NATIONAL DAY 2026

Speech of the Mayor Fréd Ternes

Dear Honorary Mayors,
Dear colleagues from the Board of Aldermen and the Commune Council,
Dear fellow residents,

Today, we are celebrating our National Day together. The first National Day together with our new Grand Duke Guillaume.

In his inaugural speech, Grand Duke Guillaume said that he wanted to build bridges between individuals and that shared values move us forward.

He said that he believes in the following values: openness, diversity, tolerance and solidarity. These are Luxembourgish and European values — and, of course, also values of our Commune of Niederanven.

That is why today we are celebrating not only our nation, our Grand Ducal Family and our democracy, but also what brings us together and holds us together as a society.

And we are also celebrating our Commune of Niederanven — a commune that stands out for its cohesion, its dynamism and, above all, its **diversity**.

At a time when many societies seem increasingly divided, it is important to remind ourselves **what a richness diversity** truly brings.

Today, people from 97 different nationalities live together in Niederanven. That is half of all the nationalities in the world — in a commune with almost 7,200 residents.

That is exceptional.

And above all, it is proof that different cultures, languages, traditions and life paths **do not divide us, but can enrich and inspire us**, and help build bridges between people.

Diversity means respecting our differences while recognising what connects us.

The Luxembourgish language is a good example of this. It is part of our identity. It connects us. At the same time, however, it also shows us that identity is not something static. It lives, it evolves, and it is carried every day by the people who live here.

That is why we are also pleased to be able to present, for a few more days, an exhibition about our Luxembourgish language in the entrance area of the sports hall.

I warmly invite you to visit this exhibition.

Dear fellow residents,

It is becoming increasingly important that we not only put our values at the forefront, but also live them. We stand

For diversity.
For inclusion.
For respect.
For solidarity.

And we stand for the conviction that every person has the right to a place in our society.

Unfortunately, these values, which matter to us, are not self-evident to everyone.

But that must not stop us from standing up for these values.

The American journalist and civil rights activist Daisy Bates once said:

„*No person who lives according to their values will ever be without enemies*."

This is a statement that still contains a great deal of truth today.

When we stand up for respect, equal opportunities and human dignity, there will always be people who question that.

But precisely then, we must not back down.

We must stand by our values.

Calmly.
Respectfully.
But clearly.

And I am convinced that the large majority of our society shares these values.

Sometimes, in debates, we mainly hear the loudest voices.

But a society is not defined only by those who make the most noise.

It is also defined by those who act with respect every day, who volunteer, who build bridges instead of putting up walls.

I would like these positive voices to be heard even more often.

Because all of us can contribute to the tone of our society.

With a word.
With a comment.
With a gesture.

Our town twinnings are also based on these values.

We are connected with 27 communes from across Europe.

And in May of next year, we will have the honour of organising the major meeting of this network here in Niederanven.

This is a wonderful opportunity not only to speak about diversity, but to experience it, share it and celebrate it together.

Our values define how we want to live together.

Just like the projects that are shaping the future of our commune.

I am therefore particularly pleased that this week, the master plan for the Am Sand centre will be selected by a jury and presented next week.

This project will play an important role in determining how the centre of our commune will develop over the coming decades.

How we meet.
How we move around.
How we live together.

Solidarity is also a very important value.

That is why we have made land available to the State for the construction of two refugee homes, each accommodating 29 residents.

None of us can choose where or under what conditions we are born.

Much of what we have in life is also a matter of luck.

We should be aware of how fortunate we are here in Luxembourg.

With this awareness, we can — and must — help those who did not have this chance.

Dear fellow residents,

All these values are not a challenge that can be solved once and then ticked off.

They are an everyday task.

They begin with respect.

With listening.

With understanding.

And with the willingness to build, together, a community in which everyone can find their place.

That is the Commune of Niederanven I believe in.

A commune in which we do not only live side by side, but with one another and for one another.

A commune in which everyone can make a contribution.

And that is why I would like to invite all of you to get involved.

In our residents' teams.
In our committees.
In our associations.
In our local institutions.

We need you.

Because when everyone contributes their part, it becomes too much for no one.

This is exactly the appeal that Grand Duke Guillaume also made in his inaugural speech: volunteer!

Dear fellow residents,

To conclude, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Thank you for your commitment.

Thank you for your trust.

Thank you for what each of you contributes to our Commune every day.

A big thank you also to everyone who was involved in organising this National Day or who took part in it.

To the parish priest for the Te Deum, the Hostert choir, the brass band, our police, the firefighters and youth firefighters, the scouts, all representatives of the associations, the commune staff, the teaching staff, the residents from the CIPA and all fellow residents who are here in such great numbers today to celebrate with us.

On my own behalf, on behalf of the Board of Aldermen and the Commune Council, and on behalf of the staff of the Commune of Niederanven, I wish you a wonderful National Day.

Long live our Grand Duke Guillaume!

Long live our Grand Ducal Family!

Long live our values!

Long live our Commune of Niederanven!

Long live Luxembourg!

And long live Europe!