



Speech by the Prime Minister, Adrian Hasler at the Ambassador's
Information Day, 14 June 2017

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Excellencies, dear Guests

Access granted. Welcome.

Efficient access is the first step toward advancing quickly. Toward being able to invest time and energy in the actual project. And to feel welcome in doing so. Apart from efficiency, this also gives people the satisfaction of having crossed the right threshold.

Granting access. Welcoming.

Also in the context of digitalisation, these two steps are still indispensable for any progress. In the Government's Digital Agenda, the focus of the Ministry for General Government Affairs and Finance is exactly on this mindset. To grant entrepreneurs with new business models access to our business location, we have to welcome them with an open attitude, invite them to a conversation, and embark together on the path to success.

In the field of FinTech, I believe this includes uncomplicated and quick access to the regulator. As part of my "Impulse Liechtenstein" programme, the Financial Market Authority already implemented this in 2016, creating a Regulatory Laboratory – an internal competence team for new financial technologies. The responsibilities of the team include accompanying start-ups and established financial service providers on issues concerning the new financial technologies. This dialogue is crucial so that innovations can be realised while complying with the requirements of regulation and supervision. With its Regulatory Laboratory, the FMA serves as an enabler. This allows Liechtenstein to position itself in the competition among business locations.

eGovernment is another facet of digitalisation. Here, we as the National Administration are in demand not only as an enabler, but also as an implementer and provider. Efficient access means that private individuals and businesses are able to conduct their business 24 hours a day – whenever is the best time in their daily schedule. The goal again is to make sure that all things considered, as much time as possible remains to do what's really important.

Beyond this "welcoming" of stakeholder groups, it is also of the utmost importance that access is not only efficient, but also secure. These services involve highly personal data that must always be available for processing – but only by the right people or groups of people, meaning those who are authorised to do so. Doing justice to a wide range of demands while guaranteeing the highest level of security and user friendliness is as difficult as squaring the circle. But I don't see any alternative for a digitalised Liechtenstein of tomorrow that is able to offer a wealth of opportunities. In the name of the Ministry of General Government Affairs and Finance: challenge accepted!

It is in the nature of democracy that policymaking is a balancing act – between preserving the tried and true and taking advantage of the opportunities of progress. Between opening up and protecting. Between human needs and technical possibilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you and I will have many opportunities to interact with each other over the years. Sometimes we will communicate by electronic mail – digitally. Sometimes we will talk on the phone. A lot of our human qualities will be part of those conversations, but technically speaking, they will be Voice-over-IP and hence also digital at their core. I look

forward to all of these opportunities to interact with you digitally, and you'll always be welcome. At the same time, I think days like today, when our access to each other is personal, are those that make me the happiest. I'm sure we'll find the right balance between digitally supported efficiency and analogue, interpersonal contact. We will intuitively get the best out of all these opportunities.

For now, I'd like to conclude, and I look forward to many inspiring conversations with you. Maybe you'll share insights on how you yourselves manage to balance these issues in your daily lives and work.