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SPEECH (10') BY MINISTER FRANCOIS BAUSCH

Dear honored guests, Dear friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The dynamism of Luxembourg is tremendous and involves many challenges -> One of the biggest challenges represents certainly mobility and infrastructures.
- To give you a short overview about the unique situation that we are facing:

- Luxembourg counts today nearly 600.000 inhabitants;
- Due to its benign geographical situation and economic growth, nearly 200.000 commuters (from Germany-43.000; France-90.000; Belgium-43.000) travel every day to Luxembourg and mainly to Luxembourg-City.

- To face the problems of traffic congestion on the one hand and to promote the future of Luxembourg on the other hand, the Government decided to invest heavily in infrastructures.

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- The Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructures will invest in 2017 about 1.8 billion Euros.
- 844 million are invested in the railway and public transports sector while 359 million are dedicated for building infrastructures.
- Out of these 1.8 billion Euros, still 179 million are budgeted for road infrastructures.

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- With an increase of public investments of more than 40 % over the last 5 years, Luxembourg is ranked number one in Europe. At the same time, the GDP increased “ONLY” by nearly 17 %.
- On the basis of several pictures, I will give you a short overview about the last and most stunning projects that the Luxemburgish Government is going on right now.

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- In the south of Luxembourg, the Government is since 2000 revitalizing the former steel industry production sites, including the 120 hectare of Belval, where the University of Luxembourg is located.
- As you probably know the University of Luxembourg continues to expand and is aiming to become one of the leading universities in the Greater Region and beyond.

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- In fact, in addition to the 127.000 m² currently operated by the University, several buildings are under construction and some will be delivered in 2017. In total, the University will therefore expand by some 54.000 m² in 2017.
- With nearly 83 million Euro invested in “La maison des Arts et Etudiants” and “La Maison du Nombre” (on the next picture) these buildings will be operational by this summer.

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- Another landmark in Belval will be “La Maison du Livre” which will contain the University Library and where the opening is scheduled for 2018. The costs for this project will amount to nearly 60 million Euros.
- But Belval is more than only a University-Campus. Belval has become a “MUST” as an environment in which to live. In fact, some 2.000 people and 400 students have already moved in. They can enjoy their brand new homes in their natural green urban setting every day, and also find recreational opportunities in the many shops and leisure activities located just a few hundred meters from where they live.

- If you want to find out more about the activities and projects going on in Belval, I invite you heartily to visit the pavilion of AGORA, the public private partnership consisting of the Luxembourg state and the ArcelorMittal steel group, responsible for developing the area.

- As I told you, Luxembourg is investing heavily in a multimodal and more sustainable approach.
 - > What does this mean?
- The reorganization of public transportation towards a polycentric, multimodal network is a key element. Throughout the country, about 20 multimodal hubs are currently being built to enable commuters easily switch between different modes of transportation.
- 9 of the multimodal hubs are located on the 16 kilometer track of the future tram that will cross the entire urban agglomeration of the capital and hereby serve as the backbone of the public transportation network (later to be seen -> video).

- In addition, new railway stations are being built on the outskirts of the city center and regional bus lines are being reorganized to directly connect to the tram.
- Furthermore, in order to facilitate the transfer from cars to public transport, the capacity of park&ride parking lots is doubled, meaning construction of an additional 13.000 spaces.
- The majority of these projects are being implemented at the moment; in particular the tram with its nine multimodal hubs whose first track section will be completed by the end of this year.

- Cloche d'Or: Tram stop, Changing hub for buses with a park&ride for 2000 cars and 56 charging points. -----

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- Howald Station: changing hub for trains, tram stop, changing hub for buses, Park&ride for 2000 cars and 54 electric charging points. 43 m Euro (2019).
- Interception of traffic coming from the South (mainly France).

- LuxExpo – Kirchberg: Park&ride for 500 cars, tram stop, changing hub for buses, electric charging points. 61,5 million Euros (2017-2018).

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- Park&ride Héienhaff: 4.000 cars on 6 levels, Tram stop 10 minutes from Kirchberg, 110 electric charging points (90 m Euros – 2020/2021).
- Buses coming the East of the country and mainly Germany.

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- Besides the investments realized in ground mobility, the Luxembourgish Government intends to develop the area in and around the Airport.
- The aim is not only to jump over the 5 million passenger level by year but also to create new jobs, offices and dwellings around the airport.
- Connected to the tram line by 2021, the airport will be an important pillar to the Luxembourgish economy and will act as a kind of “speed gate” to the world beyond the Greater Region (150-200 million Euros).

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- To summarize but also to end my speech, I would like to take to a journey via a video through several of the projects that I just talked about.
- And if you do have questions later on, do not hesitate to get in touch with me or my department.
- I wish you a sunny and successful stay in Cannes and please come and visit Luxembourg that we are making it happening.
- Thank you!
