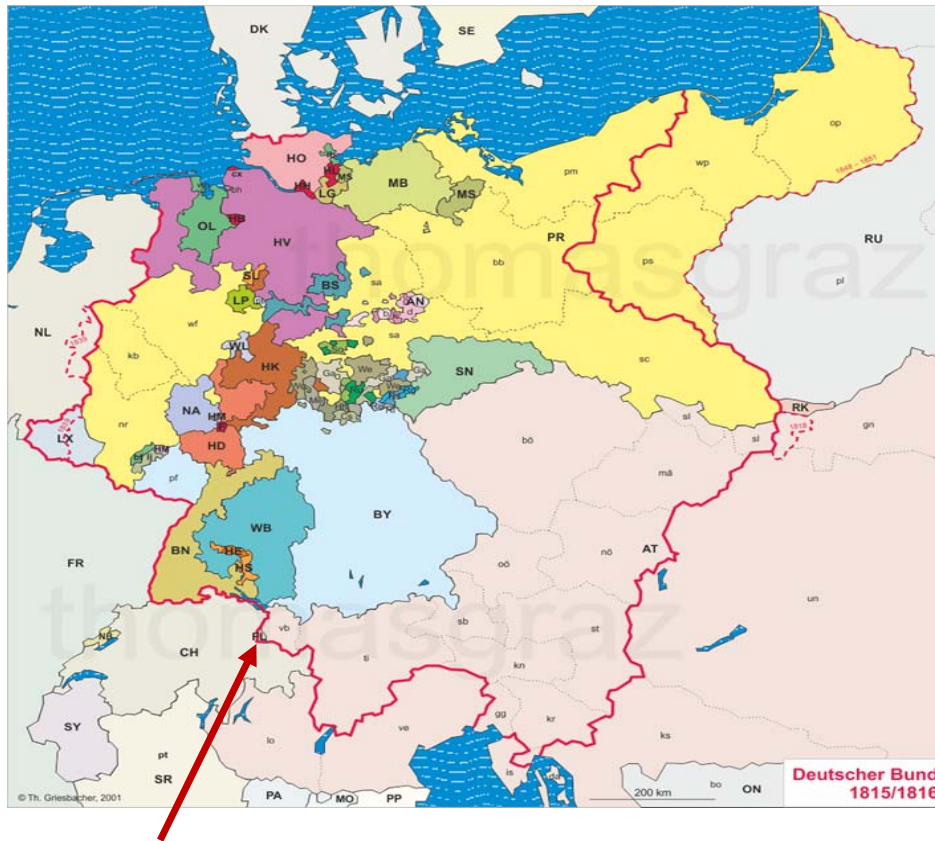


# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy

Liechtenstein

Georges Baur

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy - Historical Background [1]



- History:

- County of Vaduz & bailiwick of Schellenberg as territories represented in imperial diet
- 1719 Principality
- 1806 (modern) sovereignty and Confederation of the Rhine
- 1815 German Confederation
- 1852 customs union Austria
- 1923 customs union Switzerland
- 1995 EEA

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy - Historical Background [2]



- Issues of scale:
  - Cooperation with neighbours & strategic partners
  - «devolving» sovereignty to some degree
  - Outsourcing certain tasks of the state
  - Focusing on priorities

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy – Priorities / focus of Foreign Policy [1]

- Main priorities
  - Sovereignty and independence
  - Economic prosperity
  - Reputation
  - Safeguarding the rule of law
- Main topics
  - Bilateral relations with neighbouring and priority countries
  - Regional policy
  - European integration (EEA, relations with EU)
  - Foreign economic policy (trade, financial services)
  - Special relations with Switzerland and Austria
  - International organisations (CoE, OSCE, UN)

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy – Priorities / focus of Foreign Policy [2]

- Mechanisms & features
  - Short ways, quick & easy communication
  - High degree of the experts' autonomy
  - Continuity & «institutional memory»: little or no rotation in diplomatic posts
  - Delegation & outsourcing of administrative tasks
  - Focusing on few interests & priorities
  - Close cooperation with partner countries & -institutions
  - International law-friendly legal tradition (monistic system)

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy – Institutions/Agencies [1]

- Main institutions of the state dealing with foreign policy

- Prince
- Government (Prime Minister's Office; Ministry for Foreign Affairs)
- Parliament (Committee on foreign relations, EEA Committee)
- Office for Foreign Affairs, EEA Coordination Unit, Embassies & Missions (8 representations)
- Staff 40 (27 diplomatic)
- Budget (overall, i.e. including intl. humanitarian cooperation) 43 M CHF

- Liechtenstein foreign representations

- Berne: Switzerland
- Berlin: Germany
- Brussels: EU, Belgium
- Geneva: EFTA, UN, WTO
- New York: UN
- Strasbourg: CoE
- Vienna: Austria, Czech Republic, OSCE, UN
- Washington: USA

- Further

- Holy See (non resident)

- Other Countries

- Representation by Switzerland (Agreement of 1919)
- In certain cases representation by Austria depending on Agreement between Austria and Switzerland
- Particular rules for Schengen visas

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy – Institutions/Agencies [2]

- No NGOs exclusively dealing with foreign policy issues
  - However, foreign policy aspects included in some NGO's work (migration & asylum policy)
  - Interest groups (industry, banks, trade unions, sports associations) are linked internationally (e.g. European associations, EEA Committees)
- Consulate services
    - Essentially taken care of by Switzerland, except for countries where Liechtenstein has own embassy or mission
    - Honorary consulates in Germany, Hon-Kong, Singapore and the USA

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy - Bilateral Relations

- Bilateral Relations:
  - Focus on Switzerland and Austria as well as Germany given by common history and culture (language)
  - Iceland & Norway: EEA
  - Special case Czech Republic: history of the Princely House
  - Small states: common interests & challenges
  - Alpine region: common interests & challenges
- Overall criteria:
  - «Feasibility» in terms of manpower & finances



# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy - Multilateral Relations [1]

- Historical development of Liechtenstein's multilateral relations (in its own right)
  - 1920 League of Nations: membership bid **rejected**
  - 1950 International Court of Justice (ICJ)
  - 1975 Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), now OSCE
  - 1978 Council of Europe
  - 1990 United Nations (UN); joined as smallest state, before Switzerland
  - 1991 European Free Trade Association (EFTA); member in its own right, previously represented by Switzerland since 1960
  - 1995 European Economic Area (EEA)
  - 1995 World Trade Organisation (WTO)
  - 2011 Schengen/Dublin

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy - Multilateral Relations [2]

- Current main focus:
  - CoE (sovereignty, rule of law, cooperation in Europe, human rights)
  - EEA (sovereignty, rule of law, economic prosperity, European integration)
  - OSCE (security & peace in Europe, international solidarity)
  - UN (sovereignty, international solidarity, human rights)
  - Regional cooperation (Interreg programmes, Conference of the lake of Constance countries and regional authorities)
- Criteria for choosing allies and alliances
  - «likemindedness» (e.g. OSCE: Canada, the EU, Iceland, Norway & Switzerland)
  - Lack of power, small size, neutrality (e.g. UN: Costa Rica)
  - Interests (e.g. financial services: Andorra or Luxembourg, depending on issue & circumstances)

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy – Diplomatic Types [1]

- Public diplomacy (state):
  - Office for Foreign Affairs
  - EEA Coordination Unit [stepping in for otherwise inexistent European policy]
  - Embassies & missions
- Use of [publications and reports](#) to promote foreign policy
  - Different kinds [incoherent] depending on use
    - For domestic or foreign consumption
    - Strategic or PR purposes
  - Hence:
    - German or English
    - Longer or shorter texts

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy – Diplomatic Types [2]

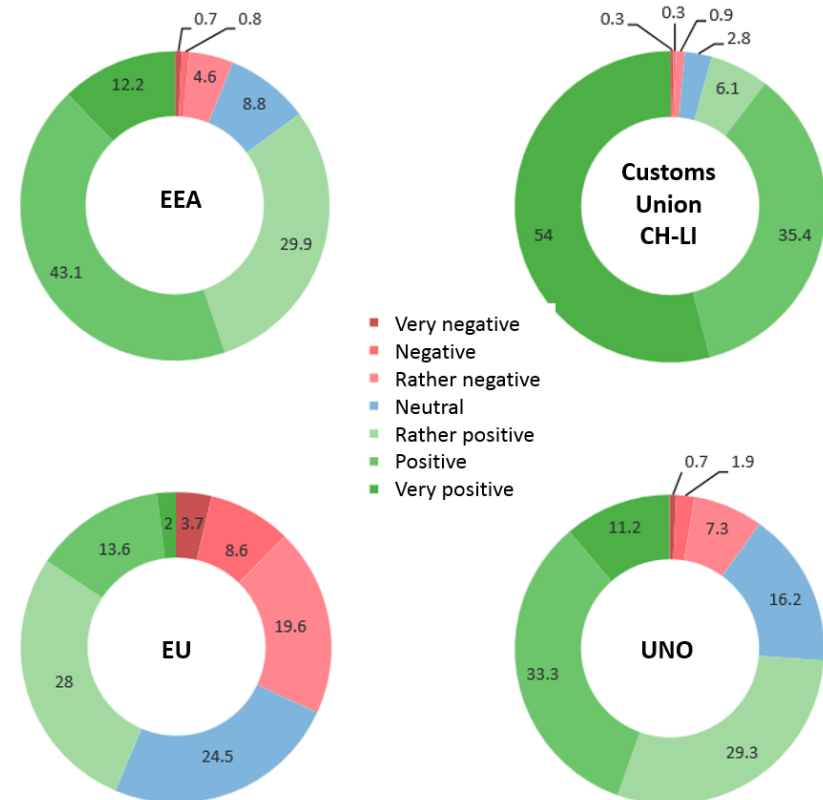
- Economic diplomacy:
  - State: mainly EEA, EFTA, WTO, but also bilaterally
  - Industrial organisations, such as
    - Liechtenstein Chamber of Industry and Trade ([LIHK](#)): represented in [EEA Consultative Committee](#), member of [BusinessEurope](#)
    - Liechtenstein Bankers Association: member of European Banking Federation ([EBF](#))
- Cultural diplomacy:
  - Cultural players: theatre, literature, music, academia
  - Often supported by state
- Sports:
  - Olympic Games
  - World- and European Championships
  - Small States Games
  - Special Olympics etc.

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy –Diplomatic Types [3]

- How does the country's size feature in these?
  - Engagement selective
  - However, strong individual engagement in cultural & sports events by society & individuals
  - State's help often needed (diplomatic & financial support)

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy - Societal Beliefs

- Public opinion's influence may be of relevance if seen as
  - of little interest to the country (Hague Conference on Private International Law)
  - too intrusive (Global Compact for Migration) or
  - too expensive financially or with regard to manpower (Horizon 2020)
- How do issues relating to scale affect foreign policy?
  - Restraint in engaging (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
  - Preference for «outsourcing» problem/issue, if possible



# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy -Challenges

- Getting to legally binding terms of international environment rather than leaving it to political instability
  - Complying with EU internal market rules rather than dependency from equivalence decisions
  - Engagement in establishment and support of International Criminal Court
- Soft law as problem
  - Seen as «power politics hidden under a veil of law»
  - International finance and tax system: OECD/FATF and other «black lists»
- If possible: participation in, preference & support of international courts
  - These guarantee for more «level playing field» treatment
  - EFTA Court, ECHR etc.

# Small States International Relations and Diplomacy – Useful Links

- [Liechtenstein Institute](#) : research, comments, publications on Liechtenstein history, international relations, economics and law
- [Historical encyclopedia](#) : Online encyclopedia on Liechtenstein's history
- [Office for Foreign Affairs](#) : Priorities, Foreign Relations, Representations, Publications etc.
- [Parliament](#) : Agenda, Committees, Reports etc.
- [Government](#) : Ministeries, Media etc.
- [Constitution](#) : Online Commentary on Liechtenstein's constitution (ed.: Liechtenstein Institute)
- [Law in force in Liechtenstein](#): National law and international treaties
- [EFTA and EEA](#) : Information on EFTA, free trade agreements and the EEA
- [EFTA-Studies](#): Information and debate on the EFTA countries incl. EEA, Brexit etc. (ed.: Liechtenstein Institute)