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For a dynamic democracy

A vibrant democracy – offering citizens ample opportunities for information and participation – is the very foundation of social cohesion.

If we want to make our society and our economic system more sustainable, a ‘cultural’ shift is also necessary.

We must move away from consumerism and a culture of competition towards cooperation and social justice.

This is why a commitment to a diverse culture of debate and decision-making is of particular importance when working towards a sustainable society.

EDUCATION: A PILLAR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

At the start of the year, Mouvement Ecologique, in collaboration with move., organised a fascinating information evening on youth research.

The findings of *the Shell Study*, one of the leading surveys on young people's attitudes and values, were presented there. This study, regarded as a benchmark in youth research, has been conducted since 1953. Ingo Leven, head of the 'Family, Education, Civil Society' research department at the Verian research institute (formerly Kantar Public) and co-author of the 19th Shell Youth Study, presented the findings.

Dr Caroline Residori, a youth researcher at the University of Luxembourg and co-author of *the 'Survey on Youth in Luxembourg'*, along with Andreas Heinen, a qualified sociologist and youth researcher, provided an overview of the findings and current developments in research concerning the socio-political role of young people in Luxembourg.

It was a very stimulating evening, attended by a mixed audience of adults and young people. There was a consensus on the need to explore the evening's findings in greater depth.

This point was partly addressed during a follow-up event the following morning, where an interesting discussion took place with professionals and young people on the conclusions to be drawn from these findings for youth work.

Both events were very inspiring.

CIVIL SOCIETY: A CRITICAL OPPOSITION – IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY

A collective of more than 30 civil society organisations (environmental organisations, international solidarity organisations, social justice organisations and human rights organisations), including the Mouvement Ecologique, was formed in late 2024 under the name Vočo. The common objective: to defend a vibrant democracy and respect for the work of civil society.

The starting point for this initiative was the Caritas affair, but also various statements by members of the government that gave the impression that the government was calling into question the important role of civil society.

In 2025, activities continued: for example, a discussion took place with Minister of State Luc Frieden on the role of civil society and key issues (freedom of information, new legislation on associations, etc.). The meeting was constructive, but no decisions were taken.

During the year, Vočo issued various statements, for example for example on the so-called 'deportation' law.

FOR BETTER ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR CITIZENS!

Citizens' access to information is governed by the Act of 14 September 2018 (*transparent and open administration*). Unfortunately, this is an extremely flawed piece of legislation. This was known from the outset, which is why the Chamber of Deputies, when passing the Act, had already decided that the new legislation should be evaluated two years after its entry into force.



Unfortunately, this has so far remained a promise; in practice, very little has been done. This is why the Mouvement Ecologique continues to campaign tirelessly for improvements to the law through various letters, statements and discussions.

It is important to Mouvement Ecologique that the 'Commission for Access to Documents' can always be called upon when requests made to the public sector remain unanswered.

'COMMISSION FOR ACCESS TO STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL RIGHTS!

Building a sustainable and resilient society for tomorrow requires, more than ever, open dialogue, consideration of factual arguments, as well as well-developed civil rights and modern political education. Unfortunately, Luxembourg is far from achieving these objectives. This makes the commitment of civil society, and in particular that of Mouvement Ecologique, all the more important.

This is why the issue of 'civil society' is a common thread running through all of the Mouvement Ecologique's activities.

In various legislative proposals and dossiers, the organisation consistently advocates for sound information policy and broad public participation. It also advises citizens seeking information on their civic rights or on opportunities to get involved.

