GOVERNMENT
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

Speech by Deputy Prime Minister Sabine Monauni

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Environment and Culture

at the
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Haus Giessen of Liechtensteinische Landesbank, Vaduz

– Check against delivery –

Prime Minister,
Excellencies,
Esteemed guests,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this year's Ambassadors' Information Day. I am delighted to see so many of you here today at the new premises of Liechtensteinische Landesbank in Vaduz.

We meet at a time when instability und uncertainty have become the new normal. Geopolitical and geo-economic competition increasingly define the environment in which our countries and businesses operate.

Against this backdrop, we chose "Navigating Uncertainty" as the theme of this year's Ambassadors' Information Day. In an increasingly complex and fast-changing world, we must all find ways to adapt and respond to new realities. Today's programme will explore how Liechtenstein is responding to these challenges, both as a state and as an internationally connected business and financial centre.

For Liechtenstein, navigating uncertainty means taking action. In response to the changing security environment, the Government adopted a comprehensive security strategy. Building on this, we are finalising a new foreign policy strategy for the years ahead. The strategy focuses on five key priorities:

- strengthening partnerships,
- safeguarding our competitiveness,
- enhancing security,
- promoting international law, human rights and the rule of law, and
- demonstrating international solidarity.

As Foreign Minister, it is important to me that our foreign policy is guided by a clear vision and a strong sense of purpose. We need to know what we stand for and where we want to go.

In uncertain times, strong and reliable partnerships matter more than ever. We build on our close ties with our neighbours, Switzerland and Austria, and our partners across Europe. We are also strengthening our longstanding partnership with the United States. At our recent second Strategic and Economic Partnership Dialogue, we explored ways to advance cooperation on shared security and economic interests.

At the same time, we are building ties beyond our traditional partners. I have just returned from Liechtenstein's first official State Visit to India. India and Liechtenstein differ greatly in size, but our strengths complement each other. Liechtenstein brings entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and expertise in advanced manufacturing, financial services and vocational training. These strengths have much to offer – not only to India, but to partners around the world.

Our foreign policy also has a clear economic mission: to strengthen Liechtenstein's competitiveness and build reliable economic and trade relations. For an export-oriented country with a small domestic market, access to international markets is vital.

Alongside Switzerland, Europe is our most important market for goods and services. In 2025, Europe accounted for 67 per cent of our goods exports. Full access to the EU single market is therefore essential to our competitiveness. At the same time, we are expanding our trade ties beyond Europe, particularly in Asia and Latin America. We have concluded free trade agreements as part of EFTA with India, Malaysia, Thailand and the Mercosur states. Just two weeks ago, we signed a free trade agreement with Vietnam, further diversifying our economic partnerships.

At a time when protectionism is regaining ground, we send a clear message: we remain committed to open markets and economic cooperation. Our trade figures reflect the results of this approach: in the third quarter, Liechtenstein's exports rose by 13 per cent compared with the same period last year. But our companies do more than export. They invest substantially abroad and create skilled jobs. I have seen this first-hand during visits to Liechtenstein companies overseas – most recently on our State Visit to India, where our companies have invested more than USD 100 million since 2024.

The positive trade figures should not distract from the fact that the global economic outlook remains highly fragile. Ongoing conflicts, particularly in the Middle East and in Ukraine, continue to have far-reaching consequences well beyond their immediate regions. They disrupt global supply chains, drive up energy costs and fuel inflation. Rising living costs, in turn, are driving public discontent.

Recent attacks by the Houthi militia on airports and energy facilities, together with blockades of maritime trade, have further amplified the economic impact. These developments highlight the importance of secure shipping routes and the protection of freedom of navigation for global prosperity.

The impact of the current conflicts goes far beyond economics. In Ukraine and Sudan, repeated violations of international humanitarian law continue to have devastating consequences for civilians. Particularly alarming is Russia's deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure as a tool of warfare to break the resilience of the Ukrainian population. Also in Gaza, the humanitarian situation remains dire. And we are no closer to a two-state solution, with the State of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security.

Showing solidarity is central to our foreign policy. From Sudan to Gaza and Ukraine, we translate this commitment into concrete action. Together with Estonia, for example, we recently opened an Early Childhood Education Centre in Ukraine.

Excellencies,
Too often, a small number of states have disregarded the fundamental rules of international law, putting the very foundations of the international order at risk. In times like these, a clear commitment to international law and to the institutions that uphold it is one of the strongest contributions we can make to peace and security. Defending these principles, together with our steadfast commitment to multilateralism, will therefore remain at the heart of Liechtenstein's foreign policy.

Protecting multilateralism is not just about preserving the status quo. The United Nations must adapt to new realities and become more effective. We expect the new UN Secretary General to place reform firmly at the top of its priorities. Liechtenstein is actively supporting the reform process: We have established an informal platform for open discussions on UN reform, the so-called Princeton Group. By translating these discussions into concrete proposals for the UN80 process, we seek to move the reform debate forward.

At the same time, we must acknowledge the political realities of the Security Council. Given its frequent deadlock on issues of peace and security, strengthening the role of the General Assembly is more important than ever. The Veto Initiative, which Liechtenstein was proud to lead, has created an important mechanism for greater accountability and a stronger voice for the General Assembly.

The many conversations I held during the High-Level Week of the UN General Assembly in September leave me encouraged. They confirmed that a clear majority of Member States support meaningful reform and remain committed to defending multilateral cooperation and the rule of law.

Excellencies,
Uncertainty is here to stay. What matters is how we respond to it.

For Liechtenstein, navigating uncertainty means strengthening our resilience and competitiveness, investing in trusted partnerships and remaining open to cooperation. It means working with like-minded partners to deliver solutions that benefit our economies, our peoples and our shared future.

Liechtenstein stands ready to play its part.