

Letter from the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the post-war reconstruction of Luxembourg (22 August 1946)

Caption: On 22 August 1946, the Luxembourg Foreign Minister sends various other Luxembourg Ministers a letter containing a questionnaire, drawn up by the United Nations Committee on the Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas, with a view to gaining insight into pressing economic needs in Luxembourg.

Source: Archives Nationales du Luxembourg, Luxembourg. UNO. Département des Affaires économiques. Reconstruction économique des pays, AE 7804.

Copyright: (c) Translation CVCE.EU by UNI.LU

All rights of reproduction, of public communication, of adaptation, of distribution or of dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

Consult the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/letter_from_the_luxembourg_ministry_of_foreign_affairs_concerning_the_post_war_reconstruction_of_luxembourg_22_august_1946-en-bbd35609-6d3d-4fd5-8e85-353e8ae9f576.html



Last updated: 06/07/2016

Letter from the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the questionnaire on the reconstruction of Luxembourg (22 August 1946)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg, 22 August 1946

Letter sent to:

**The Minister for Transport,
The Minister for Agriculture,
The Minister for Economic Affairs,
The Commissioner at the Labour Office, and
The Head of the Statistical Office**

Dear Sirs,

The UN Commission for the Economic Reconstruction of the Devastated Regions proposes to study the economic situation in Europe in the aftermath of the war with a view to recommending to the United Nations Economic and Social Council measures which might help to redress the situation.

To enable it to gather information on the question to be addressed, the Commission has drawn up a questionnaire to which it solicits replies from the countries concerned.

I attach the questions relevant to your remit and would ask that you reply as a matter of urgency (by Monday at the latest) in a brief report. For your guidance, you may wish to note that this report will then be forwarded as it stands, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the Commission's headquarters in London.

Your report should address the following questions:

The Minister for Transport

Currently usable quantities of rolling stock, vehicles, barges and ships compared with the corresponding quantities in a pre-war period.

The Minister for Agriculture

(1) Current level of agricultural production compared with that in typical pre-war years (surface area, yield, output).

(2) Level of agricultural production which it is estimated could be achieved using the existing facilities, machinery and manpower, on the assumption of a sufficient supply of raw materials and energy, the results to be compared with pre-war production figures.

Attaché to the Minister for Foreign Affairs,

The Minister for Economic Affairs

(1) To what extent is the current shortage of financial resources holding up economic recovery in the short term?

(2) The projected figures for the consumption of foodstuffs and other consumables, and for the housing situation, for the period 1946-47 and also for the period 1946-1951, if forecasts have been made for those years?

(3) Will the development plan for the country modify the material features of pre-war production and, if so,

what form will those changes take?

(4) To what extent do the intended changes in relation to pre-war production features take account of changes in the economies of the other countries?

(5) To what extent do those changes result from the need to increase exports?

(6) To what extent do those changes result from the need to cut imports?

(7) To what extent do those changes depend on imports of capital goods?

(8) To what extent do those changes depend on the importing of raw materials?

(9) Annual import volumes (by groups of industrial products) required over the period 1946-1948 (and over a longer period, where possible) in order to meet normal supply requirements.

(10) Volumes of products (by groups of industry) available for export each year in pursuance of the recovery and development plan.

(11) To what extent are difficulties envisaged in finding export markets in countries capable of procuring the necessary imports or supplying convertible currency?

In support of the reply to this question, appropriate information should be secured on existing or proposed commercial agreements.

(12) Current account balance for 1946-1948 and, where possible, for subsequent years.

In support of the reply to this question, answers should, where possible, be provided to the following questions:

(a) The freight charges that will be paid annually for imports in the period 1946-1948 (and, if the information is available, in the following years).

(b) Total annual income in foreign exchange from shipping and from transit duties in the same periods.

(c) Other annual receipts and payments and foreign exchange deriving from projected 'invisible' imports over the same period (tourists, emigrants, interest earnings and dividends, cash remittances, etc.).

13. Minimum volume of foreign loans required annually over the period 1946-1948, with information over a longer period, where possible, to cover the deficit on the international balance of accounts.

As questions 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 follow from question 3, they may be addressed together as one single question.

Questions 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 concern external trade and the international balance of accounts.

The Commissioner at the National Labour Office

(1) Brief review of the war's repercussions on the population and on the labour force.

(2) To what extent will it be necessary to import labour, taking into account the additional manpower released by further demobilisation measures? In what countries is that labour to be recruited?

(3) To what extent is a surplus of work expected in the years ahead, and what categories of worker will be affected? Is immigration of the additional workers so required envisaged and, if so, to what extent?

The Head of the Statistical Office

Trends in birth and death rates, population movements (including changes in distribution by profession, changes resulting from migration, etc.) and the various factors associated therewith.