

déi Lénk

by-laws

(Adopted at the founding congress on January 30, 1999, in Luxembourg, amended at the national congress on May 28, 2000, in Tetingen, at the national congress on June 6, 2010, in Differdingen, at the national congress on March 26, 2017, also in Differdingen, and at the national congress on March 25, 2023, in Luxembourg.)

*** This document is a translated version. In the event of any discrepancies, the German version shall prevail.**

Article 1: Social Objectives

The worldwide resistance to developments that degrade everything, including humans, to commodities for private profit is taking on new forms and gaining intensity today. déi Lénk (The Left – La Gauche) advocate for social equality and individual development at all levels of society. Pushing back and overcoming capitalism is not an end in itself but a means to an end: active democracy, including in the workplace and economy; developing social relations towards equality and cooperation; individual development and freedom from material need, economic exploitation, social, gender, or ethnic discrimination, political oppression, cultural disenfranchisement, and environmental degradation. There is no finished socialist project; the society of tomorrow arises from the reality of today, from the needs and demands of the people living in today's society.

Article 2: Organizational Principles

déi Lénk unites individuals of various sensitivities and currents of the left on an individual basis. Their aim is to give new dynamism to the left movement in Luxembourg.

déi Lénk allows its members to be active in other left political organizations. However, their spokespersons, representatives, deputies, and elected members in municipal councils represent déi Lénk alone in exercising these mandates.

déi Lénk promotes the union and associative engagement of its members. They emphasize internal democracy "from below," the autonomous participation of all, the involvement of non-members, and the openness of all bodies. Functions should be delegated as little as possible, and mandates in parliaments and municipal councils should not become the domain of "professional politicians." Gender equality is a goal at all levels of déi Lénk and in their activities.

Article 3: Membership

One becomes a member of déi Lénk by accepting its by laws, its programmatic orientation, and its fundamental goals as defined by the national congresses, as well as by paying an annual fee.

The amount and tiering of the contributions are determined by the national congress.

By decision of the national congress, sympathizer contributions can be established in addition to the regular contributions.

Article 4: Internal Democracy

Decisions are made by a majority of the present members at all levels.

To conduct elections, the responsible bodies establish election regulations.

In all bodies of déi Lénk, concrete measures are taken for gender equality and as balanced a representation as possible (meeting times, childcare, etc.).

As a rule, all decisions should be based on the broadest possible consensus.

All members of déi Lénk retain their freedom of opinion both within the movement and externally.

Spokespersons or representatives of déi Lénk must represent the majority position of déi Lénk in these functions.

Members participate in the grassroots activities of déi Lénk according to their personal interests in local/regional structures and/or in topic-specific working groups.

Article 5: Sections

déi Lénk organizes locally into sections. Sections can be established in one or several adjacent municipalities where déi Lénk has at least five members. Members from municipalities without a section can join any section of their choice as full members.

Sections make decisions autonomously and act independently within the framework of the by-laws, programmatic orientation, and fundamental goals of déi Lénk.

In the sections, déi Lénk meet annually in a regular general assembly, and additionally in extraordinary general assemblies and open member meetings. Non-members participate with an advisory vote.

The general and member assemblies of the sections deal with specific issues of their municipality/municipalities, preparations for district congresses and national congresses, and the general politics of déi Lénk.

They can establish topic-specific and work-specific groups.

They are convened by the local coordination or a member assembly. A general or member assembly must be convened if one-fifth of the members in the section request it in writing.

The agenda is proposed by the local coordination or the member assembly and set by the general and member assemblies.

The regular general assembly must take place before the end of March.

The agenda of the regular general assembly must include the following points:

- Activity report for the past year;
- Financial report of the treasurer;
- Report of the auditors;
- Report on the work of the elected members of déi Lénk in the municipal and, if applicable, alderman council;
- Discussion and vote on the reports;
- Election of the auditors and, if applicable, the new local coordination.

The financial report and a list of all donors must be forwarded to the central treasury before the regular congress.

A decision on the principle and modalities of participation by déi Lénk in an alderman council coalition must be made at an extraordinary general assembly.

Sections are entitled to establish internal regulations within the framework of the national by-laws. In case of a conflict between internal regulations and national by-laws, only the latter apply.

Article 6: Local Coordination

The general assembly of the section can elect a local coordination. Members of the local coordination commit to regularly participating in their meetings and activities. The local coordination is continuously accountable to the section members.

The local coordination is an advisory and executive body only; political will formation in the section is reserved for the general and member assemblies. Any section member can participate in the meetings of the local coordination.

Together with the general and member assemblies, the local coordination is responsible for preparing and coordinating work at the section level and the activities of elected members of déi Lénk in the municipal and, if applicable, alderman council.

The local coordination appoints a secretary and a treasurer from its ranks, who are accountable to the section members. Additionally, the local coordination can create and fill other functions.

In sections where no local coordination is elected, the general and member assemblies assume its tasks.

Article 7: The Ordinary Congress

- (1) The highest decision-making body of déi Lénk is the national congress.
- (2) It meets annually before the end of April for a regular session convened by the national coordination at least one month before the congress begins, with the agenda provided.
- (3) The congress consists of all members of déi Lénk who have paid their membership fee at the start of the congress. Only they have the right to propose and vote. Other members whose membership is less than one month old, and sympathizers, can participate in the congress with an advisory vote. The national coordination can invite other guests as observers.
- (4) The agenda is proposed by the national coordination and set by the congress.

The agenda must include the following points:

1. Report of the national coordination;
2. Financial report of the national treasurer;
3. Report of the audit commission;
4. Report on the parliamentary work of the deputies;
5. Discussion and vote on the reports;
6. Election of the new national coordination and the audit commission.

- (5) The national coordination proposes a bureau to moderate the congress, elected by the congress.
- (6) The congress procedures are regulated in rules adopted at the beginning of the congress, covering:
 1. Time allocation for agenda items;
 2. Speaking regulations;
 3. Decision-making on motions and voting procedures;
 4. Rules for constructive discussion;
 5. Election rules.
- (7) The national coordination sets up a resolution commission before the congress to prepare the congress. To intervene during the congress, it must be confirmed by the congress, which can also elect a new commission.
- (8) Motions and resolutions proposed by the national coordination or any other structure or individual members of déi Lénk must be submitted to members in writing at least two weeks before the congress begins. Members and structures of déi Lénk must submit their proposals at least two days before the congress begins. The congress can decide by majority vote that proposals submitted during the congress are admissible if supported by at least five present members with the right to propose and vote according to paragraph 3.

The national coordination can submit a current resolution at the beginning of the congress. Proposals related to it are admissible during the congress.

Proposals to the agenda are always admissible.

Article 8: The Extraordinary Congress

1. An extraordinary congress can be convened by the national coordination. It must be convened if one-fifth of the members who have paid their membership fee request it in writing.
2. The convening notice with the agenda must be sent to members at least one month before the congress begins. This period is reduced to five days in proven political urgency.
3. Paragraphs (1), (3), (5), (6), points 1 to 4, (7), and (8) of Article 7 apply to the extraordinary congress. Paragraph 6, point 5 of Article 7 applies in the case of elections. In case of urgent convening, the congress sovereignly decides on the consideration of motions, resolutions, and proposals, based on the national coordination's recommendation and contrary to paragraph 8 of Article 7.

Article 9: The National Coordination

- (1) Respecting the by-laws and the decisions made by the congresses, the National Coordination is the highest body of déi Lénk between congresses. It is responsible for the development and coordination of déi Lénk's political work on a national level, as well as the parliamentary activities of the deputies, in accordance with the guidelines of the national congresses.

(2) The National Coordination consists of an unlimited number of members, but at least 27 members, who commit to regularly participating in its meetings and activities.

(3) It is elected by the congress based on a political mandate in a secret ballot and is accountable to the congress. Any member of déi Lénk, whose membership is longer than one month and who has paid their membership fee according to Article 7, is eligible to run for office. Elected are all candidates who receive the confidence of at least one-fourth of the congress participants voting with valid ballots.

(3bis) The National Coordination includes an equal number of women and men among its members. Non-binary people can submit their candidacy on one of two self-designated lists.

Elections are held with a women's list and a men's list. The top 13 candidates on the women's list and the top 13 candidates on the men's list are elected. The 27th position is awarded to the highest-ranking candidate from either list. In case of insufficient candidates on one list, the elected members will be taken from the other list. If more than 13 members appear on the women's list, the number of elected members from the men's list will be determined by the number of elected members from the women's list. In case of a tie on one of the lists, one or two run-off elections will be held. If the tie persists, the youngest member will be considered elected.

(4) It can establish topic-specific and task-specific groups.

(5) The National Coordination regularly addresses the situation of the sections and existing regional structures based on a report from their representatives.

(6) To mediate in case of a conflict between members and/or structures of déi Lénk or to optimize the functioning of déi Lénk's bodies, the National Coordination can establish a commission.

(7) It appoints a national treasurer from among its ranks.

(8) The National Coordination elects, by absolute majority, a spokesperson and a deputy spokesperson who particularly represent the movement to the press.

(9) The National Coordination elects the representatives of déi Lénk in the structures at the national and international levels in which they are permanently involved.

(10) In its internal regulations, the National Coordination ensures that its functioning and chairmanship are structured in such a way that it can fulfill its role as the highest organ between congresses, in cooperation with the Coordination Office. The paid staff of déi Lénk assists with the various tasks related to the National Coordination.

(11) The National Coordination meets monthly upon written invitation by the chairperson, specifying the agenda at least 5 days before the meeting, except in urgent cases. It can convene special sessions at any time to address or work on political issues. A report on the key decisions is published after each meeting of the National Coordination.

- (12) Every member of déi Lénk is entitled to participate in the meetings of the National Coordination in an advisory capacity. An invitation specifying the agenda is published at least 5 days before the meeting, except in urgent cases.
- (13) The National Coordination adopts internal regulations that cover at least the following matters:
- (1) Election procedures according to Article 4, paragraph 2;
 - (2) Method of determining meetings;
 - (3) Procedure for setting the agenda;
 - (4) Attendance control;
 - (5) Conduct of meetings and decision-making;
 - (6) Framework for the functioning of working groups.

Article 10: The Control Commission

- (1) The national congress elects a Control Commission of three members. Their tasks are:
1. the regular control of the national treasury administration and the review of the accounting for its correctness; it can issue critical reports and improvement suggestions for the financial policy of déi Lénk;
 2. the verification of the membership list based on Article 3 before a congress and in the case of the request for an extraordinary congress based on Article 8 (1).
- (2) Membership in the Control Commission excludes membership in the National Coordination.
- (3) Upon their request, the Control Commission must be heard by the National Coordination on any question within its area of competence.

Article 11: The Coordination Office

- (1) The following tasks are delegated to the Coordination Office by the National Coordination:
1. prompt reaction to current political necessities, in alignment with the general policy of déi Lénk;
 2. continuous assurance of organizational and technical tasks within the framework of déi Lénk's budget;
 3. preparation and follow-up of the National Coordination meetings;
 4. the publication of an internal information bulletin;
 5. the organization of activities to involve all members of déi Lénk in the political discussion and decision-making process.

The National Coordination may assign the Coordination Office additional permanent or occasional tasks.

- (2) The National Coordination elects the Coordination Office from its ranks by secret ballot, consisting of nine members. Membership in the Coordination Office is incompatible with employment as an employee of the movement, the parliamentary group, or a

deputy. The members of the Coordination Office are accountable to the National Coordination at all times and can be dismissed by it.

- (3) The Coordination Office meets weekly in principle. Its meetings are open to all members of the National Coordination. The Coordination Office is obliged to create the necessary conditions for the exercise of this statutory right and to report regularly in writing to the members of the National Coordination.
- (4) The Coordination Office officially represents the movement externally and signs the employment contracts of the employees of the movement déi Lénk. It exercises supervisory functions over them.
- (5) The Coordination Office adopts internal regulations that cover at least the following matters:
 1. chairing of the meetings;
 2. delegation of signing authority;
 3. cooperation with the employed staff;
 4. determination of the method of convening meetings;
 5. determination of the agenda;
 6. attendance control;
 7. conduct of meetings and decision-making

Article 12: The National Working Groups

The national working groups are established by the National Coordination. Their tasks include the development of positions and the preparation of initiatives for déi Lénk in specific areas. A representative of each national working group regularly reports at the meetings of the National Coordination.

The national working groups can collaborate with other organizations active in the respective fields. Non-members interested in occasional collaboration with déi Lénk can also participate in the national working groups. Political or organizational decisions that engage the entire déi Lénk can only be made by the National Coordination.

Article 13: déi Lénk - Women

déi Lénk - Women is a women's organization in which women both inside and outside of déi Lénk can participate.

Their tasks include the development of positions and their own initiatives in the area of "feminist politics." A representative of déi Lénk - Women regularly reports at the meetings of the National Coordination.

Article 14: Regional Structures

- (1) Sections can come together to discuss common interests at a regional level. They can create common structures for this purpose.
- (2) No later than the year of a parliamentary election, members living in a district are convened by the National Coordination to a general assembly to prepare for the elections and to elect a district coordination.

- (3) The district coordination consists of members elected during the district assembly, as well as a representative from each existing section in the district.

Every member of the district is allowed to participate in these meetings with an advisory vote.

Article 15: The Election Lists

- (1) The preparation of candidate lists for municipal elections follows this procedure:

The Local Coordination or the General Assembly proposes a candidate list. From this and other candidatures presented to a General Assembly of the section, the candidate list is determined by secret ballot. In accordance with the general principles of Article 1, sections can participate in broader local lists under a different name and provide financial support, provided that decisions made at all levels, including post-election, by all individuals involved in these local democratic processes are based on mutually agreed rules.

- (2) The preparation of candidate lists in the various electoral districts for parliamentary elections follows this procedure:

The National Coordination, in joint meetings with each district coordination, proposes candidate lists. From these and other candidatures presented to a district general assembly, the candidate list is determined by secret ballot.

- (3) The preparation of the candidate list for Luxembourg's representatives in the European Parliament follows this procedure:

The National Coordination proposes a candidate list, which is established at a national congress. From this and other candidatures presented to a national congress, the candidate list is determined by secret ballot.

- (4) Gender parity is sought in the preparation of all candidate lists. A balanced representation of Luxembourgers and foreign citizens must be considered when preparing lists for European and municipal elections, wherever possible.

Article 16: The Elected Representatives in the Municipalities

Those elected on déi Lénk's lists represent, in the municipal and, where applicable, alderman councils, the policies established by déi Lénk's national and local bodies as well as in the municipal election program. Additionally, they can articulate personal and minority viewpoints. However, the decisions made by the section during municipal council votes remain binding.

They are obligated to participate in the meetings of the National Coordination, the general and member assemblies of their section, as well as in the meetings of the Local Coordination and the local working groups dealing with déi Lénk's work in the municipal and, where applicable, alderman councils.

If a person elected to the municipal council from déi Lénk's lists no longer agrees with the programmatic basic orientation and fundamental goals of déi Lénk, as defined by the national congresses, or if they no longer pay the established dues, a moral obligation to resign arises.

Article 17: The Deputies

(1) The elected deputies represent in the parliaments the policies of déi Lénk as jointly established in the election program, the resolutions of the national congresses, and the National Coordination. In recognition of their responsibility to the overall movement's interests, they can articulate minority and personal viewpoints. They are obligated to participate in the meetings of the National Coordination as well as in the meetings of the working groups dealing with déi Lénk's parliamentary work.

If a person elected to parliament from déi Lénk's lists no longer agrees with the programmatic basic orientation and fundamental goals of déi Lénk, as defined by the national congresses, or if they no longer pay the established dues, a moral obligation to resign arises.

(2) The elected representatives collectively manage the funds allocated to them by the parliament as a group and report on this to the National Coordination and the congress.

Article 18: Anti-Accumulation Provisions and Rotation

(1) Elected representatives of déi Lénk may only hold one of the following mandates:

- Deputy in the Chamber of Deputies;
- Member of the European Parliament;
- Mayor or member of the alderman council.

(2) To ensure systematic renewal of elected representatives and to prevent elected mandates from turning into political careers, deputies must resign from parliament after a maximum of three legislative years and make way for the next elected candidate. To avoid disrupting parliamentary work and to ensure collective effort, the next elected candidates should participate in parliamentary work from the beginning. The National Coordination ensures that the deputy mandate is compatible with continuing or resuming professional activities.

(3) In exceptional cases, which can be duly justified by the necessities of political representation, the National Coordination may exempt a specific officeholder from either the anti-accumulation principle or the rotation principle, but not both simultaneously, for a predetermined period that cannot exceed three years. Such a decision must be made by a qualified majority of three-quarters of the votes and only based on a majority-positive opinion of the respective section if the decision concerns a mayor or a member of the alderman council. This decision can only be made once for an individual within a ten-year period from the first decision.

Article 19: Rotation at the Municipal Level

Principle:

Elected representatives in the municipal council should be replaced by the next elected candidates during their term of office. This promotes the involvement of more people in outward-facing politics, greater grassroots democratic influence within the sections, and prevents the concentration of public attention, further intensified by the media, on a few individuals. Rotation is also necessary due to the long terms of office for municipal elected

representatives and the relatively small number of municipal representatives compared to the population. The sections aim for the broadest possible consensus and optimal preparation of all involved. To avoid disruption and enable collective work, the next elected candidates should be introduced to the work in the municipal council from the outset.

Rule:

Elected municipal council members will be replaced by the next elected candidates after three years. One or more replacements can also occur at shorter intervals by mutual agreement with the elected representatives.

Exception:

In exceptional cases, this general rotation rule can be adapted to specific situations in a municipality. This requires a corresponding, justified decision, which must be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the general assembly of the respective section. This decision only becomes effective after it has been confirmed by a simple majority of the National Coordination.

Article 20: Finances

- (1) The finances of déi Lénk are managed in accordance with the by-laws and the legislation governing the financing of political parties.
- (2) The central revenues of déi Lénk consist of:
 - Membership and supporter contributions;
 - Income from own activities;
 - State subsidies under the party financing law;
 - Donations;
 - Contributions from deputies;
 - Any other allocations resulting from their presence in parliaments.

The mode and amount of deputies' contributions are determined by the National Coordination. These contributions cannot be lower than the tax-free part of the deputies' allowances.

- (3) At the beginning of each year, the national treasurer reports to the National Coordination on the cash management of the past year and presents a budget plan for the new year. Based on this information, the National Coordination establishes the financial plan for the new year.
- (4) Sections have their own funds, managed according to the principle of local autonomy. These funds include contributions from municipal councilors and members of the council of aldermen, as well as representatives of déi Lénk in local bodies where they are financially compensated for their activities.

The minimum contribution from these representatives is determined by the National Coordination and cannot be lower than one-third of the received tokens and compensations.

The legal provisions on party financing regulate donations to “déi Lénk” and its sections. All sections of “déi Lénk” must inform the national treasurer of the donations they have collected and the identity of the donors so that an annual list of donors can be compiled. Personal payments from officeholders are not considered donations and are not limited.

According to a key determined by the National Coordination, funds are made available to the sections. These funds consist of a uniform base amount, a special grant for sections without income from municipal council presence, and additional grants proportional to the number of members. The sections finance all their activities with these revenues. Special grants from the central fund may be provided for specific occasions.

- (5) The central revenues mainly serve to finance the activities and initiatives of déi Lénk as a movement.

On the proposal of the Coordination Office, the National Coordination decides on the creation and abolition of positions for personnel working for the movement

Up to 25% of the revenues from parliamentary presence and party financing can be used to support leftist journalistic and social analysis projects, as well as initiatives of political and other leftist structures.

Funds advanced by friendly organizations of the political and associative left to déi Lénk for financing their national and European election campaigns are reimbursed without interest. Apart from the sections, working groups or other bodies of déi Lénk do not have their own budget. Their activities are financed through the central fund.

Article 21: International Left Alliances

Given the growing need for international cooperation among the left, the national congress of déi Lénk can decide to participate, as a member or as an observer, in European and international leftist alliances.

Article 22: Resignations

Membership in déi Lénk is lost through a written declaration of resignation. Failure to pay contributions for two consecutive years, despite a written reminder from the national treasurer indicating the consequences, is considered a voluntary resignation.

Article 23: Expulsions

Expulsions of members are only possible for particularly serious violations of the principles and interests of déi Lénk. They can only be decided by the National Coordination with a three-

quarters majority in a secret ballot. The expulsion must be confirmed at the next national congress by the same mode. In the meantime, membership is suspended. The opportunity for justification must be given to the member before the National Coordination as well as before the national congress.

Article 24: Amendments to the by-laws

Amendments to the by-laws must be decided by a national congress convened with a corresponding agenda item. They are only considered adopted if at least two-thirds of the members present with voting rights vote in favor. Important amendments to the by-laws must be widely discussed at the grassroots level during the preparation phase of the national congress.

Article 25: Dissolution

Decisions on the dissolution of déi Lénk and the determination of its remaining finances must be made by an extraordinary congress convened specifically for this purpose. They are only considered adopted if at least three-quarters of the members present with voting rights vote in favor.

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