



Autumn/Winter 2023

NEWSLETTER

Czech-Liechtenstein Society

Member of Europa Nostra



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HS Prince Constantine Liechtenstein (†51), 15 March 1972 – 5 December 2023

A word on the Advent time

In a dynamically changing world, there are always constants that create stability and firm footing that we unconsciously long for. These include the festive seasons that return in cycles every year, including Christmas and the period that precedes it, the season of Advent.

Advent symbolizes preparations for great changes – for the coming of the Redeemer. Inherent in Advent is the personality of the last Old Testament and first New Testament prophet, John the Baptist. He worked in the Judean desert and on the banks of the Jordan, calling his contemporaries to a change of

mind and action that would prepare the way for the Savior's arrival in humanity.

This timeless Advent call can be understood in a purely spiritual context, but also in the broader context of fine-tuning and adjusting the various relationships that are the hallmarks of mutual communication. Communication between people, between groups in society, between states and nations. The simple wisdom of life says that only when partners talk to each other can they communicate anything to each other.



And this is exactly the case in the relationship between two sovereign states, the Czech Republic and the Principality of Liechtenstein. After long decades of non-communication, forced by the unfortunate events of the twentieth century, at the beginning of the new century, relations were restored on a diplomatic level, as befits the cultural states of Europe.

We are trying to heal the deep scars caused in our relations by the two hateful ideologies of the last century - National Socialism and Communism - and their regimes, and to build bridges of trust, cooperation and friendship. In many ways, this is succeeding. We have several successful Liechtenstein companies operating in our country, cooperation in the field of cultural heritage care is developing, there are exchanges between schools, we have functioning embassies and honorary consulates.

This year, Liechtenstein offered the Czech Republic an amicable agreement that proposes to replace court disputes with round-table negotiations. This would dispense with debates on restitution or compensations, and start talks about setting the rules for cooperation in joint caring for the extraordinary common cultural and economic heritage that the Liechtenstein family have built and left behind over the past nearly eight centuries especially in Moravia, Silesia, but also partly in Bohemia. Hereditary Prince Alois presented this agreement to President Petr Pavel at the UN meeting

in New York in the autumn, and a discussion ensued at home about how and whether to take this friendly initiative at all.

The generosity of the proposal, which does not ask for any compensation for the injustice done, but on the contrary promises significant investments in the common wealth, may strike some by the mentality of selflessness and responsibility for the work of the ancestors. This is difficult to understand for someone who is used to thinking exclusively in terms of quick profits and pragmatic benefits. This is where the aforementioned Advent call for a change of mindset and inner conversion becomes relevant.

One can only wish that, just as many open hearts have heeded John the Baptist's call to conversion, so today those on whom the task of governing this country has been placed will be able to understand the offer and grasp the hand extended for reconciliation and cooperation. In this way, the age-old problem that has unnecessarily burdened our relations with one another could be resolved. I want to believe that the peace which the angels heralded over Bethlehem to the people of goodwill will then be able to enter into the relations between our two countries.

Dear readers of this Advent newsletter, I wish you, if possible, a time of inner peace and joy in preparation for the most beautiful holiday of the year. ■

Yours Daniel Herman, Honorary Consul of the Principality of Liechtenstein



ANNOUNCEMENT

With deep sadness the Czech-Liechtenstein Society has received the news from the Princely House that Prince Constantin of Liechtenstein left this world unexpectedly on 5 December 2023.

Constantin served as Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Liechtenstein Group AG and also as a member of the Board of Directors of Group Holding AG.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his widow Maria, Princess of Liechtenstein, and his three children Moritz, Georgina and Benedikt.



Daniel Matejča, soloist. Violin virtuoso. Opening concert of LVMF 2023 in the riding hall of the Valtice Castle.

■ The musicians of the Lednice-Valtice Music Festival received a standing ovation

The Lednice-Valtice music festival (LVHF) is slowly approaching its first round anniversary. To its credit, it did not lose its basic features during the first eight years: it follows on from the historical and cultural heritage of the Liechtensteins, it is not afraid to step out of its regional comfort zone - the festival organised two concerts in Vienna, one in Prague, always at the Liechtenstein palaces, the festival is not afraid to experiment, as proven by the very seminal year dedicated to



Indi Stivín, soloist, composer, conductor. Double bass virtuoso. The second concert of LVMF 2023 in the Baroque theatre of the Valtice Castle. Orchestra – Barocco sempre giovane.

the Charváts in Moravia, and its founder and director Jiří Partyka is not afraid of working with young artists. You don't have to understand music, you don't have to know contemporary performers, but it still happens that a young soloist who once played in Valtice suddenly appears on posters in Hamburg. And you have a good feeling: I've been there for it.

This year was all about young people. *"Eight sold-out halls and standing ovations are a reward for us as well as the artists, but also it brings good news that young musicians,*

in addition to technique and knowledge, have the gift of communicating through music and interpreting stories to the people that composers have put into their works," highlights the performances of the young artists Jiří Partyka, the director of the LVHF, who is also its artistic director.

The concerts of this festival are regularly attended by members of the Liechtenstein family. Probably the most attentive listeners are Prince Wolfgang and Princess Maria-Pia Kothbauer of Liechtenstein, the ambassador of the principality to the Czech Republic based in Vienna and an honorary chairperson of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society. ■



Closing gala concert of LVMF 2023 at the Lednice Castle. LVMF Director Jiri Partyka (with a bouquet) and guests



■ Ivan Klánský: I always tried to play better than I talked

Piano virtuoso Ivan Klánský received a huge honour this year. On the National Day of 28 October, he received the 1st Class Medal of Merit from the President of the Republic. The President thus recognised his lifelong contribution to the arts. In an exclusive interview for our newsletter, he talks about the importance of culture, his concert experiences and his love for Liechtenstein.

You recently received a state medal from the President of the Republic. How did it feel?

I appreciate it very much and I'm glad that I was able to receive the state medal from the president, for whom I have a lot of respect. He was not afraid to award even personalities who are not seen every day on TV screens in popular programmes. Considering the other awardees, it is clear that he takes art seriously. Culture is part of modern human. If it is not there or if withers, the society will wither with it.

Did you ever think you would get an award?

I didn't expect it at all. I don't even know who nominated me. Suddenly, the office of the President of the Republic contacted me and asked me to take the 28th of October off and not go on vacation or to a concert. At first, I thought someone was joking.

You have won a number of music awards, now even a state one. Are there any left?

I'm not an award collector. I'm most pleased that our industry has been recognized. If a colleague had received the award, I would have been just as happy. I'm glad that the artists who represent the Czech Republic and bring beautiful experiences at concerts to many people have not been forgotten. Of course, classical music will never be mass music. But even if it only pleased a fraction of the population that takes art as a part of life, I am very pleased.



Ivan Klánský

- a leading Czech piano virtuoso and teacher renowned in the Czech Republic and abroad
- holds the position of Dean of the Music and Dance Faculty at the Academy of Performing Arts
- has five sons and one daughter who are also involved in music
- Czech Television made a documentary about his family in 2023, titled "Klan Klánský"

You keep records of your concerts. How many have you done?

Over four and a half thousand. I'd love to get to five thousand, but I'd have to play for another six years or so. So, if my health permits... I'm a fan of numbers, and every round concert is festive for me, even if it was in a small town and not in the Rudolfinum in Prague.

Do you remember your first performance?

I was about eight years old and I performed at a children's concert. Playing by heart for ten minutes was extremely difficult for me. It's new for children to speak to someone in a way other than words. At the time, you felt you couldn't make a mistake, but now I know that with children you can forgive.

Some prefer to perform musically in front of people rather than speak. Didn't you have a similar experience?

The older one gets, the more the spoken word takes precedence over playing. Then there are mature performers whose spoken word is very flowery and good and their playing is worthless. I've always tried to make my playing better than my speaking. (laughs)



Congratulations from the President of the Republic to Ivan Klánský on the 1st Class Medal for Merits in the Arts.

Source: Photo archives of the Presidential Office, photo by Zuzana Bönisch.

And when I say „the best gig“, what comes to your mind?

I tend to think of the most interesting ones. Like at the Arctic Circle or Victoria Falls in Zambia, where I played for hotel guests and diplomats. The concert was part of a big dinner. Lobster cocktail, Johann Sebastian Bach, pumpkin soup, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart... Each piece was followed by food. By the time the last one came, I was so full I could hardly play.

Now I would like to ask you about Liechtenstein. What's your relationship to the country?

I've been fascinated by Liechtenstein's history since I was a child. Such a small country that has maintained its position for so long in a huge competition with big countries. It's not true that the biggest wins. Nowadays, such

a story is also instructive in that if something is meaningful, it really doesn't matter how big the population is. The Principality project works very well and I liked it very much from the start. Moreover, we are talking about a beautiful country. Whether one is in Vaduz or takes a tunnel to a place where one feels as at the end of the world, where no one will ever find him. That feeling in the middle of Europe is amazing. People there are terribly nice and can appreciate that they were born in Liechtenstein.

What motivated you to become a member of the Czech-Liechtenstein Society?

From my position as dean of the Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts, which is based in the Liechtenstein Palace, I have read a lot about the history of the family in our country and I know that we don't always get the information about the Liechtenstein family quite right. That's why I joined the Czech-Liechtenstein Society, which is meant to serve as a kind of counterbalance to half-truths or untruths. Respect for the principality, the beauty of the land and justice in the Czech Republic are my main motivations. ■



Awarding state medals in the Vladislav Hall on 28 October.

Source: Photo archives of the Presidential Office, photo by Zuzana Bönisch.



Ipsos:

The Czech public prefers agreement over court disputes with Liechtenstein

At the end of November, the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation (the Foundation) commissioned a public opinion poll of Czech society regarding the Foundation's out-of-court settlement proposal. The results of the poll by the renowned Ipsos agency correspond to the long-term experience of the Foundation gained during its negotiations with citizens, media, cultural institutions, leaders of municipalities, cities and regions.

Among the main objectives of the survey was the answer to the key question of the last weeks: do you prefer the out-of-court settlement, which the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation presented first to the President of the Czech Republic and then to the whole Czech

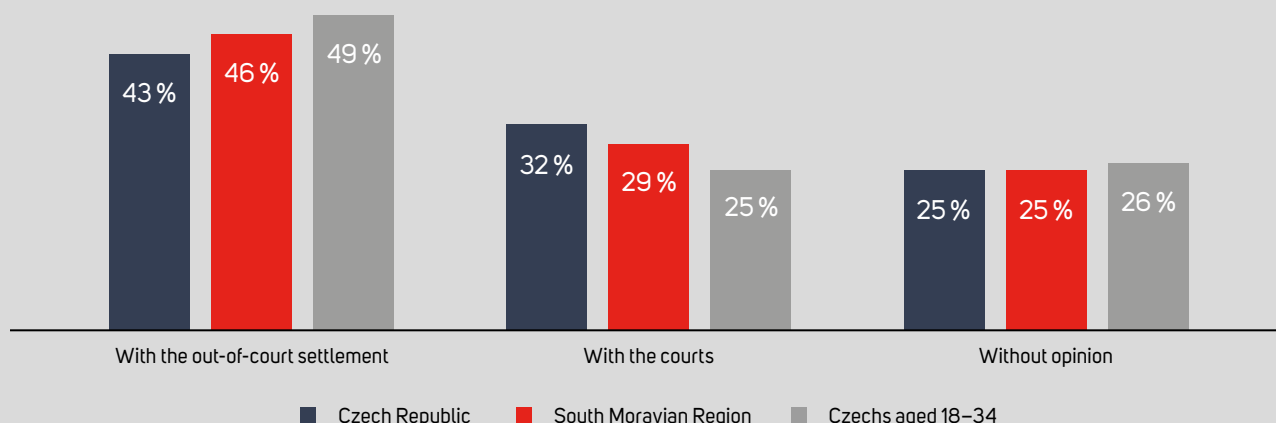


European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

public, or do you think that both sides should remain before the courts, including international courts, until the final verdict?

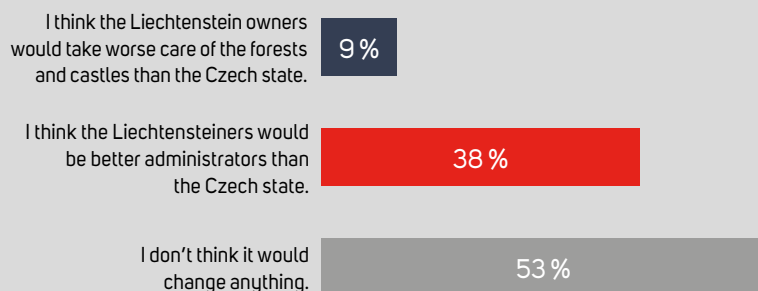
The agency examined the opinions of a representative sample of 1001 respondents, focusing more strongly on residents of the South Moravian Region. Of the total population, 43 % of people were in favour of the agreement, with three percentage points more in the South Moravian Region alone. People in the 18-34 age group were the most supportive of the agreement, with a full half but 1% supporting it. *"Since the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation presented its historic reconciliation proposal as a project for the future, it was particularly pleased to hear about the attitudes of the younger generation,"* says Michal Růžicka, spokesperson for the Foundation for the Czech Republic.

Do you agree with the out-of-court settlement in long-term disputes between Liechtenstein and the Czech Republic?





Which of the following statements do you agree with the most?



Members of the Princely House have repeated many times that the proposed form of out-of-court settlement would not only resolve the so-called open issues, but would also allow Liechtenstein entities, especially the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation, to invest in the Czech Republic. The Foundation would thus be able to get involved without delay in the revitalisation of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Lednice and Valtice, for example through cooperation with the Princely Art Collections. However, the cooperation could range from forestry and education to the promotion of a higher added value economy based on knowledge and research.

In light of the historic reconciliation proposal, the Foundation welcomes the fact that in the Ipsos survey, 38 percent of respondents said that the Liechtenstein

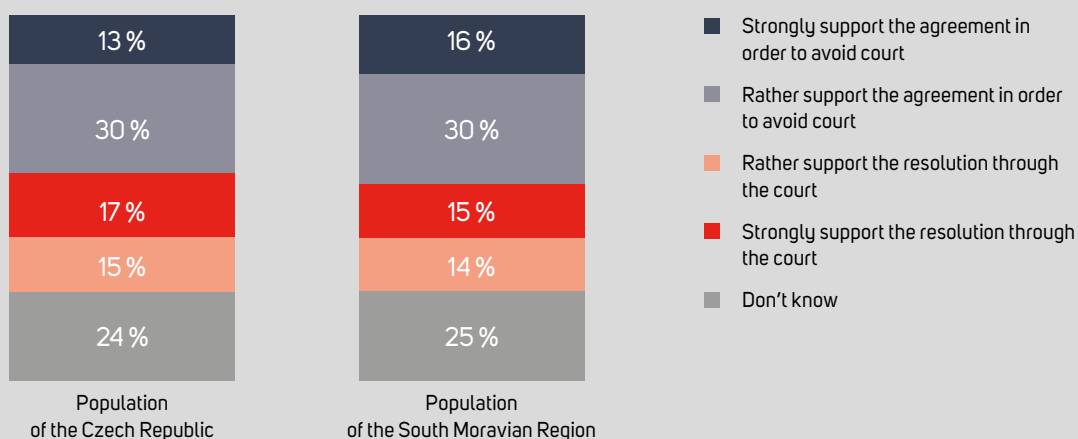
family would be a better manager of historic monuments and forests, while only 9 percent thought that the state would be a better manager.

The court is preferred by people from the oldest generation aged 66 and over. In addition, there is a significantly higher percentage of those in the 55+ age group who are convinced that the Czech Republic will eventually win the lawsuits, because the Czech state has actually won the national ones so far. However, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, as an international institution, examines disputes quite

differently from the Czech courts. *“The Czech Republic is occupying the property of Liechtenstein citizens, whose internationally recognised state has always been neutral. Just like today, after 1945 it was also true that it was not possible to take the property of foreigners without compensation,”* says Aleš Linhart, the Foundation's legal counsel. The last word will therefore fall on the international courts.

Liechtenstein is the only neutral, undefeated and friendly country with which Czechoslovakia or the Czech Republic has not negotiated compensation for confiscated property - unlike Switzerland, Austria, the United States and others. „While the outcome of a court case will always leave one loser, an agreement can establish the kind of cooperation that makes both sides win,” concludes Michal Růžička. ■

How do you perceive the out-of-court settlement that the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation presented?





■ Surprising offer from the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation to the Czech state

In October, the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation sent a letter to President Petr Pavel with a proposal for an out-of-court settlement in the Czech-Liechtenstein dispute, which over the years has gone from the district courts in the Czech Republic to Strasbourg to the European Court of Human Rights. On October 24, the Foundation also informed the Czech public about its intention in the form of a press release, the text of which you can read below.

The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation responds to the numerous questions from the Czech media in regards to the public appearances of the Czech President Petr Pavel after his meeting with the Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein, which took place at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. In recent days, President Pavel has repeatedly expressed that, based on the conciliatory proposal of the Foundation, presented to him by the head of the Liechtenstein state, he welcomes an out-of-court agreement between the two parties.

First, let us remind ourselves that:

- The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation is the universal heir to the property of the reigning Prince Franz Josef II. It is a private legal entity formed under Liechtenstein law that owns and manages part of the property of the ruling family. Reigning Prince Hans Adam II and Hereditary Prince Alois have a special responsibility for this foundation. The latter is also acting Head of State.
- The assets of Liechtenstein citizens in the Czech lands remain seized by the state without compensation. This contravenes international law, according to which no alien property could be taken without compensation.
- Liechtenstein was a neutral country during the Second World War and never challenged the Benes Decrees. But nevertheless the Czech side so far only concluded agreements with other neutral and allied countries whose citizens fell victim to the misapplication of the Decrees like the Liechtensteiners.
- Prince Hans Adam II never wanted to take the Czech state to court. He always held that it is possible to find a solution beneficial to both parties - economically, socially and from the point of view of the preservation of cultural and natural heritage. His attitude was supported by promises given by the post-November 1989 politicians.
- It was in fact the Czech Republic who in 2014 sued the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation which had been registered as owner of a forest near Říčany in regular

"I specially appreciated that during our meeting in New York, President Pavel was interested in the essence of the matter and saw future possibilities rather than old stereotypes."

The Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein

inheritance proceedings held before the court for Prague 10; until then the forest was registered in the cadastre to Franz Josef II of Liechtenstein.

- Due to the changes made to the Civil Code, the Foundation had to sue the Czech state in more than twenty District Courts in 2018. Otherwise it might have lost its ownership rights by mere passage of time. However, all present proceedings brought about severe violations of fundamental rights. The biased procedures of the Czech courts were in 2023 clearly described by a constitutional judge in his very well-reasoned dissenting opinion to one of the latest judgements of the Czech Constitutional Court.
- In 2020, the government of the Principality of Liechtenstein filed an interstate application against the Czech Republic at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. The purpose is to protect the fundamental rights of its citizens. In addition to the head of state, the property of over thirty other citizens of Liechtenstein, a neutral country during WW II, was seized without compensation - and this is prohibited by international law.

"The Government of Liechtenstein welcomes any initiative that could lead to an amicable settlement of the dispute between our countries. The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation is the most important entity among the entities concerned, and the Government considers its proposal to be balanced, accommodating and forward-looking."

Liechtenstein Government



- The procedure of the Czech authorities is all the more unacceptable, as they still defend the seizure of the property by referring to the citizens of the Principality of Liechtenstein and their head of state as Germans.
- The governments of the Czech Republic have so far felt unable to negotiate any settlement. This stands in a stark - and unacceptable - contradiction to the way how, for example, Austria or Switzerland were treated.

The foundation is for good reasons convinced that Liechtenstein will succeed in Strasbourg. A number of facts support this stance, two of which are worth highlighting:

- **It is a most basic, fundamental and undisputed principle of international law that no state can seize property of a neutral foreigner without compensation, and that such seizure must be challengeable in a fair trial by courts empowered to examine all questions of facts and law.**
- **Already at the Constitutional Court in Brno in 2023 convincing arguments clearly supporting the position of the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation gained prominent visibility.** Constitutional Court judge Uhlíř was outvoted this time, but his well-reasoned dissent is still integral part of the judgment.

The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation did not go to court for money. Its priority is not to getting awarded due compensation which would amount to roughly 30–35 bn CZ Crowns. It has been saying this publicly for many years: we are no Germans, we want justice, we want to take care of the heritage of our ancestors in a sustainable way, we want to contribute to the Czech Republic's development and the wellbeing of its citizens with our unique know-how, we want to continue the family's care for natural and cultural heritage also in the Czech lands, as we have done for 700 years, and we regard private ownership to be the best means for safeguarding sustainability (especially for forests). The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation took note of the fact that this message was not heard. Instead, various Czech administrations took them to court. Proceedings are ongoing now for nearly 10 years. This is not beneficial to either side and even less so to cultural and natural heritage that need ongoing and unimpeded care not blockades for decades.

Therefore, the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation decided to make a huge step and propose a future-oriented and unique solution.

So, to the questions of the media after the New York meeting of the two Heads of states: what is the conciliatory proposal of the Foundation?

Proposal of the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation

In order to lay the foundations for a renewed, mutual cooperation, the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation is ready to completely turn the page and come up with an unprecedented, new proposal for an out-of-court settlement based on these three pillars:

- 1. No compensation**
- 2. No restitution**
- 3. New cooperation**

The Foundation's proposal would envisage this package:

- The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation waives its ownership claims.
- The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation waives its claims for compensation (up to said CZK 30–45 bn).
- The Czech Republic and the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation establish a JOINT COOPERATION FUND/ FOUNDATION.
- All rights of ownership of the disputed property are transferred to the aforementioned Fund/ Foundation.
- The Czech Republic and the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation nominate members of the board of directors who will ensure the proper exercise of the Cooperation Fund's/Foundation's ownership rights.
- A Princely Foundation will be entrusted with the obligation for responsible management and the right of sustainable use safeguarding the best standards of upkeep for monuments and forests.

The proposed out-of-court settlement would not only resolve "open questions" but it would also enable the Liechtenstein entities, especially the Prince of the Liechtenstein Foundation, to invest in the Czech Republic. The foundation could immediately get involved in the revitalization of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in Lednice and Valnice, for example through cooperation with the Princely Art Collections. The cooperation would, however, range from forestry to education to the support of an economy with higher added value, based on knowledge and research. ■



The Journal's survey: Are you in favour of the Czech state reaching an out-of- court settlement with Liechtenstein?

In the online version of the Břeclav edition of Deník, a survey was published in October, in which prominent personalities of the South Moravian Region comment on the out-of-court settlement proposed by the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation to the Czech state. The survey was prepared by the Deník editor Iva Haghofer, who has long been devoted to the Czech-Liechtenstein dispute and the Liechtenstein family in general.

The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation is offering the Czech state a reconciliation. If an out-of-court settlement is reached, it will withdraw all the lawsuits filed and the Principality of Liechtenstein will end the dispute in Strasbourg. The noble family will not demand compensation or the return of assets. It offers to set up a joint Czech-Liechtenstein fund or foundation.

This marks a major breakthrough after years of arguing and disputes. The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation, which represents the family of the reigning Prince Hans Adam II in the Czech Republic, is prepared to withdraw all lawsuits, not to demand the return of property seized under the Beneš decrees and to renounce claims for a compensation of thirty to thirty-five billion crowns. All this in exchange for the creation of a common fund to manage the properties.

Deník asked the region's leading figures what they thought of the offer and whether they thought the Czech Republic should accept it.



Lednice Castle in a landscape with snow.

Jan Grolich, regional governor of the South Moravian Region

"I am not familiar with the offer in detail. However, what I perceived when I was negotiating with the Liechtenstein ambassador convinced me that this is indeed an extended hand. My understanding was that they do not want to take over the administration of the assets, nor do they want to sideline the state. On the contrary, they want to come as an equal partner, able and willing to participate in the management and invest in the restoration and preservation of the monuments.

Of course, this would depend on the details. But if it is as I understand it - that is an equal partnership also in terms of financial contributions - then I think that would be a reasonable solution to the dispute. I'm not concerned that it would lead to a limitation of access to the monuments. On the contrary, the monuments could be better developed.

I have had the opportunity to visit some of the monuments that the Liechtensteins look after in Vienna. And I wish all our monuments looked just like the ones that this noble family looks after. Indeed, this could also be partly an advantage, but as I say, we need to be more specific. It may sound good in the basic outline, but there may be some detail that I don't perhaps perceive."

Richard Svoboda, castellan of Valtice Castle

"I have been looking after Valtice Castle as best as I can for nearly a decade and have never made any secret of my admiration for what the Liechtensteins have built in the Lednice-Valtice complex over the generations, and how they still approach the conservation and restoration of their Viennese and Liechtenstein historic residencies today.

I see a great potential for the future development of the whole Lednice-Valtice complex and the mutual relations in the noble proposal of the foundation of the reigning Prince of Liechtenstein and I think that the Czech side should deal with it with all seriousness. I think that also because I share the publicly available dissenting opinion of Constitutional Judge David Uhlir in the matter of the Liechtenstein lawsuits, which, in my opinion, sums up the essence of the dispute."

Dymo Piškula, former Břeclav Mayor in the years 2002-2010

"I don't think the Czech state is in a comfortable position. It should certainly consider the offer, as the creation of such a foundation is not a bad idea at all. The Liechtensteins are



Lednice Castle is one of the most impressive and most visited historical monuments in the Czech Republic.

a Moravian-Austrian family that has been here for almost nine hundred years. The whole issue is based on Franz Josef II's alleged declaration of German nationality during the Second World War. Yet this is not true. The Liechtensteins have the enormous advantage of having strongly supported the government-in-exile in London. It is hardly possible to prove that they are German when their ancestors were born in Valtice and Mikulov for nine hundred years.

The fact is that emotion has always prevailed over reason in relation to the Liechtensteins. They have been associated with the execution of twenty-seven Czech leaders of the Estates uprising in 1618, and were thus ideologically treated as enemies of the state.

The Foundation's offer is undoubtedly one that should not be thrown under the table by the state. It is important to find out what is specifically envisioned by the creation of a foundation or fund and how the assets could be administered. Because the way the Czech state manages them, leaving aside the buildings, is pathetic. I'm talking primarily about the landscape.

It is precisely the landscape that is the very essence of the Lednice-Valtice complex, and we as a state have an enormous debt to it. The Czech Republic has not appreciated at all that the largest European park created by the Liechtensteins stands on its territory. It is a monument that has no parallel in Europe. If the agreement would lead to an improvement in the management of the estate, it should certainly be discussed.

Moreover, they will feel a sense of symbolism towards the landscape and the area. They have ancestors buried in Vranov by Brno. Some final settlement will have to happen in the future anyway. I believe that, if anything, at least the Liechtensteins could promote the region very well in the world, which would benefit tourism in southern Moravia. Most of the tourists who visit Prague have no idea about the Lednice-Valtice complex and its enormous importance.

I do not expect any great interest from the Prague government, they are comfortable with the current situation. They will repair a few castles and that will be the end of it. Negotiations will continue to drag on, opinions will vary, even in the future. But perhaps in the final phase, if we are very optimistic, legal disputes could be avoided.

The fundamental problem I see now, however, is that we are not taking care of an area of more than three hundred square kilometres within the country as a whole. We have three ministries – culture, environment and agriculture – which have different ideas about priorities. Therefore, the first step before

any foundation or fund is established should be to create an organisation to manage the area as a whole."

Ivana Holásková, castellan of the Lednice castle

"I regard the offer as a kind of icebreaker. The state should probably accept it. Even though at the moment none of us know what is behind it and how it is aimed. At the moment, however, it sounds perfectly noble. And if the Liechtensteins would be willing to contribute to the maintenance of the site, then that's absolutely wonderful."

Stanislav Balík, Judge Emeritus of the Constitutional Court and current Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen

"One cannot overlook the fact that the case has been going on for quite a long time and that a large number of matters have already been brought before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. This dispute has a two-fold dimension. On the one hand, it can be resolved through private law, i.e. through actions either brought by or against the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation. The second dimension is conciliation. Of course, an amicable solution would not, as is always the case, be to the disadvantage of both parties.

It is, of course, a proposal for a kind of settlement. The same applies here as in any other dispute. If, in the course of it, two parties try to reach an agreement, they either succeed or they fail. It will probably now be up to the Czech Republic to consider whether or not to accept this proposal. For it is a question of how the Czech Republic will stand in disputes with the Liechtensteins in the future.

I have noted that in one case, the Constitutional Court ruled that there was a dissenting opinion by Judge David Uhlir. So the outcome may not be successful for the Czech Republic under all circumstances. The efforts to come to the negotiating table and try to resolve the situation so that the disputes do not continue for years to come is undoubtedly a sensible step on the part of the Liechtensteins.

And perhaps the Czech Republic should try to act as it was considered to do a long time ago. It would probably be the best thing that could be done for this matter."

Svatopluk Pěček, Mayor of Břeclav

"I see the Foundation's offer as a friendly step. The town of Břeclav has been negotiating with the legal representatives of the Liechtenstein family for a long time regarding the by-pass and I dare say that we have good relations with each other. Any such amicable step is therefore interesting. Especially if it would be possible to reach an agreement, and avoid lawsuits. I'm certainly in favour of it. An agreement is certainly more reasonable than years of litigation." ■



... take a look at our Instagram account @czechliechtensteinsociety

We continue our Instagram activities! Join us and follow @czechliechtensteinsociety!

20. 11. 2023 - Have you heard of Riebel? Formerly considered a food for the poor, this dessert has now become a traditional dish in the Principality of Liechtenstein. Riebel is popular not only for its taste but also for its simple preparation. It is made in a pan with cornmeal, milk, water, and salt. Then, it is topped with elderberry or apple puree, and after that, it can be served. Next time you're choosing from the menu of a Liechtenstein restaurant, don't forget about the dessert. ■



18. 10. 2023 - Liechtenstein is becoming an increasingly popular destination for Czech students. University students from Prague and Brno, which have established partnerships with the University of Liechtenstein, praise their stay in the principality. Students can gain valuable experience in various fields such as finance, business, or construction. One student from the University of Economics and Business shared her experience of living in Liechtenstein. "The stunning Alpine landscape, strategic location between Switzerland and Austria, and friendly local inhabitants are just a few of the many reasons why Liechtenstein should not escape your attention. I thoroughly enjoyed my stay here, whether it was skiing in the Alps, cycling along the Rhine, or mountain hiking," described student on the school's website. Would Vaduz be a dream student destination for you as well? ■



14. 6. 2023 - When you hear the keyword "Route 66," you probably think of the legendary American highway that used to stretch from Chicago to Los Angeles. However, in the Alps, there is also a Route 66, and it takes you through the mountains in Liechtenstein. This approximately 48-kilometer-long route offers a beautiful hike with a number of exceptional panoramic views. You will discover landmarks such as Augstenberg, the highest peak in Liechtenstein that is not a border mountain, or the Three Sisters Mountain range on the border between Liechtenstein and Austria. For nature-loving hikers, this trip is an unforgettable experience. The Liechtenstein Route 66 will undoubtedly serve as inspiration for you for hiking trips during the summer holidays. ■

