

Curiosity on the flag of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



The Luxembourg flag was adopted between 1845 and 1848 but the official adoption came only on 23 June 1972. It takes its colors from the ancient coat of arms of Luxembourg, depicting a red lion with five blue and five white stripes wrapping it; the banner, although originally created during the period of the so-called "Belgian Revolution" of 1830, has a certain similarity, not expressly wanted, with the flag of the Netherlands, although different for the shades of blue and for being longer.

To be distinguishable from Dutch ships even at long distance, vessels flying the flag of Luxembourg adopted a special flag different from the national flag, bearing the red lion rampant of the Luxembourg medieval tradition with blue and white stripes as background.

The law on the flag of June 1972 provided some graphic indications, with no legal value, for a specific insignia dedicated to sea and river vessels of the country so that they can be better distinguished from the Netherland flag even at a distance: the banner had to be represented by a rectangle divided into ten horizontal blue and white stripes, topped by a red lion with claws and a golden crown, oriented towards the rod. Then, the Act establishing the Luxembourg shipping registry dated 9 November 1990, made official said flag; the amendment of July 1993 intervened also on the flag for the vessel, establishing a simpler design for the lion, and as for the national flag, changing the gradation of blue stripes in light blue.