

AMCHAM NEWSLETTER 2ND JULY ,2020

Dear AMCHAM members and friends,

As we write this Newsletter to you, Luxembourg is trying to enter a new phase which emphasizes recovery and relaunch of the economy while still protecting residents against a relapse back into a medical crisis. The first steps in that regard have not been as successful as we all had hoped with an increase in new infections as an apparent result of a disrespect for the government prescribed social guidelines.

To prevent a relapse into a bad situation of new infections, we in AMCHAM support the following steps:

1. Wear a clean mask when out in public and in contact with other people, and preferably wear a reusable mask that can be washed and sanitized rather than a disposable mask (we are all becoming concerned about the increase in disposable mask refuse littering the streets and countryside and deplore anyone just throwing away masks as litter rather than disposing of them properly). Please make sure to cover both your nose and mouth with your mask (masks worn as “decoration” are ineffective if they do not cover both the nose and the mouth!).
2. We support police enforcement including fines for people who endanger others by not properly wearing masks or maintaining social distancing in public as their actions put others at risk.
3. We support and encourage companies and employees to embrace flexible home working as this, when properly done, will keep employees safe while also reducing commuting congestion and enhancing the quality of life of employees. This said, we oppose any efforts to make homeworking an absolute employee right and insist that such activities must be undertaken by joint agreement between employees and employers
4. We encourage, along with home working, all efforts to stagger employee physical working from corporate offices to maintain and develop team working arrangements and keep employers and employees connected together. Maintaining (and enhancing) connection between employers and employees is vital for both sides.
5. We encourage employers and employees to use this current situation as an opportunity for renewal and self-improvement by thinking about, discussing together and implementing new solutions that better working relations and company success on a long-term basis!

AMCHAM continues to play its part. To ensure safety, we have cancelled our physical events most likely until the end of the year and are accelerating our digital conversion via this Newsletter, homeworking with limited office engagement by our team, digital committee meetings and launching of digital events (such as the excellent recent events we have done with [MindForest](#) and the New York based sister organization, the Luxembourg American Chamber of Commerce in New York City(**LACCNYS**)).

We remain fully committed to serve you. If you have questions, positive encouragement, criticisms or other comments and suggestions, draft articles please contact us [here](#). If you are not yet an AMCHAM member and want to know more about us, please see our website connections at the end of this Newsletter.

And, now, here is our current news updates:

1. With over 44 new cases of Covid 19 reported this last weekend alone please read this!

5 Recommendations to avoid a second wave of Covid-19, an excellent article written by **Jess Baudry of Delano** from recent research released from LISER Luxembourg

https://delano.lu/d/detail/news/5-recommendations-avoid-a-2nd-wave/210878?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Friday%252026%2520June%25202020%2520Noon%2520Briefing&utm_source=Newsletter

2. A round up of last week's webinar with Ambassador Stronck, Luxembourg's ambassador to the US, an article written by them.



The Luxembourg American Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with AmCham and the Luxembourg Chambre de Commerce, organized a webinar with Gaston Stronck, the Ambassador of Luxembourg to the United States. Ambassador Stronck discussed EU-US and Luxembourg-US relations in times of Covid-19. He described the multi-layered efforts that Luxembourg had undertaken to stem Covid-19, including massive testing to allow for a gradual reopening of the economy, and detailed some of the economic, financial and fiscal measures taken to benefit all sectors in order to limit the impact of Covid-19 on the Luxembourg economy. The relationship between Luxembourg and the United States remains solid and steadfast, as illustrated by the figures of trade and investment in both directions. Luxembourg remains fifth in the list of countries where most foreign direct investment to the United States originates and this investment supports over 13,000 jobs in the United States. Many US companies are headquartered in Luxembourg, while many Luxembourg-based companies operate in the US in a variety of sectors. The most recent area of increased bilateral cooperation is space and the development of new space activities. Luxembourg looks forward to deepen that partnership, in particular in the context of NASA's Artemis project. The relationship between the European Union and the United States is certainly strained in political terms, but economic and trade relations remain steady, despite the rhetoric. The Ambassador pointed out that 98% of trade between the EU and the US is

dispute-free, and that transatlantic commercial sales amount the approximately 5 trillion USD per year – good reasons for the Americans and the Europeans to continue to strive to keep the transatlantic relationship healthy and mutually supportive. Ambassador Stronck outlined some of the recent proposals by EU Trade Commission Phil Hogan to move forward to deepen EU-US trade relations, e.g. in the field of pharmaceutical products. The webinar ended with a Q&A session, as well as brief presentations of the current activities of AmCham (speaker Paul Schonenberg) and the Chambre de Commerce, (speaker Cindy Tereba), and of the Consulates General of Luxembourg in New York, Jeanne Crauser and San Francisco, Pierre Franck.”

3. AMCHAM Upcoming Webinars of Interest

3rd July -The Covid 19 crisis and Economic Recovery, a Webinar from Amchams in Europe 2nd Live event. The COVID-19 crisis and economic recovery volume II: The Business Leaders Perspective. from 13.00 - 14.00 Register [here](#):

6th July-Amcham has the pleasure of inviting you to our ABAL Lunch webinar Digital Impact on Companies- Digital Signatures in the context of Digital Transformation: 12:00pm - 1pm- Register [here](#)

6th July - Amcham has teamed up with leading global law firm, Linklaters to bring a highly interesting webinar on US Sanctions also on 6th July at 4pm, Register [here](#)

7th July - Uniting for diversity: how companies can contribute to a more inclusive society, a webinar hosted by AmCham EU. 10:00am

Although the Corona Virus has rightly been on the top of everyone’s agenda, it is important to remember that there are other issues which require attention as well, Diversity promotion being on high on our list.

Our sister organization, The American Chamber of Commerce accredited to the European Commission (AMCHAM EU) has kindly invited us and our members to join them for a digital conference with Helena Dalli, the Commissioner for Equality for the European Commission: **Register here:** http://amchameu.eu/events/uniting-diversity-how-companies-can-contribute-more-inclusive-society?target_group=8pw9n7y7sIQ%253D

22- July- SAVE THE DATE- With Ambassador Randolph Evans on Luxembourg/American relations and matters of interest from the US perspective. Evening event at 18:00 with more details to follow next week

4. Luxembourg: ends the state of emergency 25/6

The temporary state of emergency in Luxembourg ended at midnight. While that means that no covid-19 related restrictions apply to private homes, the government is still imposing strict

measures to reduce the risk of infection. Health minister Paulette Lenert said the current deconfinement period was a delicate phase and she appealed for people to continue to act responsibly. (see news 25/6) still no going back to work for hundreds of people. Most employers cannot comply with the government 2 meter distance for work space and the disinfection of offices daily, incurs great expense.

5. The AMCHAM Entrepreneur Committee are looking for business owners who can provide insight into the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Luxembourg. If you own or manage an entrepreneurial venture (large, medium, small, freelance, or start-up) please take 7 minutes to share your valuable experience. The survey consists of 24 questions (mostly multiple choice) and can be accessed using the following link: www.surveymonkey.com. The survey will be available until **July 10th. Please note that responses are compiled in a manner that assures the anonymity of all respondents. A summary of the results will be published in a future AmCham newsletter.**

7. Protecting your eyes in this new digital age: Dr Christine Hubert

Going digital was a trend before, but nowadays, in the context of Covid19 pandemic, it has become a necessity, accelerating this digital transformation. As Churchill said, “Never waste a good crisis”, Corona crisis, nevertheless responsible for economic damage in some sectors, created some interesting opportunities as well.

Home working, web conferences, meetings and webinars, this is the new reality for most of us. And probably, for now, it’s here to stay.

This implies increased screen time, which can produce digital eye strain. The computer vision syndrome (CVS) describes a group of eye and vision-related problems that result from prolonged computer, tablet, e-reader and cell phone use. Many individuals experience eye discomfort and vision problems when viewing digital screens for extended periods. The level of discomfort appears to increase with the amount of digital screen use.

Most frequent symptoms are sore, tired, burning, itchy, watery or red eyes. This is due to dryness, caused by infrequent blinking. We need to blink more often to moist the eyes, or to hydrate them while using the screens. Plenty of artificial tears are available over the counter in pharmacies for that purpose.

Increased sensitivity to light and the possible damaging effects of blue light exposure of LEDs, can be diminished by using blue-light filters, and adjusting the monitor to lower settings.

For some individuals, glasses with an adapted correction can be prescribed, to alleviate the blurred or double vision and headaches.

Other important factors in preventing or reducing the symptoms of CVS have to do with the position in front of the screen and how it is used. This includes lighting conditions, chair comfort, location of reference materials, position of the monitor (position the screen to avoid glare, particularly from overhead lighting or windows), and the use of rest breaks.

Very important is the 20-20-20 rule: take a 20-second break to view something 20 feet away every 20 minutes.

Children can be particularly affected; they should try spending at least 2 hours outdoors and not more than 1-hour screen time a day. Their risk of developing myopia is more elevated, while using the computers and smart phones.

Regular eye examinations and proper viewing habits can help in preventing and reducing the development of the symptoms associated with Computer Vision Syndrome.

Dr Christine Hubert is a respected eye surgeon with offices in Belgium who will be opening a Luxembourg practice in Bertrange in the coming months.

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Before we give you the recipe for our American Apple pie (traditional fayre for 4th July celebrations, we are pleased to offer you the following 4th July message from the US Ambassador to Luxembourg J. Randolph Evans

“This weekend we celebrate America’s independence. This year’s July 4th celebrations are different than previous years, but no less momentous. We honor and celebrate Americans wonderful journey from a rebellious group of colonies in the new world to an independent nation fulfilling its own destiny to be great, sometimes even saving the world. We have accomplished so much with support of partnerships including the one we share with Luxembourg.” -Ambassador Evans

Take a moment to reflect here: <https://lu.usembassy.gov/remarks-of-ambassador-j-randolph-evans-on-july-4th-2020-2/>





8. AMERICAN APPLE PIE

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE PASTRY CRUST:

3 1/2 cup (15 oz/420g) all-purpose flour

1 pinch of salt

1 cup + 4 Tablespoons (10 oz/280g) unsalted butter

2 teaspoons granulated sugar

2/3 cup (5 oz/150 ml) water

FOR THE FILLING:

8 cups (1,4kg) peeled, sliced apples (about 5–6 big apples)

2 Tablespoons lemon juice + zest

3/4 cup (150g) sugar

2 Tablespoons all-purpose flour

2 Tablespoons cornstarch

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon all spices

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

1/4 cup (60 ml) boiled cider or apple juice

2 Tablespoons butter, diced in small pieces

FOR TOPPING:

1 egg, beaten

1 Tablespoon water

INSTRUCTIONS

1. For the crust: in a medium-sized bowl, mix together the flour and salt. Dice the butter into small pieces and crumble it with the flour until lumps are the size of small peas. Add sugar and stir well. Pour in the ice-cold water, little at a time, mixing with a fork. Finish by hand and shape into a ball. Flatten the dough a little bit, wrap into cling film and chill in the refrigerator for about 30 minutes.

2. In the meantime, prepare the filling: combine the slice apples with lemon juice and zests in a large mixing bowl.
3. In a small bowl, combine together sugar, flour, corn-starch, salt and spices. Sprinkle the mixture the apples, and stir to coat them. Stir in the boiled cider or apple juice.
4. Once the dough is chilled, divide it into 2 pieces, one about twice as large as the other. The larger piece will be the bottom crust, the smaller one the top crust.
5. Pat each pieces of dough into a disk, about 3/4 inch thick.
6. Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C). Lightly grease a 9 inches pie pan, that is at least 2 inches deep.
7. Roll the larger piece of dough into a 13 inches circle and transfer it into the prepared pan. Trim the edges so that they overlap the rim of the pan all the way around.
8. Spoon the apple filling into the pan, and top with diced butter.
9. Roll out the remaining dough to a 11 inch circle, and slice it into thin layers. Weave a lattice crust for the lop layer, and crimp the edges of the pie with a fork.
10. Whisk one egg with one tablespoon of water and brush it on the top crust and around the edges of the pie. Sprinkle some additional sugar over to add shimmer and a sweet crunch to every slice.
11. Bake the pie for about 50 minutes, until the filling starts bubbling inside the pie. Check the pie after 20 minutes of baking and cover the edges with foil to keep them from burning too quickly.
12. When the pie is ready, remove it from the oven and let cool completely before slicing. Serve with some vanilla ice cream on the side.

AMCHAM offers to each of you and your families our best wishes for your health and happiness. Be strong. Stay connected with your families and friends by phone and email. Use this time wisely and productively so you come out of this crisis stronger than when you started. For all those who don't know AMCHAM yet, please find our website here: <https://www.amcham.lu> and particularly our mission statement here: <https://www.amcham.lu/about-us/mission-statement/> and how you can join AMCHAM here: <https://www.amcham.lu/membership/>

If you need us, we are here and will do all we can do to help

Feel free to pass on our newsletter to your colleagues and friends and

if you would like to make a contribution to our next newsletter contact

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With respect and our very best regards

Your AMCHAM team