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Recycle, repair,
share:

Elements of a new economy

The absolute majority of climate and biodiversity scientists agree that these crises require a change in production methods and consumption habits. The circular economy is the order of the day. At the same time, we must also encourage people to buy fewer goods and to repair and share used items. This approach is a must not only from an ecological but also from a social point of view.

It promotes togetherness and brings people together.

Ultimately, these developments represent key elements of a new economic model.

Accordingly, these topics characterised the work of the Mouvement Ecologique in 2023. The activities are carried out in close cooperation with the Pafendall Ecocentre and, to a large extent, with the financial support of the Ministry of the Environment.



IN FAVOUR OF CLEAR RULES AT EU LEVEL, SO THAT THE RIGHT TO REPAIR IS SECURED

At EU level, the essential course is being set for the extent to which the repair of devices will become easier and more feasible in the future. For example, whether spare parts must be available. Accordingly, the Mouvement Ecologique is also working with European partners at EU level for better framework conditions in this sense.

On Wednesday 22 March 2023, the European Commission presented a proposal on the European **Right to Repair**. However, according to the Mouvement Ecologique, this proposal had a number of weaknesses. For example, access to affordable spare parts was not sufficiently regulated, the introduction of support programmes for repairs - such as a repair bonus - was not addressed, software and hardware practices that make it difficult to use compatible and reused spare parts were not prohibited, etc.

Together with European partners (network of the Right to Repair campaign network and the Repair Round Table). Fortunately, the EU Parliament was subsequently able to assert itself in the trilogue negotiations with the Commission and Council at the beginning of February 2024 with its demand that manufacturers should must make spare parts available at reasonable prices.

In addition to this, the hurdles mentioned above (such as the ban on software and hardware practices that make repairs more difficult) have also been partially removed. Now, however, it depends on the exact wording in the legal text, which hopefully will not allow any loopholes. A small fly in the ointment: the new directive will initially only apply to nine product categories, such as smartphones, washing machines and fridges. This means that many potentially problematic products, such as laptops, toys or smaller household appliances, will remain unregulated. Further product groups should therefore be added as quickly as possible.

At the beginning of June, together with 80 European organisations called on the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers not to water down the **planned new EU packaging regulation** which replaces the EU Packaging Directive and provides for reusable quotas for the takeaway sector, among other things - not to be watered down.

The trilogue negotiations on this came to an initial provisional agreement in mid-March 2024. There is not yet a final text, but it should be available soon.

IN THE REORGANISATION OF THE RECYCLING CENTRES INTO RESOURCE CENTRES: GUARANTEEING IMPORTANT INNOVATIONS IN TERMS OF REUSE-REPAIR-SHARE

According to the new waste law, the current recycling centres are to be transformed into resource centres. The Mouvement Ecologique did not go far enough with the government's considerations as to what this means in concrete terms. Specific proposals were therefore submitted to the local authorities so that criteria could be drawn up at national level that each resource centre should fulfil. They also called for guidelines on how the interaction of these centres with other stakeholders (e.g. crafts, social and solidarity economy initiatives) could be regulated and how cooperation between resource centres could be strengthened, etc.

In the opinion of the Mouvement Ecologique, a strategy / overall concept for the design of future centres is necessary. Minimum criteria should apply, which all municipalities must respect. More progressive municipalities should receive special financial support for special efforts. More specific suggestions from the Ministry in this regard are not yet known.

RAISING AWARENESS ON THE TOPIC OF "REUSE-REPAIR-SHARE": THE "FIXIT" SERIES

As part of the Rethink project, the "fixit! Flücken.Léinen.Notzen." campaign was also continued, in collaboration with the Pafendall eco-centre and with financial support from the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Biodiversity. The aim is to provide consumers with more information on the topic of "Repair, ReUse, Share".

The centrepiece of the campaign is a website (available at www.meco.lu/fixit and www.oekozenner.lu/fixit), where everyone can find specific addresses for second-hand purchases, information on repair instructions, background knowledge on the right to repair, tips on sharing and much more. New tips are added regularly!

These tips are also shared on social media and regularly forwarded to the municipalities so that they can publish them in their "Gemeindegubued".