
1958-1959



Martin Risch
1960-1965



Alexander Frick
1966-1969



Karlheinz Ritter
1970-1973, 1978-1992



Gerard Batliner
1974-1977



Ernst Walch
1993



Paul Kindle
1994, 1996



Otmar Hasler
1995



Peter Wolff
1997-2001



Klaus Wanger
2001-2009



Arthur Brunhart
2009-2013



Albert Frick
since 2013





