

Short biography of Luc Frieden

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URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/short_biography_of_luc_frieden-en-6f72deba-ofce-4b43-b59f-1e241c185c3b.html



Last updated: 07/07/2016

Luc Frieden

Luxembourg Minister for Finance (July 2009–December 2013)

Born on 16 September 1963 in Esch-sur-Alzette

Education and training

- Primary education in Esch-sur-Alzette
- Secondary school diploma at the Athénée de Luxembourg (classics/economics section) (1982)
- Studies in Business Law at the University of Paris I–Panthéon-Sorbonne (1986)
- Master’s in Comparative Law and Legal Philosophy from the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) (1987)
- Master of Laws from Harvard Law School (United States) (1988). Thesis title: ‘Media newsgathering by satellites’ (published in 1989 by the *Stanford Journal of International Law*)

Professional activities

- Barrister in Luxembourg (1989–1998)
- Lecturer in Luxembourg Public Law at the University Centre of Luxembourg
- Contributor to RTL Radio Lëtzebuerg
- Fellow of the Moral and Political Science Section of the Grand Ducal Institute
- Author of several articles on banking law and constitutional law

Positions held in government

- Minister for Justice, Minister for the Budget, Minister for Relations with Parliament (February 1998–1999)
- Minister for Justice, Minister for the Treasury and the Budget (1999–2004)
- Minister for Defence (June 2004–February 2006)
- Minister for the Treasury and the Budget, Minister for Justice (2004–2009)
- Minister for Finance (July 2009–December 2013)

Political positions

- Elected as a Member of Parliament for the Christian Social People’s Party (CSV) in the June 1994, June 2004 and October 2013 parliamentary elections
- Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee and Chairman of the Committee on Institutions and Constitutional Revision in the Chamber of Deputies (July 1994–February 1998)

Other positions

- Governor of the World Bank (since February 1998)

Honours

- Honorary doctorate in Law from Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, United States

Luc Frieden and Europe

— On 4 February 1998, at the age of 34, Luc Frieden was appointed Minister for Justice, Minister for the Budget and Minister for Relations with Parliament. He was given the task of coordinating the government's work for the introduction of the euro in Luxembourg.

— During the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2005, Luc Frieden chaired the Councils of Ministers for Justice, Home Affairs and Defence.

— Appointed Minister for Finance following the 2009 elections, Luc Frieden represented the Luxembourg Government in the Economic and Financial Affairs configuration of the Council of Ministers of the European Union and in the meetings of the Eurogroup.

Luc Frieden and Pierre Werner

— Luc Frieden was an outstanding student and young activist for the CSV party. In 1987 he was awarded a study grant for winning the Joseph Bech Prize. His qualities brought him to the attention of Jacques Santer and Pierre Werner, members of the Honorary Committee for the Joseph Bech Prize.

— Luc Frieden is a founder member of the Pierre Werner Foundation, set up in December 1993.

— In the period from 1993 to 1999, Luc Frieden and Pierre Werner joined forces to promote the single currency at various events held in Luxembourg and abroad. For example, Luc Frieden often travelled with Pierre Werner as the latter was invited to speak about the euro at international conferences and events, particularly at the ECU Institute (now the Euro Institute) in Lyon, which they visited on a regular basis.

— Luc Frieden succeeded Jean-Claude Juncker at the Ministry of Finance and the Budget and was coordinator of the interinstitutional cooperation committee for the introduction of the euro. In this capacity, and also as Minister for the Budget, Luc Frieden was often in contact with Pierre Werner, particularly during the period of preparations for the introduction of the euro. The two also discussed the development of Luxembourg as an international financial centre.

— In May 1998, when the seat of the European Central Bank (ECB) was established in Frankfurt, Jean-Claude Juncker (Prime Minister) and Luc Frieden (Minister for the Budget) made Pierre Werner a member of the Luxembourg delegation.

— In 2004, as Minister for Justice, he named the ministry's new administrative structures in Kirchberg the 'Pierre Werner Administrative Centre'.

— His acceptance speech for the honorary doctorate awarded by Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, United States, focused on Luxembourg's European vocation and the global reach of its politicians, particularly Pierre Werner.

Luc Frieden and the 'Pierre Werner and Europe' research project

- On 28 July 2010, Luc Frieden granted the CVCE an exclusive [interview](#) in connection with the ‘Pierre Werner and Europe’ research project.

- On 27 January 2011, the [Patronage Committee](#) for the ‘Pierre Werner and Europe’ research project was set up. Luc Frieden agreed to be a member of this committee, chaired by Jean-Claude Juncker, composed of 30 eminent European figures.

- To mark the centenary of Pierre Werner’s birth, the CVCE organised an [international conference](#), in cooperation with the Pierre Werner Foundation, the University of Luxembourg, the Triffin International Federation and the European Commission Representation in Luxembourg, entitled ‘Pierre Werner, a vision for Europe: his approach, action and legacy’. The conference was followed by a lunch debate chaired by Luc Frieden, whose presentation focused on ‘Financial services in a changing world’.