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Fir eng zukunftsfäheg Landwirtschaftspolitik – Géint den Asaz vu Pestiziden

The loss of species and habitats has reached dramatic proportions, also in Luxembourg.

This situation is largely due to current agricultural practices.

It is not the individual farmer who is responsible for the negative consequences, but a misguided agricultural policy. In this context, it is interesting to note that the extinction of species and the extinction of farms are running in parallel.

That is why the commitment to reforming agricultural policy is of paramount importance for biodiversity, people and individual farmers.

The same applies to the use of pesticides, which urgently needs to be reduced.

IN FAVOUR OF A REORIENTATION OF TODAY'S AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Numerous statements and projects of the Mouvement Ecologique in 2023 related to the urgently needed reform of agricultural policy, as can be seen in the following chapter "*Kloer Regelen fir de Schutz vun Natur a Landschaft*".

In both the municipal and national elections, the coalition negotiations, the vote in the EU Parliament on the "Nature Restoration law", etc., the Mouvement Ecologique repeatedly took a stand in favour of future-oriented agriculture, in the interests of farmers but also the protection of common goods.

In addition to the general objectives of agricultural policy, the position was also taken on how compensation measures could be handled more sensibly and how new buildings could be better regulated in the green zone.

Last but not least, a study by OekoZenter Pafendalls and the "Lëtzebuerger Landjugend a Jongbauer" was supported, which analysed the problems farmers currently see in practice in the environmental and nature conservation sector and what improvements could be made.

Together with Greenpeace Luxembourg, natur&ëmwelt, SOS Faim, the Vereenegung fir Biolandwirtschaft Lëtzebuerg and CELL, a position was taken on the occasion of the Agricultural Summer at the beginning of the year. Among other things, they campaigned for civil society stakeholders to be more involved in the discussions and for agricultural policy to be fundamentally reformed.

A joint position was also taken on the occasion of the vote on the new agricultural law in the Chamber of Deputies on 13 July. Chamber of Deputies. This defines the direction of Luxembourg's agriculture and the subsidies for farmers and other food producers for the coming years. The organisations expressed great doubt that the measures in the new agricultural law will be sufficient to solve the decline in biodiversity, the poor quality of surface water, the pollution of groundwater reserves, etc., the organisations said. According to the organisations, there is a lack of an overarching view of the medium- to vision of our agriculture in society in the medium to long term society, also in the interests of farmers.

The commitment to reforming agricultural policy will continue unabated in 2024.

STOP USING PESTICIDES

Mouvement Ecologique has been a member of the European branch of the Pesticide Action Network (PAN Europe) since September 2021. It has supported several initiatives to ban the use of pesticides.

In April, the Luxembourg Administrative Court ruled that the government's decision to ban glyphosate was not permissible. The Mouvement Ecologique regretted that the government did not take action against the judgement. It argued, among other things, that on reading the judgement, it was clear that the court's decision *"was based, among other things, on the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture had not given sufficient reasons for this decision. Ministry of Agriculture had not sufficiently justified this decision. (...)"* *The company concerned, however, seems to want to "appropriate" this judgement for itself at EU level and present it as if EU member states have no right to a progressive policy regarding the ban on pesticides. The Mouvement Ecologique therefore expressly regrets that the government has not decided to confirm its decision by means of a new ban and, among other things, to put the argumentation on a better footing. This would have been procedurally very possible, as the Mouvement Ecologique has learnt from well-informed circles. This would have sent a particularly clear signal from Luxembourg."*

The various ministries - Agriculture, Health and Environment - were then repeatedly made aware of recent scientific studies that showed high levels of pesticide contamination in Luxembourg. They were repeatedly made aware of their responsibilities. The commitment will continue in 2024.

MORE TRANSPARENCY IN THE USE OF PESTICIDES

The Mouvement Ecologique is also constantly endeavouring to ensure finally disclose the figures on how many and which pesticides are pesticides are sold in Luxembourg. However, the publication of this data, which should actually be the basis of a targeted agricultural policy, is not being disclosed due to "data protection reasons". In 2024, the Mouvement Ecologique may take legal action against the publication of this data.

