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DÉI GRÉNG STAD

OUR GREEN MANIFESTO FOR THE CITY OF LUXEMBOURG
SHORT VERSION

déi gréng

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LUXEMBOURG: A CITY WITH QUALITY OF LIFE

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Luxembourg: A city with quality of life

Introduction

Luxembourg is an attractive city. As the Greens, we have helped to pave the way for a successful transition over the next few years to a hospitable, sustainable, child-friendly and locally rooted city. This will allow us to address the challenges of rapid sociocultural change and maintain the quality of life enjoyed by the city's inhabitants. We have been working towards this goal with great success for the past two legislative terms.

The tram, which will go into operation in 2017, represents a milestone in terms of quality of life and sustainable mobility. In recent years the bicycle, too, has re-established a firm place in the urban landscape.

Rising population figures have also driven up the demand for affordable housing. With its site development programme and the supply of social housing, the city offers alternatives to the private property market. The city also has numerous plots of land available, on which we will build new residential developments.

School infrastructures have been remodelled in many areas of the city. We are increasing the provision of childcare facilities from early and pre-school (*précoce*) education and developing new school forms such as all-day schools.

In an effort to extend the number of green urban spaces, parks and playgrounds are being developed. This improves the urban climate and the quality of the air.

We want to involve the citizens in the urban development of their city, as has already been the case with the design of numerous public spaces. We intend to extend citizens' involvement to the area of mobility planning.

Peaceful coexistence in a pluralist society is a hallmark of Luxembourg City. One key integration factor here is leisure-time activities. Over the past several years, we have invested substantially in sports and cultural infrastructures. We want to further support voluntary involvement in clubs and associations, because without such dedicated people inclusive club activities would not be possible.

In this manifesto, we present a number of projects and measures through which déi gréng want to continue to make Luxembourg City cosmopolitan, liveable, close to the citizens and sustainable moving forward.

1. Residing and living in the city

We will construct additional housing in Luxembourg City, creating a sufficient supply of affordable homes.

Criteria for an attractive living environment include good access to public transport, adequate local amenities and children's playgrounds. déi gréng will make these factors a particular focus in the development of new city neighbourhoods. Putting brownfield and vacant sites to use will provide us with the opportunity to do so.

For déi gréng, it is vital that cultural life is accessible to people from all social backgrounds and age groups and is at the same time open for new cultural protagonists. We will prioritise the promotion of culture and creativity among children and young people.

Moreover, déi gréng will give greater support to local sports and cultural associations, as this is where many spend their free time and first contacts to new residents are often made.

1. The challenge: providing adequate housing. The opportunity: developing new urban neighbourhoods

- We will create liveable neighbourhoods with affordable housing on building land owned by Luxembourg City, for example the current stadium *Stade Josy Barthel* on the Route d'Arlon, on the premises of Villeroy & Boch or in Gasperich near the *Parc*. Through these projects we will primarily create rented housing.
- We intend to increase the supply of social housing and intensify the collaboration with the *Agence immobilière sociale* social accommodation agency.
- We will promote new types of housing, such as housing cooperatives and multi-generational residences.
- Through green-belt projects and new parks, we create recreational areas and enhance urban nature. We shall not extend the building perimeter.
- To preserve the character of existing neighbourhoods, we intend to establish a municipal advisory commission for the protection of historical monuments and promote the preservation of buildings worthy of protection.
- Squares in the inner city and city districts should be upgraded through terraces, soft mobility and greening.
- In the city centre, it is planned to extend the pedestrian zone and shared-space zones, for example by linking up the Place de la Constitution or the Place des Bains to the pedestrian zone.
- We will launch an investment programme designed to assist low-income households with making energy efficiency home improvements.

2. Culture embraces the future

- At a suitable location, we will set up a creative hub for project founders and new art forms.
- The programme of the Municipal Conservatory will be further diversified in the direction of pop, rock and blues and early musical education. We shall support networking between the music associations and the Conservatory.
- Music groups will be offered more rehearsal rooms.
- We will promote networking between the Luxembourg City Film Festival and the other arts and leisure centres of the city.
- We will encourage the artistic use of virtual reality and augmented reality (*réalité augmentée*) on guided city tours.
- Cultural projects with an emphasis on intergenerational exchanges and integration will receive greater support.
- We shall champion public art as a means of expression and coexistence.

3. Sport is a way of bringing people together and staying fit

- We will ensure that children are offered more opportunities for physical exercise and sporting activities. To this end, we will intensify our cooperation with local sports clubs.

- The sports offering in Luxembourg City cannot function without the volunteer activities in the sports clubs. We shall improve the criteria for granting subsidies to sports clubs and help them to adapt the sports activities on offer to the needs of the whole population.
- We will expand the range of outdoor sports activities through fitness centres, pétanque courts, mountain bike rental.
- We will continue to invest in sports infrastructure. For example, the city needs an athletics stadium.
- Moreover, we will also build an outdoor swimming pool on city premises, together with a large adventure playground, various sporting equipment and a cosy bistro.

4. Respectful coexistence

- We will take residents who complain about the inappropriate behaviour of others in their neighbourhood seriously and involve them in elaborating solutions.
- Within the scope of the reform of the municipal law enforcement forces, *déi gréng* will take stronger action against violations of municipal rules and regulations, for example in the areas of waste disposal, the keeping of animals or noise pollution.
- We will support the police in their efforts to stem unlawful practices such as prostitution and drug abuse and introduce more street workers in residential districts.

2. Children and young people

Children and young people are the city's future. Therefore, the city should become generally more child- and youth-friendly to allow them to develop optimally through games, movement and education. We will extend the range of high-quality childcare facilities in all neighbourhoods, giving particular emphasis to improved cross-linking between childcare and schools. We would also like to involve children and their parents more closely in the design of offerings and infrastructures.

Recreational activities for children should be more effectively promoted. To achieve this, we rely above all on providing stronger support for educational and integrational childcare and youth services of the sports and cultural associations. Moreover, it is important that the 200 playgrounds currently within the city perimeter are maintained and extended. We also want to improve access to cultural activities for children and young people.

1. Childcare and school: the best opportunities for all

- On the basis of the *Plan d'encadrement périscolaire* (PEP, Plan for Extracurricular Education), we will foster close cooperation between the *Foyer scolaire* and schools.
- In the *Quartier Gare* station district, we will set up an all-day school and extend the concept to other city districts.
- From this autumn, we will establish a **forest crèche** and provide it with the necessary infrastructure to ensure its continued existence over the long term.
- We also want to provide access to **cultural and sports activities** for children within childcare structures. Therefore, we will strengthen efforts to integrate the activities offered by the cultural and sports associations into their programme.
- From rock to verse, from forging to tailoring, from drawing to film, we want to give children and youths the opportunity to get creative at a "Youth art school for the plastic, visual and creative arts".

- déi gréng will strengthen efforts to ensure **equal access** to all school and leisure facilities for children with special needs.
- We will introduce a **quality management system** in the childcare structures and educational activities of the city.
- In collaboration with the children, we will plan or redesign more **schoolyards** and **play areas** to make them more varied and close to nature, giving the children optimal opportunities for development.
- déi gréng will create a **safe network of footpaths and cycle paths**. In the direct vicinity of schools and childcare facilities, we favour setting up “shared spaces”.
- We will support the **Baby plus** initiative and collaboration with the *Elterenschoul* parenting school, which advise parents on parenting skills.
- To facilitate the integration of children entering the school system, we will provide the necessary premises and recruit additional **childcare staff**.
- In school canteens, we will place greater emphasis on offering a wide variety of fruit and vegetables.
- We will organise babysitter courses.

2. Children and young people: promoting autonomy and a can-do attitude

- déi gréng want to actively involve children and young people in municipal policy decisions in a manner appropriate to their age:
 - a. Children’s municipal councils will be set up and the youth forums continued.
 - b. Before any youth policy decision is made, young people, youth centres and youth associations will be specifically involved.
 - c. Care will be taken to ensure that the proportion of boys and girls is well-balanced and that there is social diversity present in the group.
- We will extend our support for youth clubs and youth centres and include local youth organisations in the administration of these structures.
- déi gréng will extend the wide range of urban leisure, holiday, sports and cultural activities and install a graffiti and climbing wall.
- déi gréng will establish alternative housing projects where students and young adults can live in shared accommodation.
- We shall place particular importance on adopting a strategy to tackle youth unemployment by extending the *Léierplazen* tutoring project.
- By promoting the associations, we aim to specifically promote social and integration work with children and young people.

3. Ensuring mutually beneficial coexistence

Ensuring peaceful coexistence for all is an important goal of the Greens’ cultural and social policy. Inclusion is an ongoing process which should involve everyone in order to succeed.

One of the main tasks of the city is to prevent and tackle poverty. No one should fall through our safety net of social support. We will therefore support the social welfare office, enabling it to offer people with material needs unbureaucratic assistance.

People are living longer and therefore have a desire to remain active and independent for as long as possible. We will take action to help the elderly remain independent in old age and promote intergenerational exchange.

Barrier-free accessibility aims at also enabling people with a physical or mental impairment to participate in social life in a self-determined way. The Design for All concept is a primary task of the city and must be given consideration in all decisions.

We will continue the strategy to promote gender equality.

1. Preventing poverty

- The municipal “Social Matters” action plan will be reviewed and adjusted to requirements.
- More social housing will be made available and cooperation with the *Agence immobilière sociale* shall be extended.
- We will engage more streetworkers and see to it that they are able to respond more effectively in critical situations.
- We will prioritise persons living in emergency accommodation when allocating social housing in order to free up places for people in acute emergency situations.
- For low-income households, we will facilitate social compensation via the cost-of-living allowance.
- We will extend the programme to support households suffering from energy poverty.
- We will strengthen structures to tackle youth unemployment by extending the *Léierplazen* tutoring project.
- Solidarity knows no boundaries: we shall continue to support local projects in Third World countries.

2. Inclusion efforts never stop

- In order to foster cross-cultural dialogue, we shall increase our support for those associations that focus in particular on actively promoting cultural diversity.
- We will also establish regular meet-ups or language cafés.
- As part of an active policy fostering information and encounters between people, we will promote tolerance among the population for the acceptance of those who have fled their homes or are in distress situations.
- We will draft an action plan for the political participation of the non-Luxembourgish population.

3. Leading an autonomous and self-determined life in older age

- We will implement a “Senior Citizens” action plan aimed at delivering decentralised services for the elderly in all city neighbourhoods.
- We will increase the opportunities for meet-ups and sports or cultural activities for the elderly.
- In order for senior citizens to be able to participate in the social life of the community, we will ensure there is good lighting on public roads and paths, clear signposting, safe footpaths and places to sit down.
- We will promote multi-generational residences and sheltered housing.
- Wherever possible, we will endeavour to organise common care structures for the elderly and for children. Like this, old and young can benefit from one another.

4. Gender and sexual diversity: differences enrich us

- déi gréng will continue their strategy to promote gender equality and actively play their part to tackle discrimination and uphold social acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersexual and queer people.

- We will put measures into practice in order to facilitate the reconciliation of work and family life by making family holidays and parental leave more accessible.
- The Equality Plan, which expires in 2018, will be reviewed.
- Gender mainstreaming will continue to be applied in order to take into account the impacts of political measures on men and women.
- Together with local organisations, we will promote projects and activities aimed at raising awareness at schools and youth centres and offer courses designed to eliminate gender stereotyping and prejudice.

5. Promoting barrier-free access and Design for All

- By providing further training programmes for municipal employees, we will increase understanding for accessibility and for Design for All.
- We will develop an action plan that will implement the Design for All concept, with the objective of allowing all people to enjoy self-determined participation in daily life within society.

4. Sustainable mobility in the city

déi gréng want to continue their commitment towards an effective and modern mobility strategy. This will decisively improve the quality of life of the population and reduce congestion, noise and air pollution and the space taken up by cars in urban areas to an acceptable level.

The new tram plays a vital role in this. We will step up efforts to extend the route to Hollerich and beyond. Since the tram serves the main axes, we will improve the bus services operating on and linking the routes between the individual districts.

To encourage people to use their bicycle as a sustainable day-to-day means of transport, we will continue to implement an extensive and safe network of off-road cycle paths.

With the implementation of the first Pedestrian Plan, we have significantly improved the situation for pedestrians. We will further enhance comfort and safety for people who get around on foot with a follow-up plan.

In order to reduce traffic noise and improve the air quality in the city, we will only purchase hybrid electric buses or 100% electric buses moving forward.

1. Mobility for all

- Pedestrian crossings and accesses to public transport and buildings in the city will be designed in such a way that they can be used by people with special needs without barriers.
- All public transport services will be covered by a single mobility card, which is more convenient for customers.
- Each year, we will organise a Car-free Day in the city centre and support the PARK(ing) Day.
- Particular consideration will be given to footpath and cycle path diversions made necessary by municipal construction sites.
- We will take steps to ensure safe routes to school by encouraging parents and children to go by bike or walk to school.

2. Getting around better on foot

- We are in favour of shorter waiting times at traffic lights and the laying of wider pavements.
- We will enlarge the pedestrian zones in the city centre, in front of general stores and in the centres of the districts. 30 km/h zones should increasingly become the norm.
- In the vicinity of schools, we will designate more meeting zones/shared-space zones where the speed limit for motorised traffic will be limited to 20 km/h.

3. Getting around better by bike

- We will continue our efforts to make the topography of the city easier to manage by bike, for instance by installing infrastructure measures such as lifts or bridges.
- We will create a cycle path between the districts of Cents, Neudorf and Kirchberg.
- We will build off-road cycle paths in order to improve safety.
- In the individual districts, we will provide secure and covered bicycle parking spaces where needed.
- We will review the *Mam Velo an d'Schoul* programme encouraging children to go to school by bike and extend it to all schools.
- When granting the new concession for the rental bike system, we will remove the advertising spaces. At the same time, e-bikes will be provided via the rental system.

4. User-friendly and fast bus and tram routes

- We will further improve the municipal bus network. This network will link the individual city districts with the tram axis, shopping and business centres.
- The entire municipal bus fleet will switch to electric and hybrid drive systems over the next six years.
- Buses shall continue to operate free of charge on Saturdays. In addition to this, in cooperation with the transport association (*Verkéiersverbond*), we will consider the introduction of a favourable inner-city tariff.
- The information displays for passengers will be further improved.

5. Tolerable inner-city traffic

- The *Carloh* car-sharing scheme will gradually be extended to all city districts and switched to electric vehicles.
- Electric charging stations will be installed in all city districts.
- We will also revise the parking management system in the city districts.
- Parking spaces in the city centre will be mainly relocated to underground parking garages.
- On days with very high air pollution, we plan to offer free public transport in the city.
- In order to restrict delivery traffic and make roads and pavements more readily accessible, we want to initiate a pilot project that manages delivery vehicles and provides for the use of electric cargo bikes.

5. Environment and nature

Clean air, near-natural and green spaces as well as peaceful oases in the city are essential to the well-being of the people living and working there. Therefore, when initiating urban development measures, we shall give particular consideration to enhancing the city's green lung – pesticide-free, of course.

Clean drinking water is a natural resource that in recent years has become increasingly scarce. Safeguarding the city's sources of drinking water must therefore continue to have priority.

A city like Luxembourg can contribute to the response of the global community in addressing climate change. We have already made significant progress in reducing energy consumption in the municipal departments and utility companies. Our objective now is to also enable the citizens to become energy producers, where applicable with the support of the municipality.

In the area of waste management, priority is placed on the avoidance of waste. Despite a growing population and an increase in the number of jobs, a green waste management policy has succeeded in keeping the amount of waste constant over the past few years. We have set ourselves the goal to recycle at least 50% of all waste by the year 2020.

1. Environment and nature – protection for all

- The existing environmental action plan is successful and is to be further developed, with priority being given to energy-efficient buildings, reducing air and noise pollution and waste generation, and raising awareness among the population.
- The park in Cessingen will be extended along the Pétrusse riverbank and linked up with the Pétrusse valley in Hollerich.
- We will renaturalise the Pétrusse river and revitalise the adjacent park with the aim of improving the local recreation structures.
- We will also drive forward the projects to renaturalise the Alzette river to the North of the city.
- The various built-up areas and neighbourhoods will be systematically greened by means of park areas.
- We will support the keeping of bees in the city.
- At the request of the population, community gardens will be established in all neighbourhoods.
- We will actively support the implementation of the national action plan to tackle noise.
- We will work to ensure that the ban on night flights at Luxembourg Airport is not relaxed.
- We will establish a forest cemetery for household pets.
- In order to improve air quality and lower noise pollution, we are endeavouring to reduce motorised private transport. We will designate more 30 km/h zones and shared-space areas.

2. Efficient energy use and switching to renewable energies

- The energy sector of the municipal environmental action plan (climate pact) is being promoted to enable the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change (COP21) to be met.
- We shall draw up a corresponding catalogue of measures in order to create a general awareness among households and companies as regards saving energy, as well as carry out refined monitoring of the total municipal energy consumption.

- We will launch photovoltaic community installations and promote environmentally sound construction.
- The municipality will pursue a sustainable energy policy also through its participation in ENOVOS/CREOS
- We shall endeavour to ensure that Luxembourg City continues to participate in anti-nuclear initiatives and legal measures against nuclear power.

3. Water is a precious asset

- We will continue to raise awareness for the responsible use of drinking water to ensure that the water consumption of the city remains stable despite a growing population.
- Rainwater utilisation in private and commercial infrastructure is fostered by means of municipal subsidies and a reform of the sealing fee.
- The municipal water supply network will continue to be rehabilitated and properly maintained in order to reduce pipeline losses.
- We will expedite the maintenance, development and safeguarding of the city's own drinking water sources.
- déi gréng foster intensive collaboration with farmers and vegetable growers for the sake of protecting the groundwater.

4. Waste management – from linear to circular economy

- We generally want to promote the reuse and repair of products, for instance by encouraging flea markets, exchange and repair platforms.
- We have set ourselves the goal to recycle at least 50% of all waste by the year 2020.
- In the western part of the city, we are building a new, user-friendly recycling centre.
- Within the municipal administration and local bodies such as schools and *Maisons relais*, as well as at city festivities and sporting events, an exemplary approach to waste avoidance and sorting will be implemented. As part of this approach, a focus will systematically be placed on alternatives to single-use containers and tableware.
- We will take a more consistent approach to the “littering” of public spaces.

6. Trade and the local economy

In addition to financial services providers and the European institutions, the city is increasingly becoming a dynamic location for creative industries, as well as being an attractive tourism centre and congress venue. We want to uphold this diversity of the local economy.

This includes making sure that small-scale start-ups have access to affordable usable space. We are therefore keen to come up with intelligent interim uses particularly for industrial wastelands. This would give smaller businesses and self-employed people an opportunity to settle, before the areas are put to a definitive use.

The business centres at the main railway station and in the upper city are under extreme pressure; on the one hand this is due to the vast shopping malls in the Kirchberg district and in Gasperich, and on the other hand to the runaway rents. We want to uphold the dynamic of the city, above all by ensuring a local and diversified business world. We would also like to see a flourishing range of retail outlets in the individual city neighbourhoods, enabling the population to shop locally.

1. Strengthening bustling centres and the local economy

- We will expand the pedestrian zones around the main railway station and in the upper city. This will create attractive, traffic-calmed streets, benefiting both retail and gastronomic outlets. In the upper city, this means incorporating the Rue du Fossé, the Rue des Bains and the Place de la Constitution. The Avenue de la Gare will only be open to buses and cyclists.
- We shall implement the idea of a covered market, offering small-scale retailers in particular the chance to offer their merchandise on a continuous basis. One possible venue for this covered market would be the theatre square.
- In the centres of the various city districts, we will reinforce local supply and implement traffic-calming measures. This will especially benefit elderly people and families.
- We will market the attractiveness of the city more professionally in the context of the Greater Region. The numerous weekend events are a big crowd-puller especially in spring and summer.
- The number of parking spaces for food trucks and food bikes should be increased. Here, the specifications will focus on quality and diversity.
- In the summer season, cafés and shops should be given the possibility to rent parking spaces on their doorstep for a longer period to use as a street terrace.
- Together with the *Union commerciale*, we will continue to develop new concepts designed to enhance the attractiveness of the city as a centre of trade and commerce.

2. Supporting start-ups

- We will establish an incubator for creative start-ups in order to facilitate the path to self-employment for budding entrepreneurs and creative artists.
- To this end, we will step up efforts to find meaningful interim uses for industrial wastelands within the city perimeter.
- We shall acquire more municipally-owned buildings and facilities in addition to the current 30, so as to expand the diversity of the offering.
- Within the scope of new development plans, additional premises will allow us to improve the local supply in the various city districts.
- Through the procurement policy of the city and its public calls to tender, we will increase support for the regional economy and promote projects anchored in the circular and sharing economy.

3. Tourism: good for the economy and the population

- As part of the national tourism strategy, good development prospects are provided to the local and regional economy, especially as a congress venue and tourism centre.
- We will examine possibilities to establish a second youth hostel.
- We will increase the number of guided city tours on offer and devise additional alternative themed routes with the participation of the local citizens. These will also incorporate the possibilities offered by virtual reality and augmented reality.
- For a small charge, we will give hotels the possibility to offer their guests free day tickets for the public transport system.

7. Citizen participation and modern administration

The targeted processing of information and the use of new technologies plays an increasingly important role in ensuring that citizens can be informed flexibly and quickly. We also want to involve the population in political decision-making since municipal policy decisions, infrastructure initiatives and urban development shape their immediate environment. It is our goal to involve all population groups in this decision-making process.

Apart from a transparent and open policy, *déi gréng* also stand for a modern, citizen-oriented administration. Simplified administrative procedures, directly accessible public offices and convenient opening times, coupled with the possibility to manage many administrative formalities via the internet, will bring the municipality closer to citizens and lead to greater efficiency and acceptance.

1. Citizen participation

- Projects that shape public spaces (squares, streets) and buildings will be discussed and planned with the affected citizens locally before they are elaborated. Documents will be made available on the internet and the right to have a say via an electronic exchange of views will also be envisaged.
- When planning new city neighbourhoods and larger partial development plans, the population from neighbouring districts should also be involved.
- We shall continue to support the existing syndicates and promote the foundation of new syndicates, or *Comités de quartiers*, where they currently do not yet exist.
- Among other things, we will introduce a district budget to finance initiatives and smaller infrastructure improvements in the city districts. District syndicates and local residents should have a say in how the money should be used.
- We will set up the position of district coordinator. Similar to the citizens' office, which is responsible for the concerns of individual citizens, the district coordinator is the point of contact for all matters relating to municipal services and coexistence within the respective neighbourhood, and will provide swift assistance without red tape and liaise with the relevant municipal offices. He/she will also play an important role in all projects drafted with direct citizen participation.
- By means of children's and youth municipal councils and other democratic processes, children and young people will participate actively in local life.

2. A modern administration

- Through transversal quality management, *déi gréng* aim to continuously improve the administration and its range of services.
- The opening times of the citizens' centre will be extended to include Saturday mornings and an extended weekday.
- We will invoice municipal deliveries and services in a transparent manner and provide citizens with the opportunity to compare with average consumption.
- We will create infrastructure and a range of options that are able to guarantee that secular ceremonies such as wedding celebrations, christenings and funerals are held in an attractive and dignified manner. We shall allow these ceremonies to be held on Saturdays and Sundays as well.
- We will set up a single telephone number for dealing with administrative issues and problem reports, giving citizens a direct link to the administration.

- We will intensify collaboration with existing research institutions to enable us to systematically examine and evaluate future social, environmental and economic developments in Luxembourg City.

3. Transparency and information

- The minutes of municipal council meetings will be revised, made available electronically and the relevant information included in the City Mag in a timely manner.
- By means of digitalisation and free access to archives, museums and picture library collections, we will make the culture and history of the city more accessible.

4. Sound finances

- We will keep an eye on how the reform of municipal finances impacts on the city's budgetary situation and if necessary take swift political action to ensure the city's sound financial position is maintained over the long term.
- We shall continue to prioritise investments in housing construction, mobility, childcare and sports infrastructures moving forward.
- For all projects, we will draw up a detailed consequential cost analysis.
- We will take care that the municipality's reserves continue to be invested in an ethically correct manner.