

Main resolution

The essentials of a left-wing municipal policy

20th Congress

Based on the catalogue of measures retained in the framework programme for the municipal elections, this resolution aims to submit to the vote of the Congress the key points of a left-wing municipal policy. The resolution attempts to summarise the main political objectives of the framework programme and to highlight the issues and measures that a left communal policy can urgently address from an eco-socialist perspective.

The framework programme states that municipalities can - and should - help to chart transitional paths towards a different logic of functioning than that of a capitalist society! Therefore, it is a question of pushing the municipalities to make full use of their planning and regulatory powers to protect the environment and the biodiversity and to fight poverty, social exclusion and the lack of affordable housing.

Improvements to public transport and the development of soft mobility!

The climate crisis and the growth of individual traffic require two indispensable measures: the end of combustion engine cars and a massive transition to public transport. All residents of a municipality must be able to get around easily without a car. The use of the private car must be reduced and discouraged. Similarly, municipalities must create the necessary conditions to ensure access to public transport, promote soft mobility and protect pedestrians and cyclists. The protection of the environment and especially the reduction of CO2 emissions must be the objectives that frame the emergency measures to be implemented.

To achieve this, it is essential that the municipalities :

- extend the existing public transport networks and services, while ensuring that the train - bus - tram timetables are adapted and the frequency of service is increased; ensure proximity of access, punctuality and priority for public transport;
- manage public transport in public hands, which implies the remunicipalisation of bus lines already privatised;

- 36 • establish safe cycle paths and build inter-municipal cycle lanes;
- 37 • reduce the speed limit to 30 km/h in city centres and residential areas;
- 38 • have a unique public car-sharing system with parking spaces reserved for
- 39 these cars in quarters and car-sharing in town centres and villages.

40 For the communal ecological transition and adaptation to climate change!

41 In addition to measures to prevent climate change through transport policies,
42 housing renovation, renewable energies, etc., it is up to the municipalities to take
43 drastic measures against real climate change, the consequences of which are
44 already very considerable (heat waves, heavy rain, air pollution), so that urban life
45 does not become increasingly unbearable. The constant densification of housing
46 only underlines the need to green, humidify, ventilate and brighten up urban
47 spaces.

48 It is therefore essential that municipalities take steps to

- 49 • provide much more green space within cities and replant street trees in an
- 50 appropriate and general manner
- 51 • protect or clear springs and ponds as well as fountains and wells so that they
- 52 create draughts to moderate temperatures
- 53 • progressively make road surfaces and the exterior walls of buildings as light as
- 54 possible, so that they reflect and do not store heat for the night.

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56 For an eco-socialist energy policy in the municipalities!

57 Every inhabitant must have access to running water, electricity and heating. The
58 energy must come from a renewable source and be priced according to social and
59 ecological criteria. Municipalities must use all means at their disposal to fight
60 against waste and over-consumption.

61 They should also invest in alternative energy technologies that would cover the
62 electricity consumption of a city and reduce the influence of large power plants.

63 To achieve this, it is essential that the municipalities :

- engage in the production of renewable energy under public control and encourage decentralised individual and cooperative initiatives for renewable energy production;
- introduce graduated taxes on water, electricity and heating according to consumption, while introducing free access to a basic amount of energy
- introduce targeted support for residents who find it difficult to pay their energy bills;
- carry out a public campaign for the energy renovation of municipal and private housing on the basis of a financing concept for renovation/insulation work including non-reimbursable grants and reimbursable credits depending on the available income, while taking into account the energy costs saved.

Affordable housing for all!

The housing shortage in Luxembourg is dramatic, especially in terms of affordable housing which is urgently needed. It is not enough to manage the existing shortage, but it is necessary to put in place an active social policy that focuses on affordable housing for all. The municipalities have concrete planning opportunities which they should use to actively support the construction of housing and to ensure that no one is left on the street.

To achieve this, it is essential that municipalities :

- commit to providing at least 10% of the total housing stock as public rental housing by 2030
- implement "Housing First" pilot projects within the municipality to meet the needs of socially excluded people
- create communal emergency housing in the short term;
- make use of vacant dwellings by identifying them and subjecting dwellings that have been vacant for more than one year without justification to a tax to be paid by the owners, which will be doubled every year.

Nature and green spaces

The concretisation, sealing and destruction of the environment continues seemingly without limit. The damage done in the recent Esch/Belval district is the

95 best example of these misdeeds, but one could also cite the permissions for the
96 barns of cattle farms for 150 animals. Or the struggles for the preservation of the
97 Bobësch, threatened by a bypass in Sanem, etc.

- 98 • A policy for the protection of nature and green areas is needed at the
99 municipal level, but also in the conurbations and cities themselves. In addition
100 to the development of public parks and gardens, we need real green flows for
101 people and biodiversity in residential areas. Reforestation and renaturation
102 are necessary.
- 103 • The canalization of watercourses must be stopped and the opening of
104 streams and rivers must become the rule.
- 105 • Shopping centres that destroy the green spaces around cities and what
106 remains of small shops in city centres and villages must be limited.

107 Youth, social and solidarity

108 In order to tackle the many problems, a real dynamic of change and new
109 approaches is needed. The space for communal democracy is limited, but we can
110 show the way and take the first steps in the direction of an ecological and socialist
111 alternative.

- 112 • We will promote movements for "self-managed youth and cultural centres",
113 to allow young people to express their creativity, their revolt and their desire
114 for change.
- 115 • The privatised or outsourced services must be re-commissioned and, where
116 necessary, new communal services must be created under a public regime
117 with civil servant personnel.
- 118 • We should organise solidarity twinning with regions of the world and their
119 populations that are directly affected by climate change and develop
120 cooperation.