

Small States Security and Defence

Luxembourg

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Small States

Security and Defence – Country Overview I

- Overview: Historical Background
 - Became an independent entity in 963 under Siegfried, count de Ardennes.
 - Part of the Holy Roman Empire, held its throne for a while in the 14th century and became a duchy during that period.
 - Later it passed to Austria, Spain, France, Spain, Austria and France by conquest, treaties or succession.
 - After the defeat of Napoleon, Luxembourg was raised to grand duchy at the Congress of Vienna in 1815 and given to William I, King of the Netherlands. But it did not become part of the Netherlands: It was an independent country that belonged to the King of the Netherlands ('personal union'), but it was also part of the German confederation and housed a Prussian garrison. Its territory shrunk, as the districts east of the Our, Sûre and Moselle were ceded to Prussia.
 - In practice, William I ignored the sovereignty of Luxembourg and treated it as a conquered country. In return, Luxembourg supported the Belgian revolution against William in 1830, and Belgium proclaimed that Luxembourg was part of Belgium.
 - In 1831, the great powers (France, Britain, Russia, Austria, Prussia) reconfirmed Luxembourg as William's property and part of the German Confederation. The French-speaking part was given to Belgium (the provide Luxembourg). William accepted in 1839.

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Security and Defence – Country Overview II

- Continued:
 - Luxembourg joined a customs union with Prussia in 1842
 - In 1866 the German Confederation was dissolved, so that Luxembourg became a sovereign nation. But the Prussian garrison remained in place.
 - In 1867, the great powers agreed that Prussia had to withdraw its garrison and that the fort would be dismantled. Luxembourg would become an independent nation (but had 'perpetual neutrality' imposed by the great powers).
 - In 1914, Germany occupied Luxembourg until the end of WWI in 1918.
 - The Allied powers imposed the end of the customs union with Germany after WWI, so Luxembourg had to find a new economic partner: as France was uninterested, it agreed to an economic union with Belgium.
 - In 1940 Germany invaded Luxembourg again and the country was placed under German rule. It was liberated in September 1944.
 - It joined the UN when it was founded, the Benelux Union (1944), NATO (1949), the ECSC (1952) and the EEC and Euratom (1957). It also abandoned its neutrality.

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Security and Defence – Country Overview

- Overview
 - Geographical location
 - Luxembourg's geographic location in the middle of Europe surrounded by Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands accounts for its eventful history and frequent changes in rulers, size of territory etc.
 - It has few strong natural borders (except for the Moselle)
 - Main challenges – Especially related to the size of the country
 - Luxembourg faces similar challenges as its neighbours related to more extreme (dry, wet) climate and cyber-security.
 - There are also security concerns related to potentially unsafe French nuclear power stations close to the Luxembourgish border and the unwillingness of the French government to be influenced by its neighbours on this issue.

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Security and Defence – Country Overview

- Government and administration
 - Which administrative bodies are involved?
 - Luxembourgish army
 - Francois Bausch, who is currently both Minister of Defence and Minister of Internal Security.
 - What emergency plans are in place?
 - The army can be asked to assist other public administrations in the event of natural disasters and or if there is a strong public need.
 - There are several plans for nuclear emergencies
 - Preparedness – distribution of iodine tablets, for example,
 - Evacuation
 - Food, water and medical care
 - Emergency plan for cyper-security (PIU-Cyber)
 - Extreme weather
 - The government has an official alert service (the app GouvA!ert.lu) that includes natural disasters, nuclear catastrophes, explosions and fires, electricity black-outs and other major incidents.

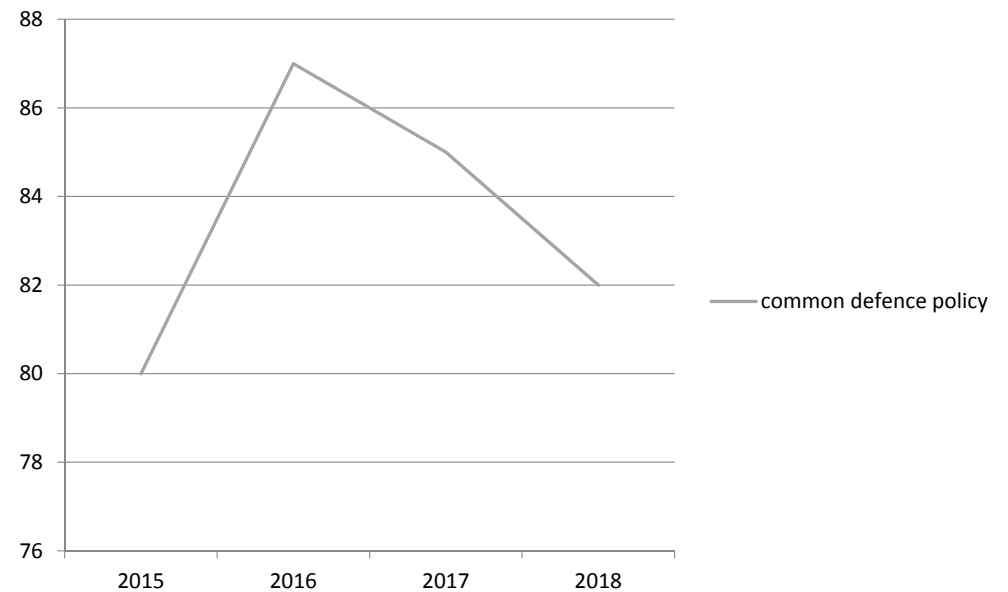
Small States National Defence

- National armed forces
 - Has an army comprising around 1100 military personnel
 - The Grand Duke is Commander-in-Chief.
 - Was turned into a professional army in 1996.
 - EU citizens can join since 2004.
 - No navy or airforce, but close cooperation with Belgium
 - It owns a transport plane that is stationed in Belgium
 - Co-owns a strategic transport ship (operated by Belgium)
 - Defence budget of roughly 260mio € (in 2016).
- Agreements with other countries/international organisations
 - Part of NATO and the Benelux military cooperation.
- Where does your country seek shelter in security and defence matters?
 - NATO

Small States National Defence

- The costs and benefits of EU defence and security cooperation: What is the national debate?
 - Some voices on the Left criticize the investments in NATO and participation in NATO missions.
 - But public support for EU defence and security cooperation is very high.
 - > Luxembourg decided soon after WW2 that it did NOT want to be neutral.
 - > Awareness of vulnerability and forced to rely on the goodwill of the 'great powers' in the past. From this perspective, real alliances are preferable.

Public support for a common European defence policy



Eurobarometer, autumn 2015 – autumn 2018.

Small States National Defence

- Schengen - Police cooperation
 - Luxembourg is a strong supporter of Schengen (and proud that the cooperation is named after a place in Luxembourg)
 - Given the high volume of cross-border traffic in the region, Luxembourg strongly supports open borders, but also police cooperation to combat crime

Small States Role in Peacekeeping

- **Participation in EU missions – usually with a small number of staff**

- EUFOR ALTHEA
- ECMM
- EUFOR CONCORDIA
- EUFOR RD CONGO
- EUFOR (MINURCAT) TCHAD/RCA
- EUNAVFOR ATLANTA
- EUSEC RD CONGO
- EUTM MALI
- EUTM SOMALIA
- EUFOR RCA

- **Contribution to Eurocorps**

- Since 1996, Luxembourg is a member of Eurocorps. It's staff are under the operational command of a Belgian contingent.
- It is represented in the general-staff by an officer and a non-commissioned officer.
- Eurocorps in Afghanistan: As part of a NATO Mission, Eurocorps contributed to peace-keeping in Afghanistan with 150 military staff, including a Luxembourger in 2012/2013.

Small States Role in Peacekeeping

- Participation in UN missions
 - **Example: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)**
 - In 1978, the UN Security Council established UNIFIL to control the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Southern Lebanon and to ensure peace.
 - After the crisis of July/August 2006, the Security Council decided that the force should support the Lebanese army in the South, ensure a humanitarian access to the civilian population and facilitate the safe return of refugees.
 - Luxembourg participates in the BELUFIL contingent (BELGIAN-LUXEMBOURG FORCES IN LEBANON) (2006-2014) with soldiers and officers.
 - It also sent a doctor and a nurse to the medical corps.

Small States Role in Peacekeeping

- Military cooperation with NATO
 - Luxembourg participated in IFOR, SFOR, KFOR and ISAF.
 - Example: KFOR
 - 2000-2006: a reconnaissance platoon as part of the Belgium-Luxembourg Kosovo Battalion.
 - After 2006, the reconnaissance platoon operated under French command.
 - Since 2011 directly subordinated to the headquarters of KFOR.
 - Apart from this, Luxembourg also sent a team for civil-military cooperation (1999-2003).
- Other international engagements:
 - Luxembourg is a member of the International Criminal Court

Conclusion: Main future security challenges

- Looking forward, what are the main future challenges for your country in security and defence matters?
 - The main challenges faced by Luxembourg are related to cyber-security and its impact on the economy and government, as well as the impact of climate change.