

## CZ/FL chronology

**1930:** A population census in Czechoslovakia. According to the contemporary law, citizens with Czechoslovak passports are being recorded. The Prince, the head of the Principality of Liechtenstein, of Liechtenstein nationality and the holder of a Liechtenstein passport, is not present in the territory of the country in the time of the census; moreover, the census does not concern him.

**1938:** The prince is worried about the safety of his wife who was Jewish. He passes the rule to František Josef II, the father of Hans Adam II. In 1938, František Josef II settles in Vaduz to where President Edvard Beneš sends him a congratulating and friendly telegram.

**1939:** Liechtenstein suppressed a Nazi putsch in its territory. The Principality stays a strictly neutral constitutional monarchy oriented towards Switzerland.

**1944:** Dr Svoboda, the director of the Liechtenstein central administration, is imprisoned for 6 months by Gestapo for helping the widows of those executed within the reprisals following the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich.

**1945:** From the total number of 215 employees of the Liechtenstein administration in Olomouc 191 are Czech and 24 German. It was one of a few businesses in the Protectorate territory where the Czech and German employees had the very same work and payment conditions.

**1945:** The President of Czechoslovakia signs so-called Beneš Decrees. It follows from one of them that the citizens who registered German nationality in the 1930 census will be expelled and their property confiscated.

**1945:** Dr Svoboda, the head of the Liechtenstein central administration, receives a certificate about his exemplary and patriotic conduct during the occupation from several official authorities.

**1945:** Czechoslovakia imposed so-called "national administration" on all Liechtenstein estates. It is going to rank the family among "Germans" based on the so-called Beneš Decrees and seize their property. The Prince and his lawyers immediately protest against this act.

**1946:** The ministries of agriculture and interior, controlled by communists, push the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by internal messages: it is an economic and national interest to confiscate Liechtenstein properties.

**1947:** Professor František Weyr, a co-author of the first Czechoslovak Constitution from 1918, writes in his legal analysis that the confiscation of the princely property is in conflict with the local and international law.

**1947:** Judge Pilík of the Supreme Administration Court in Brno drafts a verdict: the Liechtenstein confiscation should be revoked. The communists pushed through a postponement of the verdict.

**1947:** Ministries are exchanging messages: when confiscating properties beware of the German speaking Swiss and Americans. There are no worries about the citizens of Liechtenstein; it is a small country, and no one will stand up for it in Europe.

**1948:** Communists seized the unlimited power in Czechoslovakia. The verdict drafted by Judge Pilík is re-worked according to the interests of the totalitarian regime.

**1951:** The Supreme Administration Court, in that time moved already to Bratislava, delivers the final verdict against the Liechtenstein family: It is a notorious fact which need no evidence that the Liechtenstein family are Germans. The Ministry of Interior testifies that it has an evidence that the Prince registered German nationality in the 1930 census. They, of course, keep the document confidential.

**1951:** The renowned lawyer of the democratic Czechoslovakia, Dr Emil Sobička, representing the Prince in the lawsuit with Czechoslovakia, ends up in the Jáchymov concentration camp.

**1989:** The Communists lost the unlimited power in Czechoslovakia.

**1990:** The Minister of Foreign Affairs Jiří Dienstbier sends a letter to Hans Brunhart, prime minister of Liechtenstein, in which he assures him that he knows about the open issues which have been standing between the both sides since 1945. He promises a dialogue.

**1990-2009** The Czech Republic blocks the renewal of diplomatic relations with Liechtenstein. It is afraid of the Prince claiming the justice.

**2001-2009** The Czech Republic discovers that many land plots are still registered on Prince František Josef II and his predecessors in the Land Registry. Reason: In the post-war period Czechoslovakia did not confiscate the land pursuant to law.

**2001-2013** The Czech Republic tries to re-register historical Liechtenstein land from the princes to the state. The Land Registry offices for Prague-East and Prostějov refuse; according to their analyses the state does not present any legally correct title deeds.

**2009:** Government of both countries re-establish diplomatic relations. They establish the Czech-Liechtenstein Commission of Historians. The historians publish many works and recommend that both the sides should negotiate and not litigate.

**2013:** The District Court for Prague 10 confirms the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation as the universal heir of Prince František Josef II and his predecessors. The court instructs to re-register 600 ha forest near Říčany to the Foundation.

**2014:** The Czech state sues the Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation. It requires the court to re-register the forest near Říčany to the state based on the Beneš Decrees. Neither the Prince nor the Liechtenstein government are warned against this hostile act in advanced in a diplomatic way.

**2014:** The 1930 census document is found in the archive which the communist Ministry of Interior used as an argument after the war. It follows from the document that the prince did

not participate in the census. On behalf of the castle (household) in Velké Losiny, it was signed by gamekeeper Karel Loos, a Czechoslovak citizen.

**2016:** Prince Hans Adam II renovated the family crypt in Vranov near Brno for CZK 54 million although he does not own it but thanks to the (non)-care of the Czech state there was a danger it would collapse and destroy the stone coffins.

**2015- 2017** All instances confirmed the position of the Czech state; no evidence presented by the Liechtenstein family was accepted in the process. The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation appealed to the Constitutional Court.

**2017-2018** Princely family as well as the Liechtenstein state repeatedly appealed to the Czech political representation to negotiate. "A solution convenient for both sides can be created at a negotiating table," says Hereditary Prince Alois. The Czech side remains silent.

**2018:** The Czech state sued the Land Registry office in Prostějov that it refused to re-register the princely land plots to the state due to the lack of documentation.

**2018:** The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation and Hans Adam II sued the Czech state in more than 20 district courts; claiming the recovery of properties held by the state. The legal motions do not include properties which are today owned by municipalities, universities, associations and private entities.

**2019:** The Prince of Liechtenstein Foundation and Hans Adam II filed a constitutional (competence) complaint. Some courts express that they do not take into account, while taking decision, the fact that Hans Adam II is the head of an independent state enjoying immunities in accordance with international law.

**November 2019:** The constitutional court has not decided in the case of the forest near Říčany even after two and half years; Regional Court in Brno approved the decision of "courageous" cadastral offices and confirmed that the Czech state cannot rewrite Liechtensteins' land plots to its ownership just by referring to Beneš decrees; Mendel University awarded Golden Medal to Hereditary Prince Alois for historic contribution of his family to science and education; the Czech state stopped all the investments of Liechtenstein chateaus; Forests of the Czech Republic enterprise announced that 50% of all forests in the state may vanish within ten years including the Liechtenstein ones; Czech Republic uses so called Norwegian funds for its development, also Liechtenstein contributes to these funds with its money; anytime Hans Adam II comes to Czech Republic, the municipalities, associations and institutions in Opava region, in South Moravia and in Prague ask him for money; the political representation of the Czech Republic still refuses to negotiate and insist on courts; two thirds of especially young people under 30 years of age prefer the negotiations; especially the Russian disinformation websites protest against justice in the Liechtenstein cause; if nothing is changed, the dispute definitely heads for the international stage.