

Welcome Speech

Minister François Biltgen

Minister for Justice, Minister for Communications and the Media, and Minister for Religious Affairs, Minister for the Civil Service and Administrative Reform, and Minister for Higher Education and Research

Ladies and Gentlemen,²

Thank you so very much for organizing this Snt Partnership Day. Hosting this event was a wonderful idea. It is my pleasure to be here today to share this day with you and to discuss with you things that are - in my opinion - incredibly important, especially in this day and age of information and communications technology.

For Luxembourg, growth has been and continues to be an important topic. However, ICT research as well as ICT security, reliability and trust have thus far admittedly rarely been topics of discussion in Luxembourg's growth debate. We must change that. And I would like to give you a few reasons why changing it is so important. Growth has a lot to do with research and development. Here in Luxembourg, we have made a strong commitment to supporting the sciences - which is important if our ultimate goal is to stimulate growth, create new jobs, and shape new perspectives. Let me give you an example. Emergency.lu is a satellite-based technology platform that was developed right here in Luxembourg. It was born out of a partnership between industry and Luxembourg's satellite communications research community, which has allowed us to very quickly set up this platform. And it's helped us create something new, something that has given Luxembourg greater international visibility: the use of communications technology as acute assistance in earthquake zones.

For this type of innovation, interdisciplinarity is essential, which is exactly why we have established the two new interdisciplinary centres at the University of Luxembourg. We can easily demonstrate why this interdisciplinarity is so relevant by taking a look at Cloud Computing. Here, the computer sciences have to work hand in hand with the field of law. In Luxembourg, we are making substantial progress in this area. At Snt, for example, the computer sciences have joined forces with the field of law, the social sciences, and the field of business to walk the talk and lead by example.

Luxembourg is a wealthy country. This wealth can only be secured through products and services, which are very important to the customer. In Luxembourg, we have a powerful communication infrastructure that is constantly being expanded. The question that arises is who should benefit from this infrastructure? The answer is international clients who are asking for maximum security and who are willing to invest in that security. Therefore, new areas of growth in Luxembourg should incorporate the fundamental ideas of security, reliability and trust. This is true for Cloud Computing but also for the banking industry. Security, reliability and trust have got to become Luxembourg's locational advantage.



² Note: The following text describes the minister's hands-free talk

In this context, partnerships between the private and public sectors are of great consequence. The fact that these partners as well as the Luxembourg government are both helping fund research is a real advantage for Luxembourg's research community. However, it is imperative that we don't look to these partners simply for sponsorship but that we view them - as their name implies - as true partners, where each side is able to profit from the other. In this area, Luxembourg - and most prominently SnT - have already scored several major successes. It is my sincere hope that we will continue to develop in the right direction so that we can proudly say that Luxembourg is an outstanding research epicentre with an international reputation for attracting new top researchers and businesses to our country.