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Influencing EU Policy - more important than ever

The main course for sustainable development is set at the EU level. This makes it all the more important to follow it more closely and to get involved in the EU elections.

The Mouvement Ecologique put forward concrete proposals for a sustainable EU policy, confronted the parties with specific questions and provided

information on the positions of the various parties.

The Mouvement Ecologique has set itself the goal of monitoring the work of the government at EU level and the EU parliamentarians more closely in the coming years.



CONFERENCE ON THE TOPIC: “MAJOR CHALLENGES AT EU LEVEL IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

It all kicked off in April with a *lecture and subsequent discussion with the chairman of BUND, the German branch of Friends of the Earth, Olaf Bandt*.

He presented the directional decisions that are important for the EU elections: If the narrative of deregulation and a lack of competitiveness dominates, environmental regulations will be seen as a source of bureaucracy and a barrier to economic development... or will the EU become a driver of socio-ecological transition? 'Rollback' or a driving force for shaping the future?

The goals of environmental organisations at the EU level are as follows:

- A Europe in harmony with nature
- A fair and sustainable agriculture and food policy
- A rapid and fair reduction in emissions
- A resource-light life and a toxin-free environment
- Climate-, environmentally-, health- and socially-friendly mobility
- A social-ecological economy for Europe and the world
- A democratic, transparent and just Europe.

The lecture provided a thought-provoking overview of the major challenges and stimulated lively discussion among the interested audience. Like all videos, it can be viewed at www.meco.lu.

EU ELECTIONS: CONCRETE AND DETAILED PROPOSALS!

As with the municipal and national elections, the Mouvement Ecologique drew up very specific proposals for EU policy. This was, of course, with the hope that it would be able to influence the political parties' election programmes and the work in the coming years.

The proposals were based on those drawn up by Mouvement Ecologique's partner organisations. This once again highlighted the importance of Mouvement Ecologique being a member of a European alliance.

The suggestions were also available in English and French and were distributed as widely as possible.

EU ELECTIONS 2024: A DECISIVE VOTE – ESPECIALLY FROM A SUSTAINABILITY PERSPECTIVE

24 questions for the political parties

Citizens should know which direction the parties stand for in the area of sustainable development. That is why the Mouvement Ecologique confronted the parties with a detailed questionnaire in advance.

The LSAP, KPL, Déi Lénk, DP, CSV, Déi Gréng and Pirates participated. No response was received from Volt Luxembourg, Focus, the Conservative Party, ADR, Zesummen-d'Bréck.

The parties' answers were published in a special edition of info and also presented to a wide audience at a press conference, among other things. However, for a better understanding, the Mouvement Ecologique also carried out a general analysis of the parties' statements, so that even a quick reader could get a good overview of the positions of the various parties.



2024 EU ELECTIONS: Analysis of 24 questions posed to political parties

ALSO OF INTEREST FOR THE FUTURE: HOW EU PARLIAMENTARIANS HAVE VOTED IN THE PAST

The parties' programmes are interesting and important, as are the goals they want to achieve at EU level in the coming years. But it is equally exciting to see how the Luxembourg MEPs and, more generally, the members of the political parties have voted in recent years. This provides a concrete measure of how promises for the next few years can also be evaluated. That is why the Mouvement Ecologique drew on analyses by European colleagues and evaluated the work of the EU parliamentarians in recent years. An extremely revealing analysis...

OUTCOME OF THE EU ELECTIONS: "NEW PARLIAMENT – SAME PLANET"

The outcome of the EU elections, which saw a certain shift to the right, was the subject of much discussion. Since the Mouvement Ecologique was also approached about it several times, it commented on the situation from its perspective. This can be summarised as follows:

- The fact is that those parties that recognise the climate and (albeit less explicitly) the biodiversity crisis still represent the majority in the future EU Parliament! The far-right and populist parties that deny the environmental facts are in the minority despite the shift to the right.
- It is also a fact that the composition of the EU Parliament does not change the facts. Natural laws are not negotiable and do not change with elections. And the climate and biodiversity crises are undeniable facts: tackling them consistently must be a political priority at the EU level. All the greater the responsibility of the majority parties in Parliament!
- Social justice and ecological transition must go hand in hand: we need a 'new social and green deal'. Distributive justice, people with fewer financial resources in the transition... are essential for shaping the future of the EU. What is needed is a 'green and social deal', as the European environmental organisations are calling for. Positive future perspectives must be outlined.

- It is all the more important that the member states now pursue responsible policies, because only this can prevent a further shift to the right.



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**VIRSCHLÉI VUM
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