

LANDTAG
DES FÜRSTENTUMS
LIECHTENSTEIN

”

The future is open.
And depends on us –
on all of us.

Karl Popper

Philosopher of science and social philosophy





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Parliament as the representative of the people with its sovereign rights



In accordance with the Constitution, Parliament represents the interests of the people. The people's representative body or legislature is elected by the people every four years. This time frame is also known as the legislative term. The Constitution describes the tasks, rights and duties of Parliament in its capacity as

one of the three authorities of state. Since 2008, Parliament has met in the purpose-built Parliament Building on Peter-Kaiser-Platz in Vaduz. The iconic building with its special and distinctive architecture is recognised well beyond the country's borders. With popular elections held at regular intervals, the



composition of Parliament changes practically every legislative term.

The newly prepared Parliament Brochure provides information in particular about the new composition of Parliament for the 2021 – 2025 legislative period, its commissions and delegations as well

as the most important working tools of the Rules of Procedure. The members of Parliament are portrayed in the brochure with personal data as well as information related to their function as MPs. Furthermore, the brochure also features a brief historical outline of the origins and development of Parliament, the former

meeting sites and other fascinating insights into the parliamentary activities. We are therefore delighted to be able to present an updated edition of the Parliament brochure to you.

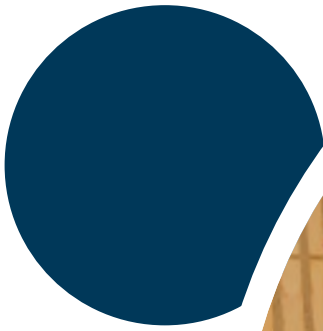
Josef Hilti,
Secretary of Parliament

Parliamentary activities and international encounters



Is the Constitution of the Principality of Liechtenstein still fit for purpose? 100 years after the 1921 Constitution came into force, this question may be asked and can clearly be answered very much in the affirmative. The well-coordinated interaction of the two sovereign powers, the Prince and the people, in conjunction with bilateral and multilateral agreements, has changed our country

in far-reaching ways. What was once a poverty-stricken little neighbour, inhabited mainly by families of subsistence farmers, has been transformed into a modern state with a successful national economy to which more than 20,000 people commute daily from neighbouring countries to work. Having the same number of jobs as inhabitants is probably a very special



unique selling point. Liechtenstein still places great emphasis on individual initiative and responsibility, with the state focusing on ensuring favourable operating conditions. Particular attention is paid to a diverse education system and a beneficial fiscal environment.

The work of the 2021 – 2025 legislative period commenced on 25 March 2021 with the swearing-in of the elected members of Parliament and the Government. For the first time in Liechtenstein's history, the two major parties, the Progressive Citizens' Party (Fortschrittliche Bürgerpartei – «FBP») and the Patriotic Union (Vaterländische Union – «VU»), entered Parliament in equal strength with 10 members each, leading to

the formation of a grand coalition. In the coalition negotiations, which were not exactly straightforward under these circumstances, it was agreed that the Government would be VU-led while Parliament would be under FBP leadership. The 25-member parliament also comprises three MPs from the Free List (Freie Liste – «FL») and two MPs from the Democrats pro Liechtenstein (Demokraten pro Liechtenstein – «DpL»), both opposition parties. The growing number of women in Parliament is a very welcome development. With seven female MPs and four female deputies, a double-digit number of women were sworn in for the

first time. However, it will take a considerable effort to achieve greater gender equality in Parliament.

It is a great honour for me to assume once again the position of President of the new Parliament and to be able to perform the tasks of heading Parliament and representing this institution externally. At the same time, it is also my duty to honour and do justice to the wide support of the electorate and to ensure that Parliament comprehensively fulfils the tasks assigned to it.


Albert Frick,
President of Parliament

Parliamentary office in the militia political system presents great challenges

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Liechtenstein Parliament



In the year 2021 we celebrated the 100th anniversary of our Constitution. Although Parliament has a history stretching back to 1862, its rights were only really extended with the efforts of the group headed by Wilhelm Beck in the 1910s. Parliament was first elected entirely by the people in 1921. In the aftermath of the

First World War, a historic consensus was developed together with the Princely House, guaranteeing us MPs, but above all the population, a substantial say in matters of state.

Peaceful coexistence of the two sovereign estates, the Prince and the people, which was reflected in the 1921 Constitution, has



enabled us – once «the poor man of Europe» – to enjoy a period of flourishing economic prosperity. As legislators, I consider it our task in Parliament to ensure that this prosperity is sustained and safeguarded. Particularly in a fast-moving environment, our participatory contribution in the face of ever-increasing international regulatory pressures enables us to reconcile the interests of business and politics. In addition, it means we can mitigate high implementation costs, excessive bureaucracy and competitive

disadvantages. Thanks to our close proximity to the population, representatives can be contacted with ease to discuss political concerns. This role as a mouthpiece for the population is a central one.

The move to our own building was certainly a milestone for the manner in which Parliament viewed itself. After all, MPs had been «guests» in Government House for almost 100 years before that. The spatial separation also made the separation of powers in our carefully-balanced state structure

more clearly apparent. It is now our responsibility to make sound decisions in the interest of the welfare of the people, to promote the reputation of Parliament and actively and judiciously to fulfil our role as representatives of the people in our political militia system, with all the existing advantages and disadvantages. Not least, in order to preserve social peace in Liechtenstein now and in the future.

Gunilla Marxer-Kranz
 Gunilla Marxer-Kranz,
 Vice President of Parliament



The state structure of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Structure of the state

«The Principality of Liechtenstein is a constitutional hereditary monarchy based on democratic and parliamentary principles; the power of the state is vested in the Prince and the people ...», states Article 2 of the Liechtenstein Constitution. The structure of the state is characterised by the dualism of the Prince and the people, they stand side by side on an equal footing.

The people and popular rights

According to the Constitution, the people are able to exercise their rights directly through elections and referendums. Other direct democratic rights include the right to initiate legislation and to hold a referendum at both the legislative and constitutional levels. Voter participation in elections and referendums is mandatory. The Ruling Prince, the Parliament and the electorate have the right to initiate legislation.

Parliament

In the dual structure of the Principality of Liechtenstein, Parliament exercises the important function of representing all citizens. The Liechtenstein Parliament is elected directly by the people using the proportional representation system. The Oberland electoral district provides 15 Members of Parliament, while the Unterland electoral district provides 10 Members of Parliament. Parliament is convened and dissolved by the Prince. The Prince also has the right to dissolve Parliament for substantive reasons.

The principal task of Parliament is to pass legislation. To come into force, a law must be approved by Parliament, sanctioned by the Prince, countersigned by the Prime Minister and published in the Liechtenstein Legal Gazette. Each law passed by Parliament that it has not declared to be urgent, as well as every international treaty approved by Parliament,

is subject to an optional referendum. The right to propose Government appointments, which must be done in consultation with the Prince and the Parliament, also falls within the competence of the Parliament. In addition to participation in legislation, financial sovereignty and control of the state administration, including the administration of justice, are also of particular importance. In addition, there is a variety of electoral business to attend to.

Government

The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein is based on the principle of collegiality. It consists of the Prime Minister and four further ministers. They are appointed by the Prince following nomination by Parliament. All important matters are subject to the deliberation and decision-making of the collegial Government. Within the Government, work is handled by the various ministries. The Prime Minister chairs



In accordance with the Constitution, Parliament represents the interests of the people in our political system. State power is vested in the people as well as in the Prince. Our task is to create balances of interests that serve to promote the overall «welfare of the people». The Patriotic Union, which sees itself as a popular party of the centre, is strongly committed to this goal. The focus of national policy should not be on what divides, but on what unites.

A lively democracy thrives on the competition of arguments. For this reason it is important that all democratic forces are involved in political discourse and policy-making. This also offers the best guarantee for the broad acceptance of difficult political decisions amongst the population at large.

In comparison to the previous Parliament, there has been a welcome increase in the number of female members. This has now risen to seven, representing the highest proportion of women in Parliament's more than one hundred-year history.

I am looking forward to the constructive cooperation of all parties represented in Parliament and their supporters, dedicated to the collective cause.

Manfred Kaufmann,
VU Parliamentary Group Spokesperson

the meetings, signs the decrees and passed orders, executes these and attends to the business of the Government. The Prime Minister has only one vote, as do the other members of the Government. The powers of the Prime Minister, however, are increased vis-à-vis ministers by the authority to assess the lawfulness of the collegial decisions entrusted to him, by the right to hold

an audience with the Prince and by the requirement to sign the laws that have been approved by the Prince. Of particular importance with regard to cooperation with the Prince is the right of the Prime Minister to countersign, pursuant to Article 86 of the Constitution.

Administration of justice
Jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters is exercised

on behalf of the Prince in the first instance by the Princely Court of Justice, in the second instance by the Court of Appeal and in the third and last instance by the Supreme Court. Administrative jurisdiction is exercised by the Administrative Court, and in certain cases by the Constitutional Court.





In order for us to remain independent as a small state in the future, we need to pursue sustainable politics. Our quality of life can only be maintained at this very high level if we develop solutions together, e.g. to respond to demographic change and associated challenges, such as care in old age. Solutions need to be found to enable people to strike a better reconciliation of work and family life. We cannot afford to place highly educated women in the difficult situation where they have to choose between a career or children. Here we need greater flexibility, enabling each family to find and use its own model.

We will succeed in this if we think and act across party lines and legislative periods, so that we can continue to be proud of our «little country» in the future.

Daniel Oehry,

FBP Parliamentary Group Spokesperson

Parliament: Tasks and position

Basic principles

The Constitution states that the Principality of Liechtenstein is a «constitutional hereditary monarchy based on democratic and parliamentary principles.» Parliament represents and is the «voice» of the people, and as such is called upon to safeguard their rights and interests.

Legislation

The most important task of Parliament is to participate in the legislative process. Without Parliament, no law can be enacted or amended. Parliament has the right to initiate constitutional and legislative proposals alongside the Prince and the people. In practice, most bills are drafted by the Government or by its experts. Parliament may refer bills back to the Government or form its own commissions to revise them. Each draft bill is first debated upon its

introduction, followed as a rule by two readings and a final vote. In the debate on whether or not to approve a bill, it is decided whether the Parliament wishes to approve the bill at all. Suggestions may be made during the first reading, which are then reviewed by the Government by time of the second reading. During the second reading, each individual article is voted on. If Members of Parliament submit motions for amendments, then a vote must first be held on these. The article-by-article vote determines the definitive wording of the article. Following the second reading, a final vote is held to adopt the bill as a whole.

State treaties

State treaties that exercise sovereign rights, which assume a new burden or interfere with the rights of Liechtenstein citizens, must be submitted before Parliament.

The institution of Parliament

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Liechtenstein Parliament

Plenary session

The Liechtenstein Parliament comprises 25 members. It exercises its powers in full sessions of Parliament. The detailed discussion of laws also usually takes place in a plenary session. For this reason, Parliament is called a «working parliament». In comparison to other parliaments, few tasks are delegated to commissions. To the extent that commissions are formed, their task is largely limited to preparing certain business for full sessions of

Parliament and formulating corresponding motions.

Members of Parliament

All Members of Parliament are part-time parliamentarians. They exercise their office alongside their professional occupation. They are compensated for their work with an annual lump sum and a daily allowance. Members of Parliament cannot be legally prosecuted for the statements they make in Parliament. This means they enjoy immunity, as they can only be arrested



during the session with the consent of Parliament (except in cases when they are caught in the act).

President of Parliament

The President of Parliament and the Vice President of Parliament are each elected for the current year at the opening session. The President of Parliament convenes the meetings during the year; he or she chairs the sessions and represents Parliament externally. The Vice President of Parliament

represents the President in the latter's absence.

Standing commissions

Likewise in the opening session, Parliament elects three standing commissions for the current year: the Foreign Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission and the Audit Commission. Only the Finance Commission has decision-making powers, enabling it to decide on certain financial transactions. The standing commissions consist of five to six Members of Parliament.

Non-standing commissions

According to the Rules of Procedure, Parliament may also appoint non-standing commissions. These are constituted either as special commissions or investigative commissions. These may comprise three to six Members of Parliament. Their remit ends with the completion of the assignment, although at the latest with the expiry of the term of office. The task of the special commissions is to prepare individual laws



In a thriving democracy, Parliament is not composed exclusively of coalition parties, because this is the only way to ensure representation of the population as a whole. A strong opposition is needed to represent the people as well as to form public opinion. Another important role exercised by opposition parties is to question critically the activities and omissions of the Government. The Free List acts as the social, ecological and democratic conscience of Parliament. The Free List parliamentary group represents, highlights and asserts these fundamental values in Parliament and before Government. In the current legislative period, we are determined to advance social issues consistently and to demand a sustainable approach to our environment at the political level. Amongst other things, we demand climate neutrality, equal rights for all, biodiversity, fair wages and fair property taxation. The crucial determinants here are the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). If these are achieved, the aforementioned goals can also be achieved. Liechtenstein has already committed to the SDGs, and this must not remain merely lip service.

Patrick Risch,
FL Parliamentary Group Spokesperson

or other business and to submit proposals before full sessions of Parliament. The EEA Commission reviews EEA legislation to determine whether it requires the consent of Parliament. Commissions of enquiry have strong minority rights: Only seven Members of Parliament are required to force Parliament to appoint a commission of enquiry.

Parliamentary delegations

At the start of a term of office, Parliament elects the delegations to the international parliamentary bodies in which it participates. These comprise two delegates and two deputies each for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, for the EFTA/EEA Parliamentary Committee, for the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, for the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) as well as four delegates for the Lake Constance Parliamentary Commission. These delegations are elected for the entire term of office, that is to say for four years. Parliament also has the option of appointing special delegations to promote relations with other parliaments.

Presidium of Parliament

The Presidium of Parliament consists of the President of Parliament, the Vice President of Parliament and the spokespersons for the parliamentary groups. The Secretary of Parliament is a member in an advisory capacity. The Presidium

of Parliament advises the President of Parliament, especially when drawing up the agenda for the sessions of Parliament. It prepares the parliamentary budget and decides on the appointment of staff for the Parliamentary Service.

Vote counters

At the opening session of each year, Parliament traditionally elects two vote counters.

Parliamentary groups

At least three Members of Parliament are required to form a parliamentary group. Otherwise these are known as electoral groups. Parliamentary groups form the link between the parties and the Members of Parliament. Before any business is discussed in Parliament, the Members of Parliament meet for internal party meetings of the respective parliamentary groups. This is an important part of the decision-making process. There is no obligation for Members of Parliament to support the consensus views of their parliamentary groups, but there is a degree of group discipline. The opinion of the parliamentary group is announced in Parliament by the parliamentary group spokesperson. The parliamentary groups or electoral groups may be provided with a meeting room commensurate with their size.

National Select Committee

The National Select Committee safeguards the

rights of Parliament as a whole when Parliament is not in session and is therefore unable to exercise its functions (that is to say, between closure at the end of one year and the reopening at the start of the next year) or in the event of the adjournment or dissolution of Parliament. The National Select Committee consists of the President of Parliament and four other Members of Parliament, with equal representation of the two regions. The National Select Committee cannot enter into any lasting commitment on behalf of the nation.

Rules of Procedure

The tasks and working procedures of Parliament are regulated by the Constitution, the Business Transactions and Administrative Control Act («Geschäftsverkehrs- und Verwaltungskontrollgesetz») and the Rules of Procedure.

Members of Parliament

Parliamentary period 2021 – 2025

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Liechtenstein Parliament



Gunilla Marxer-Kranz

28 May 1972
Lawyer
Place of residence: Nendeln
Member of Parliament
since 2017

Vice President of Parliament



Manfred Kaufmann

9 October 1978
Certified public accountant
Place of residence: Balzers
Member of Parliament
since 2013
Parliamentary Group
Spokesperson



Dagmar Bühler-Nigsch

3 September 1969
Commercial employee /
Manager
Place of residence:
Triesenberg
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Peter Frick

29 November 1965
Qualified social
education worker
Place of residence: Mauren
Member of Parliament
since 2017



Walter Frick

4 July 1956
Social education worker /
departmental director
Special needs educational
centre (retired)
Place of residence: Schaan
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Norma Heidegger

17 September 1961
Certified business
economist / MKS
Place of residence: Triesen
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Dietmar Lampert

13 October 1966
Dipl. Ing. FH /
Project manager
Place of residence:
Schellenberg
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Thomas Vogt

24 February 1976
Attorney-at-Law
Place of residence: Triesen
Member of Parliament
since 2009



Günter Vogt

17 August 1961
Dipl. Ing. FH
Place of residence: Balzers
Member of Parliament
since 2017



Mario Wohlwend

12 January 1973
Vocational instructor /
Industrial Engineer MAS
Place of residence: Ruggell
Member of Parliament
since 2017

Deputy Members of Parliament



Markus Gstöhl

7 July 1978
Food inspector
Place of residence: Triesen
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Philip Schädler

31 December 1961
Director of studies
Place of residence: Vaduz
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Hubert Büchel

24 October 1973
Self-employed
Place of residence: Ruggell
Member of Parliament
since 2021

Members of Parliament

Parliamentary period 2021 – 2025

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Liechtenstein Parliament



Albert Frick

21 October 1948
Place of residence: Schaan
Member of Parliament
since 2009

President of Parliament



Daniel Oehry

20 February 1971
Dipl. Ing. FH / Project manager
Place of residence: Eschen
Member of Parliament
since 2017
Parliamentary Group
Spokesperson



Franziska Hoop

31 May 1990
Social education worker
Place of residence: Ruggell
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Johannes Kaiser

Communications and
media professional
Place of residence:
Schellenberg
Member of Parliament
since 2001



Wendelin Lampert

21 April 1970
Head of Public Procurement
Place of residence:
Triesenberg
Member of Parliament
since 2001



Bettina Petzold-Mähr

1982
Commercial employee
with BMS
Place of residence: Planken
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Sascha Quaderer

22 November 1974
Businessman
Place of residence: Planken
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Sebastian Schädler

1987
Development engineer
Place of residence:
Triesenberg
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Daniel Seger

24 April 1977
Attorney-at-Law
Place of residence: Schaan
Member of Parliament
since 2017



Karin Zech-Hoop

1973
Economist
Place of residence: Eschen
Member of Parliament
since 2021

Deputy Members of Parliament



Thomas Hasler

29 May 1980
Managing Director
Place of residence:
Gamprin-Bendern
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Elke Kindle

1971
Qualified nurse /
TA consultant
Place of residence: Triesen
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Nadine Vogelsang

1977
Business economist FH
Place of residence: Schaan
Member of Parliament
since 2021

Members of Parliament

Parliamentary period 2021 – 2025

DpL
Demokraten
pro Liechtenstein



Thomas Rehak

21 January 1971
Dipl.-Ing. Telecommu-
nications Engineer
Place of residence: Triesen
Member of Parliament
since 2013

Deputy Members of Parliament



Herbert Elkuch

Mechanical engineer /
manager
Place of residence:
Schellenberg
Member of Parliament
since 2013



Erich Hasler

28 December 1956
Patent lawyer
Place of residence: Eschen
Member of Parliament
since 2013



Pascal Ospelt

Certified paramedic HF
Place of residence: Triesen
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Patrick Risch

27 September 1968
IT professional
Place of residence:
Schellenberg
Member of Parliament
since 2013
Parliamentary Group
Spokesperson



**Manuela Haldner-
Schierscher**

26 June 1971
Qualified social worker HFS
Place of residence: Schaan
Member of Parliament
since 2021



Georg Kaufmann

22 November 1955
Self-employed careers
advisor
Place of residence: Schaan
Member of Parliament
since 2017



Sandra Fausch

8 September 1989
Environmental engineer FH
Place of residence: Eschen
Member of Parliament
since 2021

Independent



Nadine Gstöhl

Primary school teacher
Place of residence: Vaduz
Member of Parliament
since 2021

Liechtenstein Parliament



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Liechtenstein Parliament



2021 – 2025: from left Norma Heidegger, Daniel Oehry, Franziska Hoop, Walter Frick, Johannes Kaiser, Karin Zech-Hoop, Georg Kaufmann, Dagmar Bühler-Nigsch, President of Parliament Albert Frick, Mario Wohlwend, Thomas Rehak, Herbert Elkuch, Sascha Quaderer, Thomas Vogt, Vice President of Parliament Gunilla Marxer-Kranz, Dietmar Lampert, Sebastian Schädler, Günter Vogt, Manfred Kaufmann, Manuela Haldner-Schierscher, Wendelin Lampert, Bettina Petzold-Mähr, Peter Frick, Daniel Seger and Patrick Risch.



A newly formed party, the «Democrats pro Liechtenstein» succeeded in entering Parliament at the first attempt. Although a very small group in Parliament, we shall engage in the normal manner in opposition work, operating as an active counterweight to the Government. In doing so, we want to assess and monitor the activities of the coalition parties and the Government conscientiously and critically. As part of the opposition, we bring ideas from the people into Parliament. In addition, we will not shy away from critically questioning political decision-making and, if necessary, demanding consequences. The policies pursued by the Democrats pro Liechtenstein are shaped by their guiding principles: «Promoting the welfare of the fatherland without secondary considerations to the best of our knowledge and ability» and «The Members of Parliament shall vote solely in accordance with their oath and conviction». The other guiding principles for our actions are the fundamental values laid down in the DpL Articles.

Thomas Rehak,
DpL

Sculpture «Consilium» by
the artist Heinz P. Nitzsche
on Peter-Kaiser-Platz.



Standing commissions

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Liechtenstein Parliament

Standing commissions

Likewise in the opening session, Parliament elects three standing commissions for the current year: the Foreign Affairs Commission, the Finance Commission and the Audit Commission. Only the Finance Commission has decision-making powers, enabling it to decide on certain financial transactions. All standing commissions consist of three to six Members of Parliament.

Foreign Affairs Commission (Aussenpolitische Kommission – APK)

The Foreign Affairs Commission examines and reviews state treaties that require the approval of Parliament and, in cooperation with the Government, safeguards the interests of the country in foreign affairs.

Finance Commission (Finanzkommission – FKO)

The Finance Commission audits the state's budget proposals. It also audits and assesses all proposed legislation

with financial implications passed by the Government for the attention of Parliament. The Finance Commission is also responsible for performing tasks pursuant to financial budget legislation.

Audit Commission (Geschäftsprüfungskommission – GPK)

The Audit Commission exercises control in accordance with the Constitution and the Act on the Business Transactions of Parliament with the Government (Gesetz über den Geschäftsverkehr des Landtages mit der Regierung), the control of the state administration and the Act on the Control and Supervision of Public Enterprises (Gesetz über die Steuerung und Überwachung öffentlicher Unternehmen). Its tasks include, in particular, auditing the annual accounts and the statement of accounts, auditing offices as well as special tasks in accordance with specific commissions issued by Parliament.



APK: from left: Manfred Kaufmann (Chair), Manuela Haldner-Schierscher, Philip Schädler, Bettina Petzold-Mähr and Elke Kindle.



FKO: from left: Herbert Elkuch, Wendelin Lampert (Chair), Thomas Vogt, Sascha Quaderer, Markus Gstöhl and Patrick Risch



GPK: from left: Pascal Ospelt, Patrick Risch, Georg Kaufmann (Chair), Daniel Seger and Mario Wohlwend



Non- standing commissions

Non-standing commissions

According to the Rules of Procedure, Parliament may also appoint non-standing commissions. These are constituted either as special commissions or investigative commissions. These may comprise three to six Members of Parliament. Their remit ends with the completion of the assignment, although at the latest with the expiry of the term of office. The task of the special commissions is to prepare individual laws or other business and to submit proposals before Parliament as a whole. The EEA/Schengen Commission reviews EEA legislation to determine whether

it requires the consent of Parliament. Commissions of enquiry have strong minority rights: Only seven Members of Parliament are required to force Parliament to appoint a commission of enquiry.

EEA/Schengen Commission

Parliament deploys an EEA/Schengen Commission as a special committee to review the decisions of the EEA Joint Committee and the further development of the Schengen/Dublin provisions that require approval by Parliament pursuant to Art. 8 Para. 2 of the Constitution.

EEA/Schengen Commission

- Dietmar Lampert (Chair)
- Markus Gstöhl
- Georg Kaufmann
- Bettina Petzold-Mähr
- Nadine Vogelsang

EEA/EFTA Parliamentary Commission

The main tasks of the EEA/EFTA Parliamentary Committees are to deal with EEA/EFTA issues and to issue rulings on them. Through dialogue and consultation, the Committee contributes to a better understanding between the European Union and EFTA states.

International Parliamentary Lake Constance Conference

The International Parliamentary Lake Constance Conference (Internationale Parlamentarische Bodensee-Konferenz – IPBK) is a forum with the remit and goal of discussing cross-border problems in a twice-yearly exchange of information and opinions that strives to identify common solutions and advocates their implementation through its members in the parliaments.

EEA/EFTA Parliamentary Commission

- Günter Vogt, Head of Delegation
- Daniel Seger
- Hubert Büchel
- Karin Zech-Hoop

Int. Parliamentary Lake Constance Conference

- Gunilla Marxer-Kranz, Head of Delegation
- Albert Frick
- Nadine Gstöhl
- Thomas Rehak

Representation of Parliament in the Judge Appointment Board

- Manuela Haldner-Schierscher
- Johannes Kaiser
- Thomas Rehak
- Thomas Vogt

Parliamentary delegations

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Parliamentary delegations

At the start of a term of office, Parliament elects the delegations to the international parliamentary bodies in which it participates. These comprise two delegates and two deputies each for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, for the EEA/EFTA Parliamentary Committees, for the International Parliamentary Lake Constance Conference, for the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, for the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(IPU) as well as four delegates for the Lake Constance Parliamentary Commission. These delegations are elected for the entire term of office, that is to say for four years. Parliament also has the option of appointing special delegations to promote relations with other parliaments.

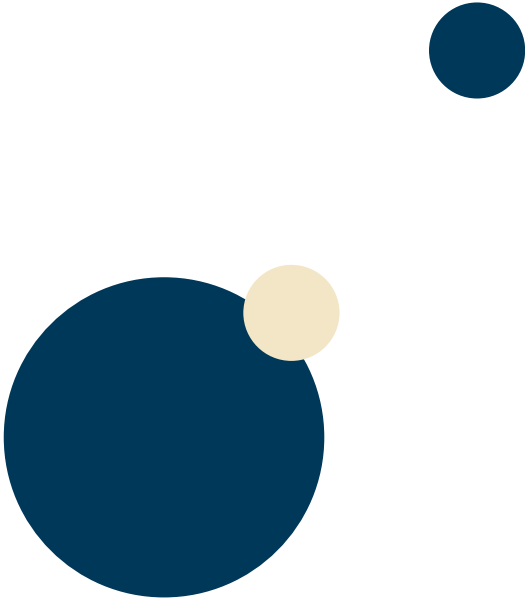
Delegation for the Interparliamentary Union

The IPU is a contact body of parliaments of all sovereign states and has its headquarters in

Geneva. It has developed from an initially small association into a global organisation of national parliaments that currently has 179 member states. It is committed in particular to achieving the peaceful settlement of conflicts, to the protection of human rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions.

Delegation for the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE

The aim of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



Interparliamentary Union

- Albert Frick (Head of Delegation)
- Dagmar Bühler-Nigsch
- Sebastian Schädler
- Mario Wohlwend

is to strengthen the parliamentary side within the OSCE and to facilitate dialogue and co-operation between parliamentarians. It plays a leading role in election monitoring and strengthens international cooperation to implement joint commitments in the fields of security and politics, economy and environment as well as democracy and human rights.

Delegation for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
The Parliamentary Assembly is the consultative body of the Council of Europe, consisting of members of the 47 national parliaments. The tasks and goals of the Council of Europe are, in particular, the defence of human rights and the rule of law in all member states, the strengthening of democratic stability in Europe and the consideration of current socio-political issues.

Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE

- Norma Heidegger (Head of Delegation)
- Sebastian Schädler
- Elke Kindle
- Günter Vogt

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

- Franziska Hoop (Head of Delegation)
- Peter Frick
- Hubert Büchel
- Thomas Hasler

The Parliamentary Service

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Liechtenstein Parliament

The Liechtenstein Parliament was set up as an official institution in the year 1818 as one of the three powers representing the state. However, the Parliamentary Secretariat, which has been operating under the name of Parliamentary Service since the reform of the Rules of Procedure, did not start operating until 1990. Since the establishment of

the Parliamentary Service, and in particular because of the general increase in the internationalisation of the activities of Parliament and the complexity of the fields that have to be covered, its workload has increased sharply. This means that a real Parliamentary Service has only existed since this date. Today, the Parliamentary Service consists of the





Parliamentary Service: from left Deputy Parliamentary Secretary Philipp Pfeiffer, Sandra Gerber-Leuenberger, Stefan Batliner, Angela Batliner, Maria Meier, Yvonne Heeb, Parliamentary Secretary Josef Hilti. Missing from the picture is: Gabriele Wachter.

Parliamentary Secretary, his Deputy, three full-time employees and three part-time employees. The Parliamentary Secretary and his deputy are appointed by Parliament. Josef Hilti holds the office of Parliamentary Secretary, his deputy is Philipp Pfeiffer. The responsibilities and remit of the Parliamentary Service are described in the Rules of Procedure for Parliament,

LGBL 2013 No. 9, Art. 16 and 17. In particular, these Rules set out the organisation, preparation, follow-up and support of the sessions of Parliament, the recording of parliamentary debates and sessions of the commissions and delegations as well as the preparation of parliamentary resolutions. The Parliamentary Service is also the official contact of Parliament for

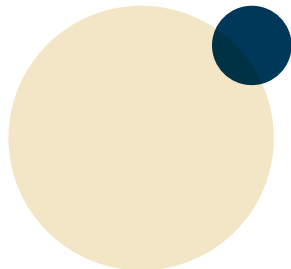
the requirements of the government or administration, the general public and other parliaments and international organisations.

Parliament brochures can be obtained free of charge from the Parliamentary Service. Further information is also available on the website www.landtag.li.



The Presidium of Parliament

The Presidium of Parliament consists of the President, the Vice President and the spokespersons for the parliamentary groups. The Parliamentary Secretary is a member of the Presidium of Parliament in an advisory capacity. In particular, the Presidium of Parliament is responsible for drawing up the agenda of the meetings of Parliament and for determining the manner in which the items on the agenda are discussed in accordance with Art. 20 of the Rules of Procedure, for setting the dates of the meetings of Parliament for at least one year, for drawing up the budget of Parliament for the attention of Parliament, for procuring information and documents and for communicating information through the Parliamentary Service for the attention of the Members of Parliament, the commissions and delegations as well as the agencies assigned to Parliament.



Albert Frick (Chair)
President of Parliament



Gunilla Marxer-Kranz
Vice President of Parliament



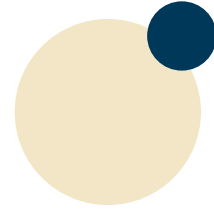
Manfred Kaufmann
VU Parliamentary Group Spokesperson



Daniel Oehry
FBP Parliamentary Group Spokesperson



Patrick Risch
FL Parliamentary Group Spokesperson



Special parliamentary session on 26 October 2021 to mark the «Centenary of the Constitution of the Principality of Liechtenstein»

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Liechtenstein Parliament







The Parliament Building

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Liechtenstein Parliament

The Parliament Building was designed by the German architect Hansjörg Göritz and opened in 2008. It has a characteristic ochre-coloured brick façade. Together with Government House and the Archive Building, they form the Government District. The unifying element in the Government District is Peter-Kaiser Square, the largest public square in Vaduz. Below Peter-Kaiser Square is an underground car park for more than 50

vehicles. In addition, the new National Command Centre is located at the same level as the car park. This facility is designed to provide the Government with the ability to operate a skeleton service in an emergency.

A round table, in the literal sense

For important events and visits a blue carpet leads from the principal entrance of the Parliament Building to the entrance foyer, which is



also called the Hall of Pillars. Passing through the entrance foyer, visitors reach the Plenary Chamber located on the first floor, where the 25 Members of Parliament together with the Government meet and are supported by the Parliamentary Service. In plenary session the Members of Parliament deliberate around what is literally a round table, which is a unique parliamentary seating arrangement in Europe. The Plenary Chamber, with its maximum height of approx. 19 metres, has a very imposing effect on the observer. The room has a state-of-the-art electronic speaker's display board with an integrated voting system, a technical booth for broadcasting the plenary sessions and a translation booth.

The ground floor of the Long House provides Parliament with two conference chambers, a library, an archive as well as a cafeteria. On the first floor, opposite the Plenary Chamber, is the Lounge, where Members of Parliament can meet for informal exchanges of ideas and for refreshments between the sessions. Adjoining the Lounge are the offices of the Parliamentary Service, where the Parliamentary Secretary, his Deputy and other members of staff can attend to their responsibilities.

Roof terrace with views of the Swiss mountains
On the second floor of the building are the parliamentary group rooms for the political parties with

seats in Parliament as well as the office of the President of Parliament. One floor above the office suite is the roof terrace with wonderful views of the Swiss Alps and of Peter-Kaiser Square below. The roof terrace, which if necessary could be converted into additional offices or conference chambers at a later date, also offers an impressive view of the approx. 26 metre high hillside wall behind the Parliament Building, which is secured with 15 metre long anchor elements.

Assembly places for the representative body of the people in Liechtenstein

46

Liechtenstein Parliament

Parliament moved to a prestigious new building at the centre of Vaduz in February 2008. Following a resolution, it was constructed in the immediate vicinity of Government House. The following section describes where the representative body of the people convened in the past, as well as how it was composed and assembled. Its duties and powers are also of interest.

Courts and assemblies at the Linde in Vaduz, at Rofenberg and in Benden
The County of Vaduz and the Dominion of Schellenberg

each formed a district or court municipality. Each appointed a court consisting of a mayor and twelve magistrates. They represented the districts in their relations with state powers and the rulers, and were responsible for the organisation of the community. They embodied the right of co-determination in the administration of the country and the judicial system. Up until the 17th century, they dispensed public law at the court locations. For the Oberland electoral district this was the Linde in Vaduz, near

the Chapel of St. Florin. For the Unterland electoral district this was in Eschen, at Rofenberg near the Holy Cross Chapel.

The place where the public court was held was also where able-bodied men met as a people's assembly to elect the mayors and magistrates. In the 18th century, the Unterland electoral venue was the Schwibboga in Benden. Until the beginning of the 19th century, public meetings were held every two years with a fixed schedule and in a festive setting.

Vaduz – centre of power and venue for popular assemblies

Together with the buildings at the foot of the steep hill on which it is built, Vaduz Castle formed a centre of power. With the function of the fortress as the seat of the ruler, Vaduz was from the 14th century onwards more than just a judicial and administrative centre, customs post and marketplace, but also a place where elections and meetings were held. In 1392 Vaduz was named as the location of a court of law. In 15th century documents the Äuli is named as the place where the court of law assembled. The Linde near St. Florian's Chapel was subsequently mentioned as the venue for the public court and for the election of chief magistrates. This was where the Oberland popular assembly met for around five hundred years, until 1808.

Loss of popular rights and popular representation

The transfer of sovereignty to the Princes of Liechtenstein was associated with a loss of extensive established popular rights. In 1720 the Oberland and Unterland bodies, chief magistrates and courts were abolished. In 1733, at the request of these two districts, they were reintroduced, although with greatly reduced powers. This reduced Magistrate Constitution, and with it the old tradition of municipal assemblies, remained in place until 1808. The residual historical rights of the people were then abolished by the princely authorities. There was no longer an Oberland district and an Unterland district, there were no district and court municipalities, and consequently no longer any form of popular representation.

Estates Parliament in the Provincial Governor's House: 1819 – 1847 and 1857 – 1862

In 1818 the Prince issued a Constitution that created the Parliament of the Estates. The Estates, consisting of the clergy and the people, were entitled to send representatives to Parliament. The clergy elected its three deputies, while the people or the subjects in general were represented by the municipal magistrates and treasurers. These were selected by the authorities from a list of three submitted by the municipal assemblies.

Between 1819 and 1847 the Parliament held an annual meeting. This was followed by a ten-year interruption. The Estates Parliament was not convened during the revolution year of 1848. In the following year it was replaced by a National



Grand Government Quarter in Vaduz 1865: (1) «Zoschg» (2) «s'Verwalters Hus (d'Kanzlei)». (3) «s'Landvogts Hus». (4) «s'Schelmahüsi». (5) «s'Baumästr Segers Hus u. Schtall» (house where Peter Balzer was born). (6) «s'Försters Hus u. Schtall» (house where the composer Josef Rheinberger was born). (7) «s'Dr. Schädlers Hus (Czakathurm)». (8) «Kircha (concealing the s'Pfarrhus)». (9) «s'Dr. Schädlers Schtall». (10) «s'Kaplona Hus». (11) «s'Fetza Schtall». (12) «Zoschg» (Old Schoolhouse). (13) «s'Rybergers» (Haus z. Linde)



Part of the Government Quarter 1868: Detail from the panoramic view from the River Rhine towards the village and castle by Moriz Menzinger 1868. The buildings from north to south: (1) School, built 1854; (2) House of Dr Grass, later the Teacher's House; (3) House of the Estates, built 1867; (4) Government House, former Customs House and tavern; adjoined to this (5) Provincial Governor's House.

Council established by a provisional Constitution. This first democratic representation of the people in Liechtenstein lasted until 1852. The Constitution of 1818 then came into force once again. It was only on 14 October 1857, however, that the Parliament of the Estates was again convened at the Provincial Governor's House. In the following years, it took part in discussions on a new constitution. It adopted this unanimously at its final meeting on 4 September 1862.

Provisional Constitution of 1849: The National Council, Liechtenstein's first democratic parliamentary assembly – 1849 – 1851

Transitional provisions issued by the Prince

on 7 March 1849 gave Liechtenstein a provisional constitution. The people, represented by assemblies of electoral delegates and the Constitutional Council, were closely involved in its drafting. It formed the legal basis for the first democratic Parliament in Liechtenstein. Elections to the National Council were held in May 1849. There were some significant changes. For the first time, the right to vote was not restricted to property-owning citizens of the municipality; all resident citizens of the state were also entitled to vote. Elections were no longer decided indirectly by electors, but instead directly, although in two stages. In the first stage, each municipality provisionally nominated a

full National Council of 24 members for itself. From the results, a national list of 45 electors was prepared, in accordance with the number of municipal votes. On 20 May 1849, the entire electorate of the Principality gathered at the historic venue at the Linde in Vaduz to form a national assembly. In a public vote, effected by a simple show of hands, voting was conducted for each of the names on the list until the number of 24 councillors and eight substitutes was reached. An impressive gathering of some 1,800 voters was assembled and grouped around their municipal mayors. At two o'clock, all the bells of St. Florian's Chapel were rung and the National Administrator, standing

«on a raised platform», opened the assembly with a brief address. The electoral procedure followed.

The National Council held its first constitutive meeting in the saloon of the Brewery in Vaduz on 23 May 1849. At the following meeting of 4 June 1849, the popular representatives chose this saloon as its regular venue for the provisional period of one year. During the first and only session of the National Council, four further meetings took place there. After the session had ended, however, it was not convened again by the Prince. In Austria and within the German Confederation, of which Liechtenstein was a member, reactionary policies began to be adopted. Principles, such as those that were to be adopted in a new Liechtenstein Constitution in the years 1848 and 1849, could no longer be implemented. On 20 July 1852, the Prince suspended the provisional constitutional articles of 1849. The estates-based Constitution of 1818 was reintroduced. The Parliament of the Estates, a popular representation without rights, was reinstated.

1862 – The year in which the present Parliament was born

From the very outset, the Estates, convened once again in 1857, used their meetings as a forum to voice their wishes for reform to the Princely authorities. These wishes included a new constitution

for the country as well as freely-elected popular representation. In 1862, the Estates achieved their aim of transitioning Liechtenstein from absolutism to constitutionalism with a Constitution freely agreed between the Prince and the people. The compromise contained in the Constitution of 26 September 1862 essentially established the current form of government by bringing the monarchy and popular sovereignty together. Parliament again became a genuine representative body of the people with the right to participate in legislation and to approve the state finances. It consisted of 15 members. The people elected twelve indirectly through electors, while three were appointed by the Prince.

Electors' meetings 1862 – 1914

The electors were elected by each municipality, with two electors for every 100 inhabitants. With a total population of 8200 in the year 1861, this meant there were 164 electors. Up until 1877 the country formed a single electoral district. The electors gathered at Vaduz Castle to elect the Members of Parliament and their substitutes. The first meeting took place on 24 November 1862. In 1878 the country was then divided into two electoral districts: In separate elector meetings, the Oberland district then elected seven Members of Parliament, while the Unterland district elected five. In the Oberland district,

meetings were held in the large dining room on the first floor at Vaduz Castle until 1894, and from 1898 to 1914 in the newly built inn «Nigg'schen Gasthof zum Schloss» (today «Schlössle») in Vaduz. The electors of the Unterland district convened in Mauren, until 1886 at the «Batliner'schen Gasthof» (now «Rössle»), between 1890 and 1914 in the schoolhouse.

Parliament in the Kirchthaler Gasthof 1862 – 1867

Following a preparatory meeting on 10 December 1862, the newly-elected Parliament met on 29 December for a ceremonial opening session in the saloon of «Kirchthaler'schen Gastwirtschaft» (later known as the «Vaduzerhof»). Parliament met there until 1867. The building was the former Vaduz Brewery built by Johann Baptist Quaderer.

Parliament in its own «House of the Estates» 1868 – 1905

The self-image and status of Parliament is evidenced by its efforts to secure a dedicated building for the popular assembly. As early as 4 August 1864, it considered a government proposal to build a House of the Estates. The Land Surveyor Peter Rheinberger prepared a construction project comprising not just debating chambers, but also official and residential quarters for the judge, along with arrest cells. The construction site, on which the stables of the tavern «Zum Adler» were formerly located (the present

National Museum) was donated by Prince Johann II in 1865. The tavern had been used since 1856 as the seat of government. The construction budget was 6,800 guilders. Parliament assembled for the first time in the new debating chamber on 18 May. The «Ständehaus» or «House of the Estates», named after the estates, marked the centre of the country. The sign «0 km» was carved on the threshold. Distances up and down the country were counted from this point.

Parliament in Government House since 1905

Around turn of the century, the state authorities and departments were in need of greater space. In 1899, Parliament petitioned the Government to take the steps necessary to construct a new administrative building for Liechtenstein. This was to house Parliament, the Government and all official departments, making it the focus of the political life and administration of the country. The present Government House was erected between 1903 and 1905 on the site of a former manor house according to plans drawn up by the Princely Architect Gustav von Neumann. The costs were covered by a contribution of 100,000 crowns from the Prince and a loan from the «Landschäftliche Sparkassa» of 260,000 crowns. The new administrative building was inaugurated at the Parliament meeting of 28 December 1905. Parliament had left its own building and

was given a new debating chamber on the second floor of the new official building. The Parliament chamber was decorated with portraits of the Prince and coats of arms in niches, with the work being executed on behalf and at the expense of the Prince.

The relocation of Parliament to Government House in 1905 marked a gradual shift in the political balance of power between Parliament and the Government that had been taking place since 1862. Without any institutional change, the power and position of the Land Administrator within Government and in relation to the popular assembly, had greatly increased towards the end of the 19th century. This unwelcome development was corrected by the Constitution of 1921: As before, Parliament consisted of 15 members. Now, though, they were all elected by the people. The authority of Parliament to control and participate in the administration of the state was strengthened. The most important change in comparison to the old Constitution was the expansion in popular rights brought about by initiative and referendum rights.

Provisional relocation of parliament to the Music School 1969 / 70 and 1989 – 1996

The Parliament Chamber in Government House was renovated in 1969 / 70. During this period, Parliament met in the lecture hall of the newly-established Music School in the

Rheinbergerhaus. There had been several unsuccessful attempts, both before and after this move, to increase the number of Members of Parliament. Women secured the right to vote in the 1984 referendum. This increased pressure to boost the number of Members of Parliament. In 1988, voters approved the enlargement of Parliament to 25 members. In December 1984, Parliament informed the Government that it intended to realise its own building in reasonable proximity to Government House. With this resolution and the subsequent planning for the development of the Government Quarter, a series of important questions concerning the layout of the centre of Vaduz were resolved and other proposals that had earlier been under discussion to locate a Parliament Building elsewhere were dropped. In 1989, due to the lack of space in Government House, the now 25-strong Parliament returned its sessions to the lecture hall of the Music School until 1996.

On the way to a new Parliament Building 1984 – 2008

The 1984 decision was followed in 1986 by an urban planning ideas competition, the central element of which was the construction of a Parliament Building. In the following year, architect Luigi Snozzi's project was rated as the best. His project to revamp the Government Quarter was finalised in 1990. The Parliament Building together



Government House in 1909

with museum, archive and cultural property protection chambers in a hillside development formed the first stage of an overall concept. In October 1992 Parliament acknowledged this development plan and approved a binding loan. A referendum was initiated by opponents of this scheme. In March 1993 a substantial majority of voters rejected the project. Following this setback, the question of a new assembly building for parliamentarians was not taken up again until 1995. Parliament decided to refurbish the parliamentary chamber in Government House, and to use it as a debating chamber room once again on a trial basis.

In the autumn of 1996 it finally decided on the design of the debating chamber, which was now agreed to be provisional. In the same year, a government report on the construction of a new Parliament Building was submitted to Members of Parliament. This was followed by discussions on the location, an urban planning report and an architectural and project competition. In 2000, the project submitted by the architect Hansjörg Göritz was chosen. The budget for the project had previously been set at CHF 36 million. The Liechtenstein Parliament moved into its new assembly building in February 2008. The Parliament Building

provides Parliament with appropriate premises for its work. Its location, dimensions and architecture express the function of Parliament, determined by the Constitution, as the legislative body of the state and reflects the political importance emanating from this. The new building comes at the end, for the time being, of a century-long transformation of the centre of Vaduz from a medieval administrative district to the Government Quarter. Its proximity to a historic popular assembly site symbolises its significance for their representatives.



History

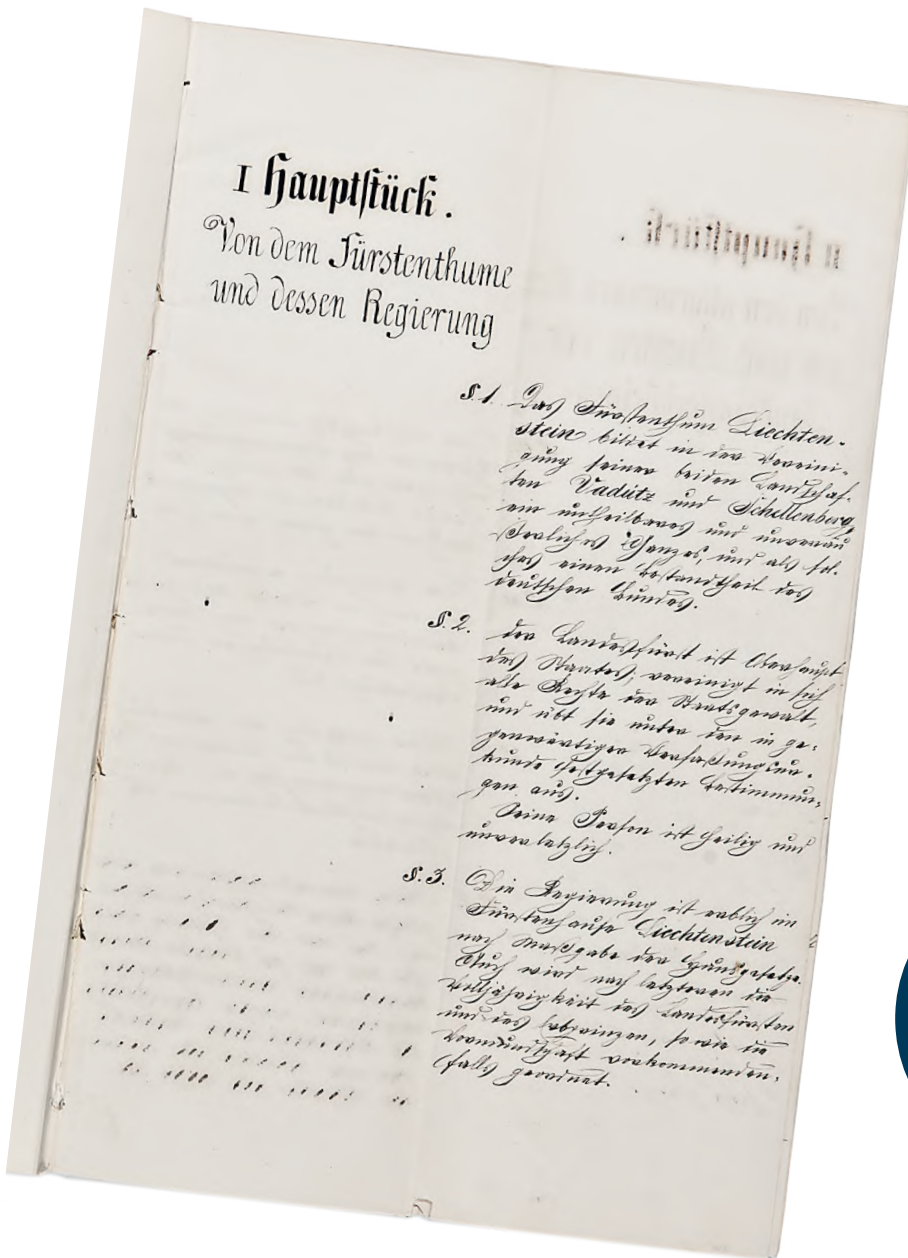
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Absolutism

The institution of Parliament was created by the absolutist Constitution of 1818. The two estates, the Church and the people, secured the right to be represented by «deputies». The Church elected three clergymen to Parliament. The people were represented by the eleven municipal heads and the municipal treasurers. The Parliament of the Estates was convened by the Prince for a single meeting each year. It possessed no rights whatsoever; its sole function was to assent «with gratitude» to the annual demand for taxes.

The Constitution of 1862

The history of Liechtenstein's parliamentarianism begins with the Constitution of 1862. Parliament became a genuinely representative body of the people, and was largely constituted through free elections. The number of Members of Parliament was reduced to 15. Three Members of Parliament were appointed by the Prince, while twelve were elected indirectly by the people. At the time, only men had the right to vote. In each municipality, two electors were elected for every 100 inhabitants. These electors then elected the Members of



Original of the Constitution of 1862.
© Kubelka, Peter,
Vienna / LI LA

Parliament at an electoral meeting. Parliament hence had the right to participate in the most important, although not all, functions of the state: the right to participate in the legislative process, the right to approve important international treaties, the right to approve taxes (financial sovereignty), the right to oversee the state administration as well as the right to participate in military recruitment. Parliament had no influence over the formation of government or the appointment of judges.

Electoral districts
The two historical districts were abolished during the absolutist period. Although the population continued to oppose their abolition, the Constitution of 1862 did not restore the districts. During the so-called «coinage turmoil» of 1877, when the inhabitants of the Unterland region vigorously opposed the introduction of the gold standard, the conflict flared up again. In 1878 the country was divided into two electoral districts: Seven Members of Parliament were then elected from the

Oberland, and five from the Unterland electoral district. The Prince also appointed two members from the Oberland district and one member from the Unterland district. In the Constitution of 1921 the Prince relinquished the appointment of three Princely Members of Parliament. The total number of 15 Members of Parliament as well as the 60:40 ratio between the Oberland district (9) and Unterland district (6) remained the same.

Blocking minority

The proportion was also retained when the number of members was raised to 25 in the year 1988, although this ratio (15:10) does not correspond exactly to the number of inhabitants in the two electoral districts. The Unterland district is overrepresented and protected as a minority. Because at least two thirds of the Members of Parliament (17) need to be present to pass a parliamentary resolution, representatives from the Unterland district have since 1878 been able to block changes to the Constitution, or by walking out of Parliament to make it impossible for a resolution to be established.

The Constitution of 1921

The Constitution of 1921 placed the State of Liechtenstein on a new foundation. For the first time, monarchical and democratic principles were recognised as equals. Since then, many functions of the state have been exercised only if various bodies of the state work together. Relative to the Constitution of 1862, a fundamental innovation of the new Constitution was the notion that the state is based on «democratic and parliamentary principles». The people received wide-ranging direct democratic rights (electoral, initiative and referendum rights). Because the Prince relinquished the right to appoint three Members, Parliament became a truly representative body of the people. The rights of

Parliament were significantly broadened: Since then, the Government has been formed through cooperation between the Prince and Parliament, whereby Parliament has the right to recommend appointments. Another new feature is that since then judges have been elected by Parliament, either directly or by means of a proposal submitted to the Prince.

Constitutional amendment of 2003

In the year 2003, within the context of the amendment of the Constitution, individual parliamentary rights and powers were modified or redefined. For example, the selection of judges was transferred to a Judge Appointment Board chaired by the Prince or head of state. The Government is appointed by the Prince with the agreement of Parliament, whereby the names are put forward by the latter. If the Government loses the confidence of the Prince or Parliament, its authority to exercise the office expires. For the period until the new Government takes office, the Prince appoints a provisional government to attend to the administration of the whole country. Furthermore, when an emergency decree is issued, the Prince temporarily takes the place of the legislative body. This constitutes an emergency measure that is not linked to Parliament.



The first assembly venue for Parliament in the House of the Estates (Ständehaus) 1868 – 1905.

Electoral law changes

The secret and direct franchise was introduced only in 1918. Since then, Members of Parliament have no longer been elected by electors, but instead at the ballot box by the voting public. Prior to 1939, elections were decided by a simple majority. Shortly before the Second World War, with the threat from outside in mind, a truce was agreed between the feuding parties, resulting in a switch to proportional representation. At the same time, an electoral threshold of 18 % was introduced. This was designed to keep extreme elements out of Parliament. This electoral threshold was abolished by the Constitutional Court in 1962 since it had no constitutional basis. A new electoral threshold of 8 % was included in the Constitution of 1973. Initiatives to abolish or reduce this electoral

threshold have not been successful to date. Similarly, other attempts to change electoral law (for example, by introducing a majority clause covering both electoral districts) have been rejected by the electorate.

Women's suffrage

The introduction of voting rights for women was rejected twice in referendums in 1971 and 1973; this succeeded only at the third attempt in 1984.

Number of Members of Parliament

In international terms, the Liechtenstein Parliament is small. Since 1919, repeated attempts have been made to increase the number of MPs, but four referendums failed to bring about a change. It was only in 1988 that the electorate agreed to increase the number of Members of Parliament to 25.

Representation of women

It was in 1986 that a woman was elected for the first time. In 1993, two women succeeded; from 1997 to 2001 there was only one regularly elected female Member of Parliament. Three women were elected to Parliament in 2001. At the elections of 13 March 2005 and 8 February 2009, no less than six seats (accounting for 24 % of seats) were taken by women. This figure fell to five seats in the parliamentary election of 3 February 2013, corresponding to 20 percent. At the 2017 parliamentary election, the number of women declined further to just three. By contrast, seven

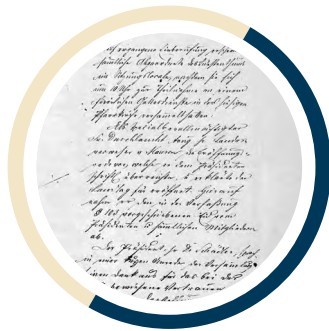
women were elected in the parliamentary election of 2021, more than doubling the number of female Members of Parliament that had been elected in 2017.

The parties

The first parties were formed in the year 1918. Up until 1993, only the Progressive Citizens Party (Fortschrittliche Bürgerpartei – «FBP») and the Patriotic Union (Vaterländische Union – «VU») were represented in Parliament. Following the introduction of proportional representation in 1939, elections usually led to very small majorities. For many years, this led to the formation of coalition governments (1938 to 1997). In 1993 a third party, the Free List (Freie Liste – «FL») overcame the 8 % electoral threshold and entered Parliament for the first time. The two legislative periods of 1997 to 2005 were each characterised by single-party governments. This was in contrast to the coalition between the two major parties that had been usual in the past. The model of the «grand» coalition government has been exercised since the 2005 election. 2013 saw The Independents (Unabhängigen – «DU») enter Parliament for the first time when they managed to secure four seats. This meant there were now four parties in Parliament. In the parliamentary election of 2017, four parties, all with a sufficient number of Members of Parliament to form a parliamentary

group, again successfully entered Parliament. As a result of internal differences, The Independents (DU) parliamentary group, which then had five members, split into two separate groupings in 2018. Three members of The Independents (der Unabhängigen – «DU») parliamentary group came together to form the New Group (Neue Fraktion - «NF»). As a consequence, The Independents (DU) lost their parliamentary group status and formed a so-called electoral group of two members for the remainder of the legislative period. This meant that for the first time since the second half of 2018, five parties or groupings were represented in Parliament. In the 2021 parliamentary election, The Independents failed to win any seats, ending their eight-year presence in Parliament. By contrast, the Democrats pro Liechtenstein (DPL), contesting a parliamentary election for the first time, entered Parliament with two seats. This means Parliament again has four parties in the current legislative period, three of which with a sufficient number of seats to achieve parliamentary group status.

Presidents of Parliament since 1862



Karl Schädler *
1862 – 1870



Wilhelm Schlegel
1871 – 1876, 1878 – 1881,
1886 – 1889



Rudolf Schädler
1877



Albert Schädler
1882 – 1885, 1890 – 1918



Friedrich Walser
1919 – 1921



Wilhelm Beck
1922 – 1928



Anton Frommelt
1928 – 1944



David Strub
1945 – 1953, 1955, 1957



Alois Ritter
1954, 1956



Josef Hoop
1958 – 1959



Martin Risch
1960 – 1965



Alexander Frick
1966 – 1969



Karlheinz Ritter
1970 – 1973, 1978 – 1992



Gerard Batliner
1974 – 1977



Ernst Walch
1993



Paul Kindle
1994, 1996



Otmar Hasler
1995



Peter Wolff
1997 – 2001



Klaus Wanger
2001 – 2009



Arthur Brunhart
2009 – 2013



Albert Frick
seit 2013

* No photograph exists of the first President of Parliament, Karl Schädler. Shown instead is the first page of the minutes that documented the first meeting of Parliament, on 29 December 1862.