



The Luxembourg government is glossing over the climate record and delaying the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions:

Climate protection must finally become a government priority!

At the beginning of August, the Ministry of the Environment presented the provisional climate balance for 2024. The objective analysis is clear: Luxembourg is not on track! That the Ministry once again tries to gloss over this situation in recent statements in the press is irresponsible and delays the – also from an economic point of view – so urgently needed energy transition and climate protection.

It is true, as the Ministry emphasizes, that Luxembourg's total emissions are below the target value. But this seemingly good news conceals the fundamental problem!

Only in the areas of mobility and agriculture are we meeting the set sectoral emission targets. In the key sectors of buildings and industry, but also in wastewater treatment, however, we are failing disgracefully to achieve the necessary reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Even worse: the “reduction gap” compared to the planned reduction path has not decreased in recent years but has steadily increased!

Since 2021, industrial emissions have been above the intended levels every year; in 2024, according to the provisional balance, even 38.5% higher. A similar picture emerges in the wastewater treatment sector: in 2021 emissions in this sector were 2.1% below the annual target, but every year thereafter the target was exceeded; in 2024 by as much as 9.2%. In the building sector, temporary crisis- and weather-related reductions were observed in previous years, but in 2024 emissions deviate again more strongly from the planned reduction path, with 11.6% compared to 10% in 2021. In light of the reductions foreseen in the PNEC compared to 2005, the developments in these sectors lag far behind these goals.

Luxembourg's greenhouse gas emissions (emission relative to yearly reduction goals according to NECP)				
	2021	2022	2023	2024 (provisional data)
Industry * (Relation between real emissions and yearly reduction quota set in law)	551 / 455 +21.1%	487 / 431 +13.1%	533 / 408 +30.7%	532 / 384 +38,5%

2004 emissions in comparison to 2005 (base value for NECP targets)				----- +21% (NECP target 2030: -45%)
Wastewater treatment *	185 / 189	190 / 180	196/171	178 / 163
	-2.1%	+5.5%	+14.8%	+9,2%
2004 emissions in comparison to 2005 (base value for NECP goals)				----- -3% (NECP target 2030: -40%)
Buildings *	1653 / 1497	1421 / 1396	1366 / 1295	1 334 / 1195
	+10.4%	+1.8%	+5.5%	+11,6%
2004 emissions in comparison to 2005 (base value for NECP goals)				----- -19% (NECP target 2030: -64%)

*In 1000 tons equivalent CO2

There is no way around the fact that Luxembourg must comply with its sectoral targets in these areas in the medium and long term, and not – as recently put forward by the Ministry of the Environment – revise them downward, labeling them as “partly too ambitious” or not in line with more recent projections from STATEC. The existing targets are essential for climate protection – they are only “too ambitious” if the political framework is lacking. And the STATEC projections are merely the result of these political frameworks: if they improve in favor of climate protection, the calculations will also change.

Protecting future generations requires climate neutrality of our society by 2045 at the latest, so it cannot be that certain sectors continue to go off track, and politics even tries to justify this!

Between 2005 and 2024 (almost 20 years), reductions compared to 2005 have, according to the provisional balance, fallen far short of the targets: industrial emissions have actually

increased by 21%, while the reduction in the building sector, at 19%, has not even reached one third of the targeted value.

By 2030, in just 4.5 years, very substantial reductions would now have to be achieved (-65% in industry, -45% in the building sector). An absolutely untenable situation! If the government in general and the Ministry now act as if this highly problematic situation could be resolved by juggling figures, they are consciously ignoring the necessary climate protection targets as well as binding law!

Mouvement Ecologique categorically rejects that the targets based on scientific necessity should now be called into question. Therefore, the political framework must now be put in place to ensure that we meet our European climate protection obligations, particularly in the industrial and building sectors. Otherwise, the progressive restructuring and adaptation of these sectors cannot succeed!

Every lost year in fact means that the missing reductions will have to be made up in ever shorter periods of time – with significantly higher social, ecological, and economic costs. With every year of hesitation, the task becomes more difficult and more painful. If we fail to reduce emissions in all sectors from now on and initiate a turnaround – and if even the opposite is the case – the negative consequences will be severe. How then is decarbonisation by 2045 supposed to succeed?

Mouvement Ecologique calls on the government to act decisively in order to implement the necessary measures to ensure real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors and a gradual restructuring of existing structures.

Only with binding and clear targets can the necessary planning security and the pressure to innovate be guaranteed, enabling sectors with greater inertia to contribute with new solutions to the transition.

Mouvement Ecologique

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