

For an eco-socialist strategy: breaking out of the capitalist logic!

19th Congress of déi Lénk on 24 April 2022 in Colmar-Berg

Main resolution

The 19th Congress of déi Lénk on 24 April 2022 in Colmar-Berg, held under the motto "Zesumme geint d'Ausbeutung vu Mënsch an Natur", drew first conclusions from the internal debate on the necessities of an ecosocialist strategy.

This debate was started on 25.9.2019 with the presentation to the national coordination of the paper "déi Lénk, ecosocialist movement? Contribution to strategic reflections for the political work and for the internal organisation of dei Lenk". It was carried out within the organs of dei Lenk as a joint and cooperative process. Slowed down by the Covid-19 crisis, which made direct personal exchanges difficult, and re-launched by the 18th Congress of 26.9.2021 of dei Lenk in Remich, this process finally led to the adoption of provisional theses by the national coordination following a consultation of the members and sections. The results of this process are intended to continue to be submitted to the internal deliberation of all members of dei Lenk.

On the basis of all these elements, the congress accepts the following resolution, which will serve as a basis for the continuation of the work and for the elaboration of the electoral programmes for the communal and national elections in 2023:

The logic of capitalist accumulation continues to dominate our societies. Private capital tends to expand without limits by monopolising the products of human labour. With the breakthrough of neoliberalism, the logic of financial accumulation has been further accentuated, encouraged by the liberal economic policies of governments.

The result is an increased concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the owning minority, dispossession, uncertainty and even poverty for those who do not have capital. Intolerable inequalities - social, cultural, and power - within our societies and between rich and poor countries. And which, without a change of direction, will weigh equally, if not more, on subsequent generations.

The same harmful logic of the priority of private profit is at the origin of ecological disruptions: climate crisis, regression of biodiversity, pollution, accumulation of waste, commodification of life, in short, the increasingly galloping destruction of the essential bases of life.

The concentration of economic power also leads to an erosion of democracy. Without a fundamental change of direction, we will enter a vicious circle: less real and effective democracy, less chance of reversing the power relations, less democracy, etc.

If we have to get out of the capitalist logic, it doesn't mean that we have to wait for the big break to change things. Within capitalist societies, it is possible to counteract this logic at least partially. The examples of labour law and social security, the development of public services, the emergence of new forms of economy not centred on profit are all proof of this.

But the insatiable thirst of capital wants to invade the spheres that have escaped it. It is clear that it has already largely succeeded. Uberisation, privatisation of public services, of the social sector, of the private sector, of the economy, etc.

2 transport, communications, health and care. It is urgent to change direction!

We must break the taboo of questioning private ownership of capital and promote other forms of ownership and management: public, social, collective, cooperative...

If access to essential goods and services is to be guaranteed for all, the permanent incitement to harmful over-consumption must also be stopped.

Against the concentration of wealth and power at the top of society, a reverse redistribution is needed, through new economic, fiscal and cultural policies and a democratic renewal that deserves its name. To get out of the capitalist logic or to impose limits on it, we cannot rely on the reason or the good will of the governments. Only a strong popular resistance, with the credible perspective of alternatives, will be able to impose real changes.

Struggles over concrete demands can promote this awareness and show the need for a convergence of these struggles to reverse the balance of power.

This presupposes a new awareness of the common interests of those who live from their work and not from the return on their capital. An essential task for the Left will be to propagate this common consciousness.

The attempt to pit social and ecological concerns against each other must be thwarted. Ecological disruption and its consequences will hit those who are already socially dispossessed the hardest. We must therefore succeed in bringing together ecological, social and democratic commitments.

Ecosocialism means giving people back the power over their living conditions, giving those who work back control over their work, their tools and their product, and at the same time preserving the essential natural foundations of our common life for ourselves and for future generations.

(Resolution adopted by the Congress on 24 April 2022)

Daily resolution:

The Tripartite was supposed to provide concrete answers to rising energy prices that are no longer sustainable for many people. Instead, the agreement of 31 March 2022 means an enormous redistribution of the wealth created from the bottom to the top. Apart from direct subsidies for energy-guzzling companies, state guarantees for large corporations, the manipulation of the index is above all the core of this redistribution.

Just by postponing index tranches until April 2024, immense wage masses are given to the patronage, some of which the salariat has to do without permanently. For some of the employees and pensioners, this loss of wages will be compensated for a limited time through the state budget. However, the state budget is largely financed by direct and indirect taxes on workers. In other words, the salariat pays its own wage compensation with its taxes - instead of the companies. Part of the wage is thus replaced by state handouts, paid by the workers themselves. The compensation is also an attempt to divide the salariat between small and medium wages. Rarely before has a redistribution from labour to capital been carried out so blatantly and perfidiously.

The index is a welfare state instrument to compensate retroactively for the loss of purchasing power of wages and pensions due to inflation. Its suspension means that wages lose value.

The Tripartite Agreement is an enormous structural attack on the index. Not only because it will be manipulated over the next 2 years, but also because it sets the course for paying out only one tranche per year after 2024. Inconceivably, the LSAP justifies the manipulation of the index by saying that the companies need 'previsibility'. This sentence sounds like sheer mockery when one considers the profit increases of entire sectors of the economy in 2021. This is an undifferentiated wage gift with a watering can to all companies so that various of them can make even higher profits and distribute them to their shareholders. The loss of purchasing power of the people who live off their wages seems to be secondary to DP, LSAP and Greens. The government's solidarity only goes in one direction: from the bottom up.

déi Lénk condemn the planned index manipulation in the strongest possible terms and will campaign against it at all levels;

will counter the government's disinformation policy with their own education campaign and underline their demands concerning the energy crisis;

Welcome the opposition of the country's largest trade union OGBL and call on the other two representative trade unions to oppose the index manipulation;

Will actively participate in the mobilisations against the index manipulation and call on all members and sympathisers to participate in the mass demonstration on 1 May.

(Resolution adopted by Congress on 24 April 2022)