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Tackling the climate to drive forward the climate

Whilst science urges us to 'climate emergency' demonstrates that the climate catastrophe is becoming increasingly evident on a global scale... the energy transition is, unfortunately, progressing rather slowly.

It is therefore important that organisations such as the Mouvement Écologique advocate for a proactive policy that takes climate protection seriously and drives forward the energy transition.

According to Mouvement Écologique, concrete measures in favour of the energy transition should have been implemented by 2025.

It is essential to put the right incentives in place for the energy transition to be successful. Particular attention must be paid to low-income households.



MOUVEMENT ÉCOLOGIQUE MAKES IT CLEAR: THE GOVERNMENT IS DRAGGING ITS FEET – EMISSION REDUCTIONS IN KEY AREAS

In reality, a national outcry should have erupted in the middle of the year, following the publication of the alarming report on CO_2 emissions in Luxembourg for 2024. Yet this did not happen: the ministry is downplaying the situation.

A more in-depth analysis carried out by the Mouvement Ecologique has, however, revealed that, although CO_2 emissions are falling, this reduction is not sufficient across all sectors.

In 2024, only the emission reductions in the transport sector were in line with the targets of the National Energy and Climate Plan (PNEC). In key sectors, however, the necessary reductions were not achieved or were significantly missed.

In some cases, the opposite has even occurred: since 2025, emissions from the industrial sector have risen by 21%. In the building sector, the reduction stands at 19% compared to 2005, whereas according to the Climate and Energy Plan, a 64% reduction should have been achieved within four years! In the water sector, we are at -3%, whereas by 2030, this figure should be -40%!

Nevertheless, the government has even attempted to present the situation in a positive light. Without Meco, it would probably have succeeded...

INTERNATIONAL MOBILISATION AGAINST REGULATIONS AIMED AT PROTECTING PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In 2025, at EU level, under the pretext of 'administrative simplification' and 'competitiveness', considerable efforts were made to weaken environmental and social regulations.

In response to these worrying developments, the Mouvement Ecologique has notably supported a call launched by more than 470 organisations, trade unions and collectives from Europe and around the world to oppose the deregulation being pushed by the European Commission.

At a time of climate crisis, biodiversity loss and growing inequality, this deregulation and deliberate weakening of important rules and objectives would constitute a dangerous step backwards. It would primarily strengthen large corporations, whilst undermining sustainability goals, public interest actors and democratic processes.

TOGETHER AGAINST DEREGULATION AND THE WEAKENING OF EUROPEAN CLIMATE POLICY

2025 was also the year in which European climate policy and emissions targets came under intense pressure. Combined with the planned deregulation in the areas of nature conservation, supply chain legislation, etc., this clearly shows the extent to which the measures taken serve the interests of big business and the extent to which important, forward-looking rules aimed at the common good are being called into question. For example, the provisions aimed at achieving the 1.5°C target were to be relaxed (even though it is known that this target is too low).

Thus, new instruments were introduced which, without decarbonising the European economy, were nevertheless supposed to contribute to the achievement of climate targets (for example, the inclusion of CO_2 certificates from non-EU countries or the still very immature carbon capture technologies). A European alliance, of which the Mouvement Écologique was also a part, opposed this proposal.

In this context, NGOs play an extremely important role at European level: they highlight how policymakers get bogged down in attempts at justification, seek to water down targets and, at the same time, put forward concrete demands. Their recommendations are based on scientific data.

The work of European partners is of great importance to Mouvement Écologique: the handling of the issue by partner organisations such as CAN-Europe enables Meco to react swiftly and call on the Luxembourg government to remain committed to an ambitious climate policy.

In this context, Meco has supported the measures initiated by its partner organisation CAN Europe: the signing of a letter prepared by CAN Europe addressed to the European Commission, and the joint drafting with ASTM of a specific letter addressed to the Minister for the Environment, Serge Wilmes.



ONLINE CONFERENCE: HEATING WITHOUT GAS OR FIO: BUT WHERE DOES THE HEAT COME FROM? - FOR THE HEATING OF TOMORROW?

In 2024, Mouvement Ecologique launched a series of conferences on the energy transition. The aim: to present the key pillars of this transition to interested parties and to support public debate. The first was entitled: *“Heating without gas or oil: but where will the heat for tomorrow’s heating come from?”*.

“When we talk about the energy transition, we generally think of the electrification transition – but the thermal transition is actually just as important.” It was with this clear message that Raphael Gruseck (Ludwigsburg District Energy Agency LEA e.V.) opened an in-depth online conference attended by 55 participants. He explained, with professional precision and clarity, that there is no one-size-fits-all solution: depending on the structure of the housing stock, central heating networks or decentralised solutions such as heat pumps may be more appropriate. Weighing up the various options is not just a technical matter, but also a political one – and must be communicated transparently.

The key role of municipal heating planning became particularly clear. It must be realistic, feasible and strategically focused. It is essential to clarify responsibilities, resources and funding from the outset in order to ensure planning certainty. The lively discussion that followed made it clear: decarbonising the heating sector is a key challenge – and requires clear decisions as well as broad public participation.

CALL FOR ACTION: WE NEED YOUR EXPERIENCE!

In 2025, Mouvement Ecologique twice called on its members to share their experiences and knowledge, so that these could be incorporated into its contributions and presented at meetings with, amongst others, the Minister for the Economy, Lex Delles.

In a call entitled *“Call: what problems do you see in the development of renewable energy? Share your experiences with us!”*, members’ insights were sought so that Mouvement Ecologique could contribute suggestions to the national energy roundtable. The aim was to identify the obstacles to the development of renewable energy and, in a subsequent phase, to overcome them. The second call focused on the theme: *“Are you a member of a*

solar energy cooperative? What are your experiences?”. Through the testimonies of energy cooperatives, the aim was to examine how to improve the framework conditions for their success. Given that a draft law on the pre-financing of solar installations was, in particular, being drawn up, this approach proved to be highly relevant.

In both cases, this contribution proved highly valuable and greatly assisted Mouvement Ecologique in participating constructively in the debates, including with the relevant minister.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CREOS 10-YEAR NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

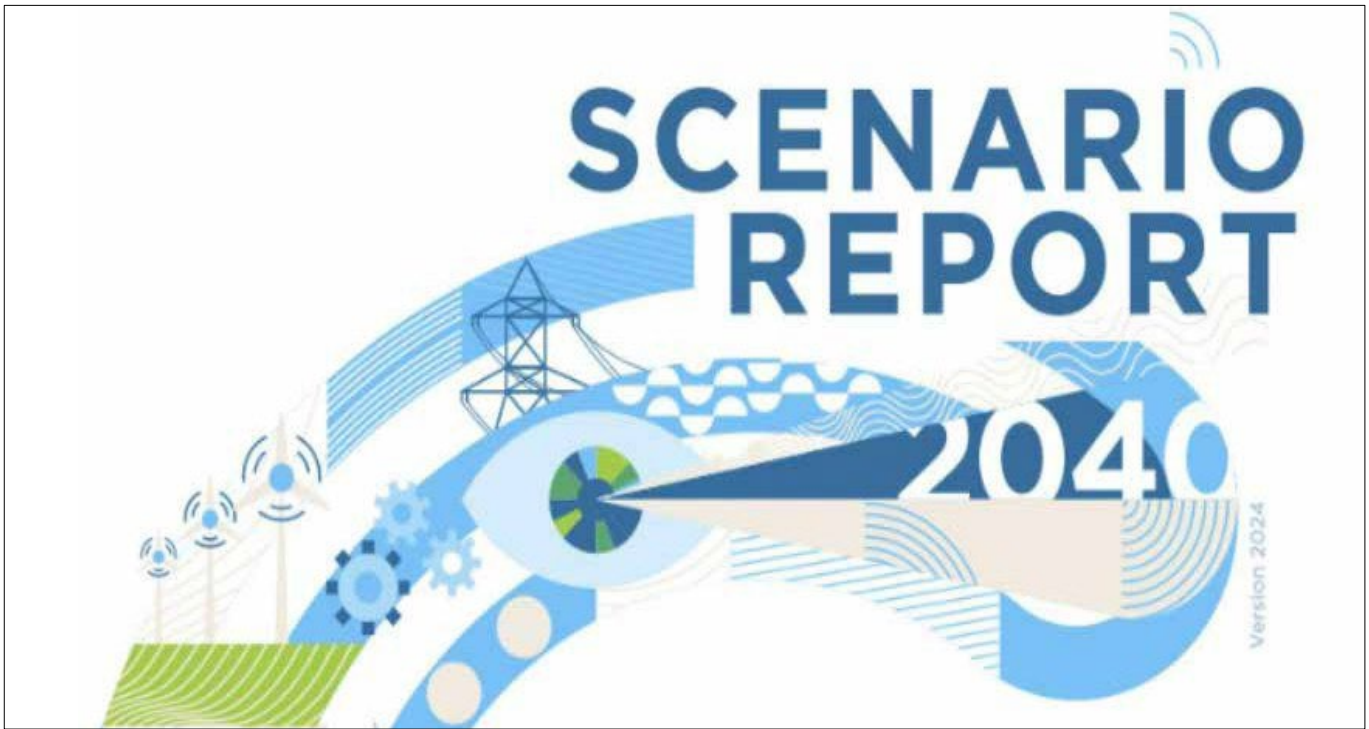
In 2024, the Luxembourg Regulatory Institute (ILR) published the Ten-Year Network Development Plan 2024–2034, drawn up by CREOS as part of a public consultation. As its name suggests, this plan outlines the development of the electricity grid, in particular, over the next ten years.

Mouvement Ecologique took this opportunity to propose fundamental improvements to the plan. It emphasised that a modern and efficient electricity grid is an essential prerequisite for security of supply and the success of the energy transition in Luxembourg. As such, the construction of new power lines is also entirely justifiable.

Nevertheless, Mouvement Écologique notes a clear need for improvement in several areas and, in many respects, agrees with the ILR, which has put forward similar suggestions for improvement.

For instance, the project lacked clarity and transparency. Above all, however, it deals almost exclusively with the maximum expansion of the grid. Alternatives such as flexibility mechanisms, interruptible loads, storage solutions or new technologies like hydrogen and battery storage are not sufficiently taken into account. A transparent comparison between a maximum expansion and a more flexibility-oriented approach – taking into account costs and benefits – would also be essential.

The aim must be to develop the grid expansion strategically, efficiently and in the public interest.



In the view of Mouvement Écologique, the State should also set out much clearer binding guidelines for the drafting of grid development plans. This is all the more important given that CREOS both develops consumption scenarios and plans grid expansion, whilst simultaneously profiting from this expansion as an investor.

Mouvement Écologique’s position has been highlighted in a report by the ILR. The coming years are certainly set to be exciting in this area.

WHERE WILL OUR ELECTRICITY COME FROM IN THE FUTURE – AND HOW WILL IT REACH US?

In the ‘Scenario Report’, CREOS sets out how Luxembourg’s electricity system is expected to evolve to meet the energy needs of different sectors whilst supporting the energy transition. This complex document was presented to the public in 2025 as a draft subject to public consultation. Mouvement Écologique took this opportunity to submit its comments.

It was welcomed that the “Scenario Report” presented in 2025 had addressed some of the shortcomings of its predecessor. Nevertheless, there is still room for improvement. Fundamentally, the Mouvement Écologique regrets that the report, in its current form, is difficult for non-specialists to understand. A democratic consultation process requires that key content be presented in an understandable manner.

In substance, Mouvement Écologique calls in particular for a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of the measures, as well as a systematic comparison of the different scenarios.

Greater ‘flexibility’ across all sectors should be prioritised to minimise the expansion of the network. This includes, amongst other things, the recovery of industrial waste heat, seasonal heat storage, demand management and district heating solutions.

Furthermore, coherent integration with other planning processes and strategies is necessary to exploit synergies and identify conflicting objectives at an early stage. Legal, organisational and financial frameworks must be put in place to effectively promote network-friendly behaviour. Finally, communication on these measures must be clear, accessible and understandable, particularly for private households, in order to avoid any misinterpretation.



DIALOGUE – THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORK

It goes without saying that, at the start of the legislative term, a dialogue was sought with the competent Minister for the Economy and Energy. During an initial stimulating exchange, topics such as the expansion of district heating networks, the direction of Luxembourg’s economic policy, ‘sustainability checks’ or ‘compatibility checks’ for businesses, the issue of growth and the agreement with Mercosur were on the agenda.



ENERGY WEEKS 2025: 5 THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT 'PRESERVING BUILDINGS RATHER THAN DEMOLISHING THEM': AN INTERESTING PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE

The Oekozer Pafendall's 'Energy Weeks', in collaboration with the Mouvement Ecologique, took place from 21 May to

A fascinating conference – Moving away from the demolition mindset

An online conference on 21 May addressed a central theme of the building revolution: why are buildings often demolished long before they have truly reached the end of their useful life? Together with architect and urban planner Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani, the discussion focused on the mechanisms driving this trend – and on how this dynamic can be halted or reversed.

In doing so, Lampugnani criticises the fact that sustainability has so far been reduced too narrowly to technology and CO₂ and calls for a historical and cultural grounding. He advocates for the long-term preservation of buildings, adaptability and enduring aesthetic appeal. Building also entails social responsibility. Urban sprawl threatens the landscape, and limiting areas of urban development is crucial. New builds should be the exception; a fundamental paradigm shift is needed to effectively tackle the ecological crisis.

5 visits: from builder to builder

Under the motto *'preserve buildings rather than demolish them'*, five site visits demonstrated how the conversion and reuse of existing structures can be achieved in a resource-efficient manner whilst reinforcing identity. In the case of a former courtyard in Esch-sur-Alzette, for example, the structure that had stood for generations was retained whilst visibly preserving its former functions.

Adapting historic buildings used to be a matter of course; today, however, strict building regulations and heritage protection often make it difficult to maintain them. Differentiated regulations, which distinguish between old and new buildings, are needed to facilitate this. Examples such as the former vicarage in Saeul or the courtyards in Bartringen and Dillingen show that

transformation protects buildings from deterioration whilst simultaneously creating modern living spaces – whether through insulation renovation or the 'house-within-a-house' principle.

NEW STRATEGY FOR ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Transformation protects buildings from deterioration whilst simultaneously creating modern living spaces – whether through insulation renovation or the 'house-within-a-house' principle. In Greiveldingen, a family home has been preserved for future generations using natural building materials.

This strategy is of great importance. For we know that every effort must be made to limit global warming as much as possible. However, temperatures will continue to rise, extreme weather events will become more frequent, and so on. That is why this strategy sets out measures that the state, local authorities, and others should implement in the coming years to limit the impacts as much as possible.

LET'S MAKE HEATING PLANNING A PRIORITY!

The energy transition in the heating sector is the main challenge facing Luxembourg's energy and climate policy. Whilst the electricity sector has already made significant progress thanks to renewable energy, the heating sector remains heavily dependent on fossil gas and heating oil, and is also much less discussed in the public (political) sphere.

It should be noted that over 80% of household energy consumption is used for heating and hot water. Without a fundamental transformation of the heating supply, national and European climate targets cannot be met.

At the same time, the energy transition for heating is a social, geopolitical and economic necessity: it reduces dependence on energy imports, strengthens security of supply, stabilises prices in the long term (for both industry and households) and opens up opportunities for innovation and investment.

Throughout 2025, Mouvement Ecologique has consistently reiterated at every opportunity that the energy transition for heating must finally become a priority. For example, during discussions with the Minister for the Economy on the RTL programme 'Background', amongst others.



NATIONAL CLIMATE PLATFORM – MECO COMMITS

Luxembourg's Climate Protection Act provides for the creation of a 'national platform for climate action and the energy transition', comprising employers and employees, NGOs, local authorities and other stakeholders. Mouvement Écologique is a member of this platform. During three meetings held in 2025, the focus was primarily on the progress of the implementation of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and on the development of Luxembourg's Social Climate Plan.

During these meetings, the Mouvement Écologique repeatedly emphasised the importance of evaluating the implementation of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and the need to analyse potential obstacles to its implementation. According to the Mouvement Écologique, CO_2 emissions are currently not being reduced to the desired extent.

A joint position paper was drafted with the Chamber of Employees on the draft Social Climate Plan, which was submitted to the platform.

TAX BENEFITS ONLY FOR FULLY ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND NOT FOR HYBRIDS

Currently, only fully electric cars benefit from 'benefits in kind' for company cars. Not plug-in hybrid vehicles. And for good reason.

Studies show that plug-in hybrids have CO_2 emissions under real-world driving conditions that are three to five times higher than the manufacturers' official figures. This phenomenon is particularly pronounced in the case of company cars, where the proportion of electric driving sometimes falls below 15%. Added to this is unnecessarily high resource consumption due to the dual-motor design.

In 2025, it emerged that certain quarters intended to 'relax' the current incentives for electric cars.

Mouvement Écologique therefore campaigned to ensure that the current system remains unchanged. The reason is clear: public funds should only be used where there is a genuine contribution to reducing emissions and a sufficient contribution to achieving climate targets. This is not the case with so-called plug-in hybrid vehicles.

The company car sector also plays an important role as a model: it shapes vehicle fleets, influences the second-hand market and promotes the development of charging infrastructure.

CARBON CAPTURE: TWO MEETINGS AND MANY UNRESOLVED ISSUES REGARDING THESE TECHNOLOGIES

In 2025, two major meetings organised by the government on so-called 'carbon capture' procedures took place. This shows that the government attaches great importance to this issue.

Furthermore, the government has set up a working group tasked with developing a framework for 'carbon capture', in which Mouvement Écologique is partly involved, alongside industry, research and urban planning departments (albeit to a limited extent). As might be expected, this body is 'dominated' by industry and research. Until



However, to date, the forums have not been organised in a way that allows for a genuine discussion of the pros and cons. Many questions therefore remain unanswered: storage options in Luxembourg, connection to foreign infrastructure, cost allocation and the prevention of greenwashing are just some of the issues raised.

Mouvement Écologique is monitoring this issue very critically: a 2024 study by the Öko-Institut highlights significant risks in terms of safety, the environment and costs, and calls for caution. Above all, however, Mouvement Écologique regrets that the ministry is currently devoting so many resources to this issue, whilst the heating plan is making virtually no progress. This should clearly be the priority.

GET INVOLVED: IN SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL CASES TOO

In 2024, a European directive was transposed, establishing new rules on how the consumption of certain types of energy by individual households in a block of flats must be recorded (*Draft Bill – Individual metering and cost allocation for heating, cooling and hot water (No. 8250)*). One of its objectives is to promote energy savings. Mouvement Écologique welcomed the general direction of the draft but made a number of suggestions to address inconsistencies in the text.

These were welcomed by the Minister for Energy, Lex Delles, and Mouvement Écologique was therefore informed in detail, by letter, of the proposed amendments that were incorporated into the final law.

THE ANTI-NUCLEAR COMMITTEE REMAINS ACTIVE

Mouvement Écologique coordinates this ‘Action Committee’ in collaboration with Greenpeace.

In 2025, a meeting took place, among others, with Energy Minister Lex Delles on key issues of nuclear and energy policy. Ahead of the next ‘decadal inspection’ in 2027, the alliance proposed reactivating the government working group established in 2012 following the Fukushima disaster to strengthen dialogue with civil society. The development of technical and legal expertise was also requested



in order to quickly identify opportunities for intervention in problematic cases.

The minister was receptive and requested that an official letter be sent to the relevant ministries. Cooperation with the regions of the Greater Region – in particular Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate – was also deemed beneficial.

The action committee criticised the state’s investments in nuclear energy – for example via the pension fund – deeming them incompatible with a credible negotiating position vis-à-vis France. On the subject of small modular reactors (SMRs), the minister emphasised that Luxembourg, along with other states critical of nuclear power, opposes the relevant European initiatives, a task that is becoming increasingly difficult. He stressed that one red line remains: no European funds for new nuclear power stations. In conclusion, it was suggested that the public should be better informed about the costs and risks of nuclear energy in order to combat misinformation.

