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## Tackling the energy transition and the climate crises consistently

The energy transition and the fight against the climate crisis require fundamental reforms at all levels: the way the economy functions, the way we consume, etc. The initiatives of the Mouvement

Ecologique are correspondingly diverse. Although the war in Ukraine has heightened awareness, these forward-looking challenges are still far from being addressed to the necessary extent.



## THE PREREQUISITE PAR EXCELLENCE: AN HONEST BALANCE SHEET OF LUXEM- BOURG'S CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS.

2022, Luxembourg's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2021 were published, as required by law. The total amount of emissions was below the legally stipulated target value (by a very narrow margin of 1.3%). However, emissions in key sectors (industry, construction and housing,...) increased! The Mouvement Ecologique did not want to accept this development and therefore addressed it publicly ("*Achieving climate protection targets: an end to whitewashing*"). It also demanded that the "Plateforme pour l'action climat et la transition énergétique", in which the social stakeholders concerned are represented, be brought together with the results, the causes and possible solutions should be addressed by the "Plateforme pour l'action climat et la transition énergétique", in which the social stakeholders concerned are represented.

### • Improve the draft of the new national climate and energy plan in essential parts

According to EU law, each country must draw up a national climate and energy plan that sets out how the targets for reducing reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the expansion of renewable energies energy, etc. are to be met. In a public procedure, anyone can formulate their suggestions. The Mouvement Ecologique responded in a lengthy statement.

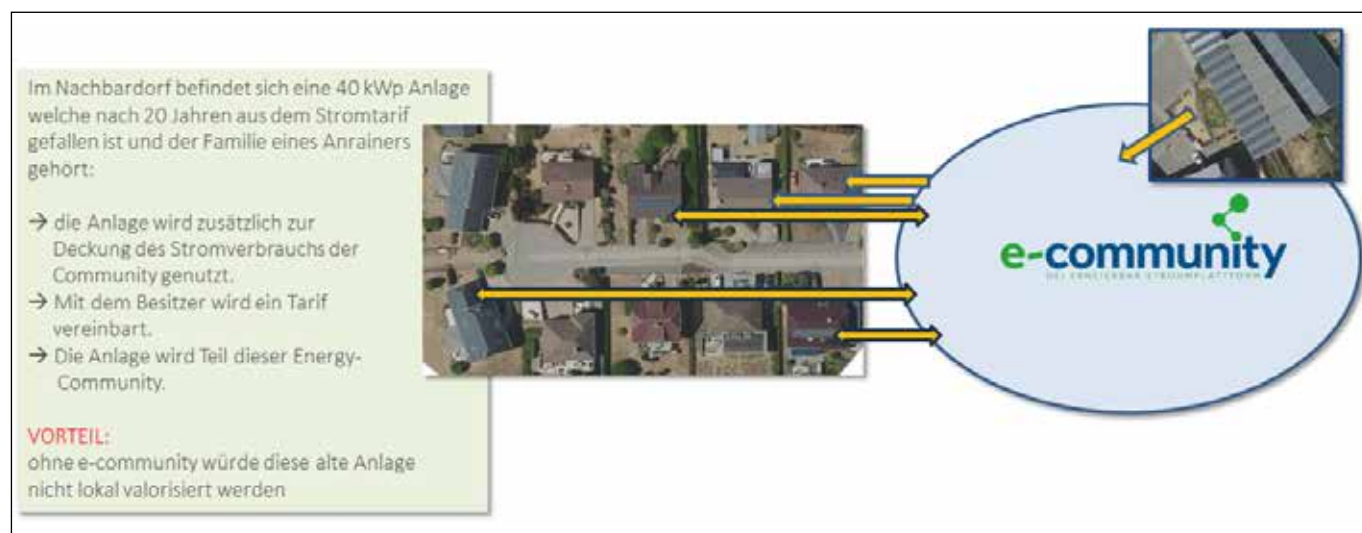
Positive aspects of the draft were also welcomed, such as the clear structure, the - in relation to the previous plan - quite detailed measures, the involvement of STATEC in the data and data management.

However, specific suggestions were also formulated and significant shortcomings were pointed out. For example, the draft of the plan is not in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, as the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction targets in particular are set too low. In addition, an analysis of the previous national energy and climate plan, which is necessary to recognise why the implementation of certain measures has failed to date, is missing. It is also not clear enough which measures would lead to which reductions. In the opinion of the Mouvement Ecologique, a number of measures are estimated too optimistically. The extent to which the expected economic growth is compatible with the climate targets is also not scrutinised in any way.

### • Unsatisfactory outcome of the climate platform

In 2020, the Climate Protection Act created a "plateforme climat", which is to actively support the revision of the National Climate and Energy Plan, for example, but also take other initiatives. It is made up of stakeholders from business, trade unions and environmental, social and development organisations. Unfortunately, the Mouvement Ecologique has realised that the committee has not met these requirements to date. The Mouvement Ecologique has therefore sent a letter to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development, Joëlle Welfring. In particular, the focus should be on those aspects that may also be the subject of conflicting discussions between the aforementioned social actors (such as the continuation of a CO<sub>2</sub> tax) in order to pave the way for solutions.

Not least due to the activities of the Mouvement Ecologique, the platform succeeded, after some toing and froing, in issuing an ultimately quite good report on the draft national climate and energy plan. During the preparation of this report, there was finally a dialogue, albeit still quite limited, exchange on fundamental issues, such as economic growth.





- **Driving forward the energy transition thanks to "communities": Mouvement Ecologie as a founding member of a platform for renewable electricity**

It was founded in June on the initiative of the Réiden Energy Park: the new cooperative electricity platform "E-Community" for renewable energies. The Mouvement Ecologique is a founding member of this forward-looking form of cooperation in the energy sector, alongside other organisations. The aim of the platform is to increase self-sufficiency with the help of local renewable energies, reduce dependence on international market effects and thus create a decentralised local energy market for the common good. More information: [www.e-community.lu](http://www.e-community.lu).

- **Enquiry to the Ministry of Energy: How is the promotion of solar energy progressing in concrete terms?**

Mouvement Ecologique and Eurosolar had a joint meeting with Energy Minister Claude Turmes in 2022 (and another follow-up meeting with the grid operator CREOS Luxembourg), in which the practical, everyday hurdles to setting up solar installations were discussed. Some improvements were made as a result, but the Mouvement Ecologique 2023 was repeatedly made aware of persistent problems by citizens. The ministry was therefore asked about the implementation of the solutions mentioned. Some things have been tackled, but many are still pending. Erhöhte Subventionen für Heizungs-austausch und energetische Sanierung weiterführen!

At the beginning of December, the government decided not to extend the increased subsidies ("top up") in the energy sector (renewable energies, refurbishments...), which were due to expire at the end of 2023. energy sector (renewable energies, refurbishments...), which were due to expire at the end of 2023, will no longer be extended. In a press release, the Mouvement Ecologique spoke out against parts of these plans. The decision not to continue these subsidies for solar installations is appropriate, as the subsidy is very high. However, subsidies for the replacement of fossil-fuelled heating systems and the energy-efficient renovation of homes should be maintained, as the investment costs may still be too high. This is all the more important as the government has not yet explained what the announced new subsidy system (which is to take greater account of social aspects) should look like. No assistance should be abolished before a new, more socially selective system is introduced.

The Mouvement Ecologique's campaign was successful and the government announced that it would extend the subsidies until June 2024.

- **Energy Weeks 2023 - Reduction of grey energy in the building sector**

The Energy Weeks, organised jointly with the Pafendall eco-centre, round off the activities. Here, property developers receive specific information on the topic of "energy- and resource-saving construction". During this year's Energy Weeks, over 100 participants were able to familiarise themselves with various approaches and specific examples for reducing grey emissions in the construction sector.

## **RESHAPE THE CAR FLEET! AUTOFESTIVAL 2023 - AGAINST ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL BLINDNESS**

In the run-up to the car festival, the Mouvement Ecologique made concrete proposals to counter the trend towards ever larger and more energy-intensive cars for example, the introduction of a financial levy (so-called malus system) for new purchases of combustion cars with high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In addition, the Mouvement Ecologique demanded that in future, the payment of premiums for e-cars should take certain social criteria into account (e.g. no state subsidies for particularly expensive e-cars).



## **EXCLUDING GAS AND NUCLEAR POWER FROM LUXEMBOURG BANKS' GREEN FUNDS**

In a letter to three Luxembourg banks with state participation (Spuerkeess, BIL and BNP Parisbas), the Mouvement Ecologique, together with Greenpeace, appealed to exclude gas and nuclear power from their supposedly green sustainability funds in future.

In a subsequent written exchange with the Board of Directors and the management of Spuerkeess, the latter proposed to consider the development and proactive marketing of a truly green product, in line with the increased ambitions mentioned by both organisations.

## **ANOTHER NO TO NUCLEAR POWER - OBJECTION TO THE EXTENSION EXTENSION OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS DOEL 4 AND TIHANGE 3:**

In May, the Mouvement Ecologique formally lodged an objection to the lifetime extension of the Doel 4 and Tihange 3 nuclear reactors in Belgium, supporting the findings of an analysis by two independent experts commissioned by Greenpeace Belgium. This analysis shows that the dossier submitted by the Belgian authorities as part of the procedure does not meet the legal requirements.

The Mouvement Ecologique also plays a coordinating role in the "Atombündnis géint Atomkraft".

