

18th Ordinary Congress of Lenk : Mobilising for an eco-socialist alternative!

Main resolution

Thirty years after the proclamation of the "end of history", humanity is entering a period of crises that are taking on the dimensions of existential catastrophes. More than a quarter of a century after the Rio Summit in 1992 and the UN Convention on Climate Change, annual CO2 emissions have increased by 60%. Since the financial crisis of 2008, and even more so during the Covid-19 pandemic, the global financial system has been fuelled by extraordinary monetary policies and public subsidies have become the means of survival of the neoliberal economy. At the same time, mass unemployment and social inequality have increased everywhere, even in the economically rich countries. Industrial relocations and privatisations continue, with the corollary that the status of employees is becoming more precarious. The effects of a global and multiple ecological crisis are manifesting themselves everywhere and on different levels, with the climate crisis as a major threat to the future of humanity. The Covid-19 pandemic underlined the vulnerability of the current system based on a frantic race for profit at any price-which was totally unprepared and failed to contain the epidemic and to implement protective non-pharmaceutical products, drugs and medical techniques preventing severe forms and, now, immunising vaccines for everyone at an early stage. It has all been about markets, patents, kickbacks, privatisation and profits. Unsurprisingly, the logic of trade and profitability has overtaken humanitarian health criteria. In poor, dominated and underdeveloped countries, the crises take on even more serious and catastrophic dimensions. As neo-liberalism reaches a dead end, we are entering a new era of global instability.

In the face of economic and financial instability, fiscal orthodoxy has been thrown out the window and replaced by public spending activism. By December 2020, fiscal stimulus measures amounting to \$13.5 trillion, or 15% of global GDP, had been agreed, i.e. 4 to 5 times more than during the 2008/09 recession. Today, saved by the strong arms of the state, no capitalist dares to demand that the invisible hand of the market be allowed to act freely. At the same time, in the face of new forms of capitalism supported without limits by state coffers, it has become clear that a highly interventionist state is not enough to achieve a fair and caring society.

The situation in Luxembourg

In Luxembourg, the economic and ideological crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic has shaken the ruling class. In a few weeks, the country found itself in an unprecedented emergency scenario: in order to be able to ensure measures such as the payment of partial unemployment or state aid for the self-employed and SMEs, the government took out loans totalling 2.5 billion on the financial markets, while benefiting from negative interest rates thanks to the 'AAA' rating. At the same time, the neo-liberal transformation strategy in Luxembourg, in the banks and their services, in transport, the post office and other public services via digitalisation, is continuing. Despite the billions of euros mobilised, where public services should have been strengthened, they are being cut back again and again. Since a large part of the electorate is paid by the state or municipal civil service and the like, they have not felt a deterioration in their purchasing power as a result of this policy. However, the situation is not the same for private employees, who - in the context of short-time working - have only received 80% of their salary and whose protection against dismissal has not been guaranteed.

The management of the pandemic is a reflection of the policy that has been pursued for decades: it is techno-liberal and ignores the needs of the most precarious parts of the population. As in other Western countries where we share more or less the same political and socio-economic model, the repercussions of the pandemic have revealed even more intensely the deep dysfunctions of the capitalist model: health systems that are not (or poorly) prepared for crises, unused budgetary and fiscal reserves, exclusive recourse to debt on the financial markets to support employees and the self-

employed, tenant protections that only partially limit the damage, or the inability to properly deal with the emotional crises and mental disorders linked to the pandemic.

Of course, those who were already invisible in normal times are no longer heard at all. Thus, the homeless, refugees, and people in irregular situations are increasingly dependent on the involvement of self-help and charitable organisations.

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This policy, which is conducted from the perspective of the most privileged, is also felt at school level: with distance learning, social disparities have increased even more in Luxembourg schools, whose functioning and teaching are structurally adapted to the upper and middle classes.

Luxembourg is one of the richest and most polluting countries in the world on a per capita basis, but it is also a deeply unequal society. For decades, the country lived off the profits of the steel industry before becoming dependent on the financial 'industry'. While the ruling caste

While the ruling caste has internalised the principle of wage moderation, it has not developed public services in such a way as to satisfy the basic needs of all, limiting itself to a policy of social transfers.

It has limited itself to a policy of social transfers, increasingly supported by taxes rather than by employers' contributions. It has subcontracted some of these services to the private sector and has engaged in a laissez-faire policy in the field of labour, education and

education and housing. The negative results of this systematic neglect are no longer only felt by the poorest, but progressively also by the social categories above the poverty line. The younger generations are particularly affected: tight labour markets, increased competition, precarious employment contracts (fixed-term and temporary), low wages and unaffordable housing. And while it provides work for an increasingly large cross-border workforce, which contributes to the country's wealth, redistribution to neighbouring regions is slow in coming, a source of new dissatisfaction.

Those who represent the government and the majority in parliament are wrong to believe that they will be able to continue their momentum, getting elected on the basis of a clientelism that is shrinking in the face of the scale of the housing problems, the social and ecological malaise, the threat of job loss, underdeveloped guarantees against unemployment, and the development of social inequalities, even among the wage earners who were once called "middle".

They will no longer be able to rely on the status quo, the strength of a historically declining CSV, while the number of wage earners who can only rely on themselves and their grassroots organisations, which in Luxembourg are mobilising and fighting for the rights of the most precarious and of workers, is growing.

From movement to tide

Our society and economy have been profoundly changed by the pandemic. If it was bad before, it is even worse now. While small businesses, independents and artisans have suffered the most from the situation, the larger ones, the commercial chains, the

While small artisans, independents and small businesses have suffered the most, the larger ones, the commercial chains, the multinationals, big finance and many others have emerged even stronger and are not willing to share. As a left-wing movement, as a political formation dedicated to the wage-earners and to those who have little or nothing except their labour power, here as elsewhere in the world, we must rely on the mobilisation and self-organisation capacities of the increasingly broad sectors of the population who aspire to profound changes. We must encourage and accompany all emancipatory struggles

We must encourage and accompany all emancipatory struggles in order to achieve a powerful tide that will profoundly transform our society on the social, ecological and democratic levels.

Noting therefore: that Luxembourg is dominated by the interests of those who live off the rents of the financial centre and large real estate and landed property; that no eco-socialist alternative is possible without the massive mobilisation of those who do not belong to the privileged classes; that dei Len is not sufficiently established within the social strata that we want to represent;

The Congress invites the National Coordination to pursue the development of an eco-socialist alternative based on the situation in Luxembourg; to set up a strategy of anchoring in the population, including workers, especially the most precarious; those who work in the essential sectors and who satisfy the needs of the population, those without whom society could not function; to concentrate the militant potential on the work of grassroots organisation after having

to set concrete objectives for the 2022 Congress; to launch a broad internal democratic debate on ecosocialist strategy in view of the next ordinary congress of dei Lenk in the first half of 2022, at which a text, after being widely discussed, will be drafted.

which a text, after having been widely debated, should be submitted to the vote of this 18th Ordinary Congress of dei Lenk