

# 1 MILLION

signatures & messages for the Nature Restoration Law



Clear rules for the protection  
of nature and landscape

The preservation and protection of biodiversity - our species, their habitats and the landscape - is the central concern of the Mouvement Ecologique par excellence.

Unfortunately, many people and politicians are less aware of the importance of the biodiversity crisis than the climate crisis. Yet it is just as urgent.

The Mouvement Ecologique therefore organises conferences, participatory activities, etc. to raise awareness, but also makes concrete demands on politicians.

In 2023, it has above all succeeded in continuing to focus on the need for greater "greening" of the localities.



# #RESTORENATURE

## THE "NATURE RESTORATION LAW" - THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURE CONSER- VATION LAW AT EU LEVEL FOR YEARS

In 2023, a decision was made at EU level on the most important piece of nature conservation legislation in years: The "Nature Restoration Law". Under discussion was a proposal from the EU Commission that was certainly not perfect, but is nevertheless seen by leading nature conservation organisations as an important milestone in the conservation of biodiversity. The unanimous opinion was that this law would place essential habitats under protection and, at the same time, partially regulate their restoration.

It was now crucial to convince the Parliament to vote in favour of the EU proposal. It was clear that every single vote in the EU Parliament counted. The Mouvement Ecologique therefore invested a great deal of energy in persuading Luxembourg's MEPs to stand up for a strong law and vote in favour of the Commission proposal.

The initiatives were many and varied. In addition to numerous statements and others, a nationwide petition was organised, partly

together with natur&émwelt and coordinated by the Mouvement Ecologique, a nationwide petition was organised under the motto *"Let's give our MEPs a strong mandate!"*.

Within a very short space of time, around 2,000 people managed to support an appeal to MEPs in Luxembourg. They were asked to speak out in favour of a strong EU law to restore nature. The Mouvement Ecologique initiated a detailed exchange with a number of Luxembourg MEPs. The action was a complete success at EU level (324 votes in favour compared to 312 against in Parliament) and showed how important the commitment of the Mouvement Ecologique is. Mouvement Ecologique is. With the exception of Christophe Hansen and Isabelle Wiseler, the MEPs voted in favour of the law. Charles Goerens, who was initially rather negative, ultimately voted in favour, as did Marc Angel and Tilly Metz.

Monica Semedo was not present at the vote.



## IN FAVOUR OF A GOAL-ORIENTED NATURE CONSERVATION LAW IN LUXEMBOURG

The Luxembourg Nature Conservation Act was repeatedly in the firing line in 2022, in some cases rightly so. The current law does indeed contain administrative hurdles that offer hardly any advantages for nature conservation, but are a source of great resentment. On the other hand, some of the provisions that would represent real added value for nature conservation are unsatisfactory.

The Mouvement Ecologique addressed these weaknesses on several occasions and made concrete suggestions for a more efficient law that would involve less administrative effort, administrative burden.

However, the Mouvement Ecologique when minor amendments were made to the Nature Conservation law regarding buildings and renovations in the green zone were implemented and regulations for **smaller "installations" / constructions in the green zone were relaxed**. Although the Mouvement Ecologique welcomed some aspects of the reform project, it submitted further proposed amendments that went beyond this. In the opinion of the Mouvement Ecologique, some relaxations go too far, whereas greater flexibility would be possible in other areas (e.g. the erection of information boards). A few of the Mouvement Ecologique's suggestions were taken on board, while others were not. The law is likely to be amended again in 2024, meaning that the Mouvement Ecologique will once again be involved.



## "COMPENSATION MEASURES SIMPLIFY AND ORGANISE MORE EFFICIENTLY DESIGN - FOR THOSE AFFECTED AND FROM A NATURE CONSERVATION PERSPECTIVE"

... is the title of another important field of action in the area of "biodiversity protection". The Mouvement Ecologique has repeatedly pointed out that the current compensation system is cumbersome and in some cases inadequate, leading to unnecessary prolongation of procedures and additional expenditure, without these hurdles bringing the expected benefits for nature and people.

In a detailed statement, the Mouvement Ecologique explained that it is entirely possible to maintain a compensation system within the construction perimeter while at the same time addressing current problem areas and finding a solution. Constructive improvements were discussed with the ministry, including how the municipalities could be more closely involved and how the costs could be reduced, especially for smaller construction projects. Environment Minister Joëlle Welfring submitted a legislative project with some amendments to the law before the election date. The Mouvement Ecologique will take a detailed position on this under the new government.

