



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Progress through

Stability

through Progress

**State of the
Nation 2025**

Address on the state of the nation

By

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Prime Minister

Chamber of Deputies
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Progress Through Stability. Stability Through Progress.

Mr President,

Progress without effort is an illusion. If we fall into that trap, we risk becoming bystanders waiting for a better world instead of shaping it. Progress can never be taken for granted – and no achievement is irreversible. It must be defended and renewed through constant effort.

Today, more than ever, that commitment is essential. We stand at a pivotal moment in the history of our country and our continent. The world is changing at a pace and on a scale we have not seen before – geopolitically, socially, technologically, and ecologically.

We are living through a period of profound transformation. Something fundamental is underway – and one can feel it. History is being written before our very eyes.

Historic alliances, the global multilateral order, centrist politics are all being questioned, destabilised, and shaken. Precisely 80 years after the end of the Second World War. Eighty years after the liberation of our country by the Allied forces, led by American troops. A liberation that we commemorate each year across Europe – with gratitude and deep respect.

Earlier this year, I visited Auschwitz, together with the Hereditary Grand Duke and the Hereditary Grand Duchess. Millions of people were murdered – in Auschwitz and in other concentration camps – with unspeakable cruelty. Eighty years later, the shock remains unspeakable. It is a shock that must not only make us pause and reflect, but, above all, must compel us to act.



Commemoration is not only about remembering the past. It is about understanding what can happen. It is not only about studying history, it is about learning from it. What happens when hatred and division are allowed to grow unchecked. When we turn against one another, rather than moving forward together. Threats to our values – freedom, democracy, and equality – arise long before violence erupts. Before action comes speech. Before speech comes thought. And thought is often accompanied by a sense of injustice.

But memory teaches us a second, equally vital lesson: the lesson of hope. Just five days ago, we commemorated the end of the war. Even the most tragic chapter of the last century came to a close. The night is darkest just before the dawn.

At the same time, hope is not the same as naïve optimism. It reflects a feeling – a conviction, even a certainty – that despite all realism, what lies ahead can be better than what lies behind. That is why hope is, above all, a driving force. A reason to act. A motivation to build a better future.

This Government does not intend to stand by idly as the changes of our time unfold. We seek to seize them as opportunities, to move our country forward and to shape our future. We pursue this goal every day: with pride in our nation, with confidence in our abilities, and with a firm belief in the values that unite us.

The world around us may change – but our values must remain constant. It is precisely in times of uncertainty that we require a policy responsive to the concerns of the people – a responsible, centrist course, pursued with a steady hand and a clear vision. We have set ourselves ambitious objectives:

- An effective economic policy that drives prosperity and sustains a robust welfare state.
- A targeted social policy that strengthens equity and reduces poverty.
- An ambitious energy policy focused on expanding the use of renewable sources and fighting climate change.
- A modern social policy that safeguards fundamental rights and freedoms.



We have made tangible progress in all these aspirations. Our promises have not remained mere words. They have become reality.

We promised greater purchasing power. And this Government has delivered!

Since January, people have significantly more money in their pockets than they did in 2023. For modest-income single parents and bereaved spouses, the tax burden has been halved compared with 2023. A single person earning €50,000 a year now takes home nearly €1,000 more of their salary.

And the lower the income, the greater the proportional tax relief. This is not a tax break for the rich – it is a matter of social justice, designed to ease the tax-burden on those who are most affected by them.

We promised a targeted social policy. And this Government has delivered!

In addition to the general tax relief, the minimum wage has been raised, the cost-of-living benefit increased, housing subsidies extended, and the energy allowance tripled. These measures act decisively against child poverty. Families at risk of poverty are receiving targeted support. A family of four, eligible for these policy measures, may receive up to €2,500 more in annual support. The tax credit for single-parent households has been increased.

In addition, the Minister for Housing has introduced single parenthood as an eligibility criterion for access to affordable housing. In Luxembourg, housing is also a key social challenge. We want to ensure that everyone has access to decent, secure housing. That is why we are simplifying rent subsidy procedures, accelerating the disbursement of aid to those who need it most.

By automating certain procedures, we are also acting against low take-up rates – where many people today do not apply for allowances they are entitled to. Since the start of the year, more than 11,000 people have automatically received their cost-of-living or energy allowance without applying for it. Additionally, some 20,000 pre-filled forms have been sent to eligible households. This is targeted action against poverty. Concrete action.



All of these measures form part of the national action plan against poverty, which the Minister for Family Affairs will present in the coming months. A coherent strategy is essential. But people in precarious situations do not need a strategy on paper – they need real, tangible support.

And our measures are designed to provide just that. This is a policy rooted in social justice. It is not a cold-hearted approach that some – wrongly – accuse the Government of pursuing.

We promised a high-performing economy. And this Government has delivered!

Thanks to targeted tax cuts, high investment levels, and administrative simplification, our economy is growing again. In 2022 and 2023, Luxembourg faced a period of recession. But in 2024 – the first year of this Government – the economy has grown again. This year, STATEC projects growth at 2.5%. Employment is on the rise too. STATEC forecasts an increase of 2.2% in 2025 – double the rate projected for 2024.

These are not mere numbers. They represent tangible income. Personal dreams made possible. They are the revenues that allow the State to pursue a strong social policy and to make vital investments in our future.

We promised new impetus for housing. And this Government has delivered!

Through short-time work, targeted tax measures, and a public purchasing programme for off-plan housing (VEFA) worth half a billion euros, we have brought the crisis in the construction sector to a halt. And we have pursued a coherent policy that supports construction, investment, home ownership and renting – not one that holds them back.

As a result, a market recovery is beginning to take shape. Transactions for existing homes have doubled over the past year, while transactions for new homes have quadrupled. Mortgage approvals are also on the rise.

This development confirms the effectiveness of our policy. The housing market has regained momentum – and that is our objective. This is tangible progress, for both people seeking housing and for professionals in the construction and craftsman business.



We are committed to building more and faster. To achieve this, we have initiated an all-out paradigm shift in procedures. This paradigm shift is taking shape day by day. The full impact of this policy will not be felt overnight. But in the medium term, it will not only lead to the construction of more homes – it will also make housing more affordable.

We promised to develop renewable energy. And this Government has delivered!

In 2024, the number of solar panels reached a record high, with 8,000 new systems commissioned – providing green energy for nearly 30,000 homes. To maintain this positive trend, we have tabled a bill to enable the pre-financing of photovoltaic panels. In parallel, we have provided financial support for large-scale installations by businesses and farmers, through three dedicated calls for tenders.

Concrete measures to boost purchasing power. For the fight against poverty. For the economy. For housing. For renewable energy.

Five examples of a new policy – with new priorities and tangible results. A policy that tackles the concerns of citizens and turns promises into reality. But we are not satisfied with simply describing what we have achieved. We are looking ahead.

Our goal is to strengthen Luxembourg for the future. With an ambitious, holistic approach. And the Government remains fully committed to delivering it through concrete, measurable action. The situation – at home and abroad – demands nothing less. The challenges we face will not resolve themselves. But with courage and perseverance, we can rise to confront them.

We are the masters of our own destiny. We shape our own future.



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It is time for Europe to fully assume its responsibilities in matters of security. The desire for peace lies at the very heart of the European project. Investing in security is not a choice for war; it is a commitment to peace.

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Mr President,

Today, our future is written, above all, in our decisions to ensure our security. The coming months will be decisive for peace and security in Europe – not just for now, but for decades to come. And while this extends beyond the specific situation in Ukraine, it remains inextricably linked to that conflict.

Ukraine's fate must not – and should not – leave us indifferent. For more than three years, the Ukrainian people have fought not only for their own freedom, but also for ours. They deserve our unwavering support, until a just and lasting peace is secured. Because it's not just about peace in Ukraine. It is about peace in Europe.

If the Russian President finds that he can achieve his goals through violence, he will not stop at Ukraine's borders. Just like he didn't stop in Georgia or Crimea. Other countries will then be threatened – and with them, the very foundations of international law, which form the bedrock of our own freedom and prosperity.

Yet it is precisely the respect for international law that offers the greatest protection for small states. Our own history teaches us what it means to be the victim of aggression. And we have learned, through painful experience, that only a broad alliance can provide true security. It was this very realisation, in the aftermath of the Second World War, that led to the creation of the European Union and NATO, two cornerstones of our peace.

Today, it is NATO that continues to safeguard that peace, notably through joint missions abroad. I would like to express our gratitude and respect to the Luxembourg soldiers deployed in these missions, as well as to our entire Army, for their dedication and commitment in the service of our country and NATO.



The United States has been – and remains – the principal pillar of NATO. We are committed to preserving this partnership and friendship between Europeans and Americans. Yet the President of the United States has clearly indicated a desire for the country to turn its attention inward in the years ahead, and to pursue a new course on many key issues. At the same time, the Russian threat is real and persistent.

This new reality marks a major rupture in the recent history of our continent. It is giving rise to deep concern, both here, in this Parliament, and across the country. Yes, it is a great challenge. But we cannot ignore it nor simply resign. No, we must confront reality and work towards a solution.

That solution must lie in a sovereign Europe. A strong Luxembourg can only exist within a strong Europe. Without a united and confident Europe, there can be no lasting prosperity, security, or democracy in Luxembourg.

It is time for Europe to fully assume its responsibilities in matters of security. The desire for peace lies at the very heart of the European project – and today, peace remains our goal. Peace. Always peace. Never war. Investing in security is not a choice for war; it is a commitment to peace.

It is not the hour of European decline. It is the hour of European awakening. Whatever the outcome in Ukraine, one lesson is clear: the strongest deterrent against aggression remains strength. And it is in unity that we find our strength. The European Union has already taken important steps forward. But in every alliance, each member must shoulder its share of responsibility – and so must Luxembourg.

A year ago, I stood here and announced the Government's decision to reach the target set by the previous coalition - investing 2% of our national wealth in security - by 2030. The complex international situation – marked by the war in Ukraine, changes in US policy and the choices made by our Allies – now requires us to act even faster.



That is why, after consultations with all parties, we have decided not to wait until 2030, but to reach the NATO 2% target by the end of this year. I have spoken with the Secretary General of NATO yesterday to inform him of this decision. The Minister of Defence will also brief the relevant parliamentary commission on the capabilities we will be investing in over the next few years.

The budget we will be presenting in October will reflect this new objective in our financial planning. This new trajectory is in line with that of our key partners on security issues, notably Belgium. Our two other neighbours, like most of our Allies, already exceed this target today. Many NATO member states are even proposing to contribute more than 2%.

If, due to the exceptional geopolitical situation, such a consensus should emerge at the NATO Summit in June, we – as a trusted Ally and partner – will honour that decision. Luxembourg is willing and determined to take its responsibility and make its contribution. And yet, this remains a difficult step. But a responsible government cannot neglect security. Without security, there can be no peace.

I am therefore pleased that, during my consultations, a large majority of parties have expressed a clear understanding of this shared responsibility. I would like to thank all the political groups represented here for the quality of the constructive and respectful dialogue we have had on the major security challenges facing our country.

I am proud of our nation – a country capable of forging a broad national consensus on an issue as complex as this. That is important, because the efforts we undertake today will have consequences well beyond the next elections. It also sends a strong signal to our Allies, and to all those who question the future of security and peace in Europe.

But this financial effort must not come at the expense of our social policy. We cannot pit one priority against another. Security is an additional challenge – but others do not disappear.



Funding for our security spending will come from three sources:

- First, through the public budget itself – in particular, by introducing a "defence bond", a public loan dedicated to national security, open to contributions from private investors.
- Second, by redefining investment spending priorities. Future budgets will need to reflect the reality that not all infrastructure projects proceed simultaneously.
- Third, by mobilising extra-budgetary financial resources, notably through the creation of a national fund managed via the SNCI, aimed at financing dual-use investments – projects that serve both military and civilian purposes.

We must be willing to invest in peace. If we fail to do so, we risk paying a far higher price, the price of our freedom. And we risk undermining the confidence of our Allies. Since this will require substantial structural investment, such spending must serve the interests of the country and its people, by contributing both to Luxembourg's growth and resilience.

That's why we need an economic strategy that supports this military effort; a strategy based on our strengths, particularly in the areas of satellites and cyber security. In this context, I would like to thank all those involved for their proactive suggestions, especially through initiatives such as Lux4Defence.

In the satellite sector in particular, Luxembourg possesses solid expertise and a well-established international reputation. The State works closely with SES in this domain. Every day, our Allies rely on satellite communication capabilities based on Luxembourgish expertise – including the GovSat-1 satellite and Medium-Earth Global Services.

Therefore, the government has decided to launch a second communications satellite for military purposes. With the active support of the Government, SES has a leading role in a crucial European programme: Iris 2. Under this initiative, 290 new satellites will provide highly secure communications across Europe – for both military and civilian purposes.

Luxembourg's first Earth observation satellite will be launched this summer. In this context, our Defence and our Allies should receive the first images for military use by the end of the year.



All these projects are of major strategic importance for the Alliance as a whole. We strengthen our economy, deepen our cooperation with Allies, and reinforce our partnership with a historic Luxembourg company. But the benefits must extend beyond a single sector.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the Economy, and Defence are actively supporting Luxembourgish companies in integrating into the supply chains of the European defence industry. Through these efforts and targeted financial support, we aim to create an ecosystem of companies with activities that can be used for both civilian and military purposes.

Beyond the economic dimension, we must also consider security in a broader sense – one that extends beyond the framework of our armed forces. It is about strengthening the resilience of our society as a whole, in the face of a wide range of potential crises.

We all remember the pandemic, the floods, the cyberattacks, and more recently, the power outages in Spain and Portugal. What all these events have in common is that they posed a sudden threat to the overall functioning of society. We do not yet know what challenges lie ahead – but we do know that they will come. And we must be prepared and ready.

That is why we will be presenting the first National Resilience Strategy later this year, accompanied by a targeted information campaign. Last week, I travelled to Finland – a pioneering country in this field – to gain first-hand insight into the types of solutions that could be considered for Luxembourg. The Finnish approach, which engages the "whole of society", is particularly inspiring.

The High Commission for National Protection (HCPN), which reports directly to the Prime Minister, has already developed detailed plans to anticipate and respond to all types of emergency situations. This new strategy will engage our society as a whole.

True resilience requires coordinated action at both national and local levels. It brings together civil and military services, public institutions and private actors. It is grounded in an "all-risks" approach and coherent crisis management. Even in times of emergency, the essential functions of our society, our State, and our economy must continue to operate.



This holistic approach lies at the core of our national resilience strategy. We are currently making a comprehensive inventory of what we already have in place, where there is room for improvement, and how it can be done.

Allow me to mention two concrete measures that are already planned:

- The Minister for Home Affairs will establish a new platform within the CGDIS, under the name Resc-LU. This platform will enable the CGDIS, municipalities, and private actors to support one another with specialised personnel and equipment in the event of a disaster.
- The Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Connectivity is working to modernise the communications systems used by our security and emergency services. This will open up new possibilities, such as accessing construction plans, receiving drone-transmitted images, and sharing vital patient data.

However, a resilient society begins with a shared awareness among all citizens. It is a collective responsibility, rooted in trust and social cohesion – and I am confident that this cohesion exists in Luxembourg. This responsibility must be taken on seriously and calmly by each and every one of us. We want everyone to play an active and proactive part in strengthening the resilience of our society.



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Being sovereign means being self-confident. It means taking one's own decisions. To be sovereign is to be free. And a sovereign Luxembourg can only exist within a sovereign Europe.

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Mr President,

The world is becoming more complex. We are experiencing a time of fundamental change. War, protectionism, and the questioning of democracy are on the rise. The post-Cold War international order is facing significant challenges.

The international community now stands at a crossroads, confronted with two opposing paths. On the one hand: division, instability, and uncertainty. On the other: cooperation, stability, and progress.

Luxembourg will always stand on the side of diplomacy and dialogue, of multilateralism and cooperation, because that is where peace and prosperity flourish.

But in this evolving context, new questions arise for Luxembourg, in particular the question of our sovereignty. The pandemic, the energy crisis, and the war in Ukraine have shown us that an excessive dependence on others can be a source of vulnerability. To be sovereign does not mean looking only after oneself. Nor does it mean being left to face the world alone.

Being sovereign means being self-confident. It means taking one's own decisions. To be sovereign is to be free. And a sovereign Luxembourg can only exist within a sovereign Europe. Our openness to Europe is the foundation of our social and economic success.

It is a Luxembourg tradition to be at the forefront of European progress. The presence in Luxembourg last week of the Presidents of the European institutions – who came to mark Europe Day at our invitation – is a powerful symbol of that commitment.



If we want to shape our future, then that future must be European. The future of Luxembourg and the future of Europe are inseparable. Luxembourg's challenges are also Europe's challenges – and European solutions are Luxembourg's solutions.

- A sovereign Europe must be able to guarantee its own security and make its voice heard on the international stage. And Luxembourg must play its part.
- A sovereign Europe must safeguard its strategic sectors and produce its own energy. And Luxembourg must play its part.
- A sovereign Europe must strengthen the Single Market and lead the way in technological innovation. And Luxembourg must play its part.

Such a sovereign Europe will be able to engage on equal terms with other major powers – whether it be the United States, China, or other BRICS countries. Two sectors that are essential to our sovereignty and where Luxembourg's interests and those of Europe converge are agriculture and industry.

For this Government, strengthening agriculture is a priority. That is why farmers see us as a partner – a partner with whom challenges are addressed at the table, through dialogue, not on the streets through protests. Agriculture is a pillar of our society and our economy. And it is essential to preserving our capacity to produce our own food.

Our aim is to ensure a local production of high-quality food. That is why the Minister of Agriculture has introduced a new financial support scheme to encourage the construction of larger greenhouses for fruit and vegetables. The Ministries of Agriculture and for the Environment are now working closely together to implement several of these projects in the short term.

By engaging in direct dialogue with farmers, we have taken concrete steps to simplify their work – particularly regarding the employment of seasonal workers. This dialogue is continuing with young farmers. We want to preserve the entrepreneurial spirit and make it easier for farms and winegrowing businesses to be handed down from one generation to the next.



At the European level, the direction is the same. Tomorrow, Luxembourg's European Commissioner, Christophe Hansen, will propose a major simplification of agricultural regulations across the European Union. We fully support this approach. Our farmers should be in the fields – not in the office. It is time to cut unnecessary red tape.

But serving the common interests of Luxembourg and Europe also means forging partnerships with other regions. Luxembourg needs export markets — especially at a time when new barriers are being erected in various parts of the world.

And that is why Luxembourg will vote in favour of the Mercosur agreement. The final version of the agreement provides stronger guarantees that our markets will not be flooded, and that our health and environment standards will not be compromised. Thanks to the efforts of a number of agricultural ministers, including the one from Luxembourg.

We will closely monitor the effects of the agreement in consultation with the agricultural sector. And should our meat farmers' local production start to suffer from the Agreement, we would of course seek ways to support them. This agreement brings many benefits for the economy. Tariffs will be reduced significantly, especially in the industrial sector.

Industry is another strategic pillar of our sovereignty. This Government is determined to ensure that Luxembourg remains a location of choice for industrial actors.

Industry – and steel in particular – has shaped Luxembourg's history. And it will continue to shape its future. But European industry is currently facing serious challenges, not least due to high energy prices.

That is why a strong industrial base – indeed, a certain level of reindustrialisation – can only be achieved through energy policy. Three political objectives converge in this effort:

- Sovereignty and security of supply
- Economic competitiveness
- Reducing CO₂ emissions



These objectives are not mutually exclusive. They are compatible – but the path to achieving them must be grounded in pragmatism. We will chart this course alongside industry, not in opposition to it.

We should support industrial actors in their decarbonisation efforts, not burden them with unrealistic demands.

Industrial companies must be able to advance step by step – not be forced into drastic transitions overnight. This is also the spirit that underpins the new European Clean Industrial Deal. That is why we need targeted financial support, and significant investment in our grid infrastructure.

To this end, we have proposed a reform of the state aid law to better support industrial companies in their energy transition. And at the European level, we are advocating for a simplified legal framework for state aid.

At the same time, current technologies do not allow all industries to shift entirely to electricity. That is why we welcome the adoption of a legal basis for a hydrogen network in Luxembourg. Together with our neighbouring countries, we are working to connect Luxembourg to the international hydrogen infrastructure.

These measures are important and necessary, but they do not solve the problem of high energy prices in the short term.

Our industry needs clean energy – but it also needs affordable energy. If we fail to get prices under control, there will be no one left to support in the transition. Industry will turn its back on Europe. This would be a serious blow to our sovereignty – and to every household's electricity bill. Because given the pricing structure, every industrial departure directly affects consumer energy costs.



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In Luxembourg, energy prices remain below the European average – a social and economic strength. One that we must preserve.

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Mr President,

Energy prices are critical – for industry, for the economy, and for our social cohesion. The past few years have shown, in very concrete terms, the impact of high energy costs on households. Energy must remain affordable. That is why many European countries are now actively working to reduce energy prices over the long term.

In Luxembourg, energy prices remain below the European average – a social and economic strength. One that we must preserve. We want to stabilise electricity prices over the coming years – without going back to a price cap. We are no longer in an energy crisis. We need sustainable solutions to ensure affordable energy prices and actively encourage the transition to electrification.

Therefore, the State has decided to mobilize 150 million euros. Funds that will directly benefit citizens and companies.

On the one hand, the public budget will directly finance, as in Germany, part of the grid costs. This will bring significant relief to all customers. Current forecasts project electricity prices should fall next year, despite the end of the energy price cap.

On the other hand, we will cover the costs of the compensation mechanism that is currently financed by all consumers. With this measure, we are providing targeted support for households switching to electricity, thereby encouraging the ecological transition.

Through the tripling of the energy allowance, our approach will also remain socially targeted – prioritising support for those most affected by rising prices.



In the medium term, ensuring energy prices that are both affordable and competitive will only be possible through a transition to renewable energy – the second pillar of our strategy. It is better for the environment, better for our sovereignty, and ultimately, better for our wallets. That is why it remains a top priority for this Government. Today, half of the electricity produced in the European Union already comes from renewable sources. And that share is increasing year after year in Luxembourg as well.

To continue this trend, we are advancing our plan to pre-finance solar panels. The preparatory work has been completed, and in the coming weeks we will incorporate the Council of State's comments. This will ensure that we are ready when the Parliament proceeds to vote on the bill.

To ensure that the green transition is also socially just, we will be extending this support system to other "Klimabonus" grants starting next year. Between now and the summer, the Minister of the Environment will be proposing further improvements as part of the "Klimabonus Wunnen" programme for heat pumps and energy renovation. We also want to add a social component to the climate plan.

This is a climate policy designed by citizens and for citizens! A policy that actively engages them.



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This package of measures represents a real turning point; a fundamental overhaul of the regulatory framework to allow a faster deployment of more renewable energies.

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With this in mind, we have launched a broad consultation with all stakeholders and local authorities under the title "Einfach, séier, erneierbar" (simple, fast, renewable). The name says it all: the aim is to simplify the regulations to speed up and increase the use of renewable energies.

Too often today, we are standing in our own way. Instead of helping, procedures slow down the process. That's why this Government is committed to significantly simplifying the rules. We need to streamline the system. Less bureaucracy means more sustainable energy – and therefore fewer emissions.

Based on this process, the Government has developed an ambitious catalogue of about 50 measures, half of which will already be in the legislative process by the end of the year. The details of these measures will be presented by the Ministers of Energy and the Environment, but I would like to highlight four key points.

Firstly, the positive impact of the dialogue itself. Discussions with the industry have revealed several discrepancies in the interpretation of technical regulations. These were resolved – in true Luxembourgish manner, through quick changes. The changes provide greater planning certainty and show that real progress comes from speaking with and working alongside stakeholders on the ground.

Secondly, procedures will be systematically simplified, shortened, and digitised to enable projects to be completed more quickly. This includes the introduction of de minimis thresholds, for which no formal authorisation will be required – or a simple notification will suffice. In general, deadlines will be shortened or introduced where none currently exist.



The Minister of Justice is also working on implementing a fast-track procedure for appeals related to large-scale projects. At the same time, the Minister for Culture plans to simplify procedures for installing photovoltaic panels on protected buildings, while ensuring their cultural identity is respected.

The Ministry of the Environment will harmonise processes across all its agencies. From now on, large-scale projects will also automatically be granted the status of major public interest, allowing more efficient environmental procedures to be applied.

These adjustments – among others – will enable the Ministry of the Environment to process large-scale projects in under two years. This exceeds the target set at European level. But we want to go even further. In newly designated "acceleration zones", applications will be processed in under one year.

While accelerating existing projects remains a top priority, we also want to explore new opportunities for photovoltaic and wind energy installations — always in balance with and respect of both humans and nature. That is our third key priority.

As regards photovoltaics, we see significant potential along our motorway network. According to an independent study, up to 1,500 megawatts could be generated along these corridors. Even partially realising this potential would produce clean energy for tens of thousands of households. To this end, several concrete projects will be launched in the coming months – including installations on noise barriers and the Park & Ride facility in Junglinster. In addition, the Government will table new legislation allowing the installation of solar panels in the non-aedificandi zone – the 25-metre strip beyond the motorway safety zone.

When it comes to wind turbines, we will reduce the minimum distance requirements from roads and forests, aligning our regulations with those of neighbouring countries. We will also want to permit the construction of taller, more efficient turbines that can generate more electricity. Technological progress makes these changes possible without compromising the safety of citizens or the environment.



The fourth key point concerns the role of the State in leading by example. Today, all new public buildings are systematically designed with photovoltaic panels. Going forward, smaller projects will be bundled to speed up deployment on existing buildings. Public procurement rules will be adjusted accordingly to support this approach.

At the municipal level, large-scale photovoltaic panel projects will become eligible for government financial support. This will promote the development of new installations on schools, sport arenas, and other communal buildings across the country.

This package of measures represents a real turning point; a fundamental overhaul of the regulatory framework to allow a faster deployment of more renewable energies. To ensure that our network has the flexibility and security required to guarantee a reliable electricity supply at all times, the Government will present a National Storage Strategy later this year.

As part of this effort, a new subsidy will be introduced to support owners of photovoltaic panels in purchasing a battery storage system at a later stage. This will guarantee that the switch to electricity remains financially attractive.

All these measures support the three objectives of our energy policy: increased sovereignty, increased competitiveness and fewer emissions. They will strengthen Luxembourg for the future and leave a better world for our children.



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We want an AI based on trust and transparency, putting innovation at the service of humanity. An artificial intelligence based on European values with a Luxembourg touch.

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Mr President,

Achieving these objectives is also important for the competitiveness of our entire economy, especially the energy-intensive data sector. And precisely the latter plays a key role in safeguarding Luxembourg's and Europe's sovereignty. We want to be pioneers in the field of new technologies. If we do not have our own solutions for data and new technologies, we will continue to depend on other countries.

Luxembourg should be known worldwide as a powerhouse in both finance and digital technologies. Stability and trust – two pillars of our financial centre – are also crucial for positioning Luxembourg as a data hub. We are building on these and other strengths and putting innovation at the heart of our strategy.

Innovation, human curiosity and the quest for knowledge have always been the driving forces behind progress and continue to drive humanity forward.

There is no better time than now to establish Luxembourg as a leading data hub. The amount of data being generated is growing exponentially. At the same time, rapid advances in artificial intelligence offer tremendous opportunities to use this data for the benefit of society, whether in medicine, education or autonomous driving. And against the backdrop of the new geopolitical landscape, it is more important than ever to know who controls data.

Hence why the Government is setting out a clear vision for consolidating Luxembourg's digital sovereignty. This vision is based on three new strategies: on data, artificial intelligence and quantum technology. Together, they form a coherent and unique vision that is unrivalled in the world.



A vision of Luxembourg as an international centre for the secure and sovereign storage and valorisation of sensitive data from all over Europe. A centre based on an agile strategy that puts people at the centre of progress and attracts data and talent from all over the world.

To achieve this goal, we are investing in the necessary infrastructure, talent and projects. Over the next six years, three billion euros, from both public and private players, will be mobilised for this purpose.

In particular AI – artificial intelligence – has become more important than ever. It is *the* transformative technology of the coming decades, with a potential for our future comparable to that of the Internet a couple of years ago. That is why we cannot ignore this technology and leave it to other countries and continents.

We want an AI based on trust and transparency, putting innovation at the service of humanity. An artificial intelligence based on European values with a Luxembourg touch. In this vision, AI is designed to assist mankind, not replace it. Much like calculators enhanced human capabilities without replacing them, AI must remain a tool – one where control stays firmly in human hands.

This vision is based on a coherent approach, with ecosystems centred around outstanding structures. Featuring one of the first 'AI Factories' in the EU, a supercomputer designed for artificial intelligence applications and integrated into a European network, as well as the first quantum computer.

By connecting data from different sources, we aim to create even greater added value. To achieve this, we are defining a harmonised standard for data that is accessible, reusable, and easy to find.

This ecosystem will be completed in the coming months by the creation of a "Deep Tech Lab". The goal of this new structure is to facilitate collaboration between academic and economic actors, with the aim of fostering research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.



This will allow public-private partnerships and spin-offs to emerge, strengthening both our society and our economy – with new, innovative ideas that move our country forward. This dynamic will offer researchers from Luxembourg and around the world the opportunity to collaborate on innovation projects, while also serving as an important lever for attracting top talent.

As for local talent, starting in 2026, we will launch an 'AI Academy' within the Digital Learning Hub, offering specialised training programmes in artificial intelligence.

To ensure the responsible use of these new technologies, we are in the process of implementing the European AI Act. This initiative establishes a harmonised framework at European level that promotes innovation while protecting citizens' rights. If we aim to become a hub for the whole of Europe, a pragmatic implementation of this framework is essential.

Together, these elements will make it possible to apply artificial intelligence in the real world and to deliver tangible benefits for society and the economy. Because innovation cannot remain confined to the laboratory, if it is to truly serve people and businesses. That is why we have identified a number of key projects and are working to implement new technologies into our businesses.

One of these projects involves the development of an artificial intelligence model - a "Large Language Model" - specifically trained on our national and European legislation. Humans still hold the pen, but AI can help make the drafting of legislation more efficient. In the long term, it could also serve as a point of contact to support citizens and businesses in navigating administrative procedures more easily.

We also intend to use artificial intelligence within ADEM to better understand the skills jobseekers possess and those in demand by businesses. This will allow us to offer more targeted training, tackle unemployment more effectively, and address shortages in specific sectors.



And to better foster innovation and the emergence of new ideas within our businesses, the Minister for Research is currently revising the national research strategy and will present a new bill on the National Research Fund before the summer.

We have also decided to increase support for SMEs wishing to invest in digitalisation or artificial intelligence applications. And we are working with private stakeholders on a number of other measures to facilitate technology transfer to Luxembourg's SMEs.

As it is often small and new companies that revolutionise a sector with an innovative idea, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of the Economy have introduced a new action plan to support start-ups. This will include SNCI funds amounting to 300 million euros.

Innovation is the foundation of our progress. A modern Luxembourg must work tirelessly to remain at the forefront of new technologies. Innovation is not only the driving force behind the economy – it is also the foundation of social progress. The Internet has become the greatest repository of knowledge in human history. What once exceeded the capacity of the world's largest libraries now fits in our pockets, thanks to a simple smartphone.

Yet, amid the excitement for these new opportunities, we must also learn to use them responsibly. Already too often, phones replace meetings, screens replace books, and headphones real conversations. The responsibility lies with all of us to make sure the digital world enhances, rather than replaces, real life – and that artificial intelligence remains a tool, not a substitute, for human intelligence.

That is why we must prioritise our children. This new generation is growing up with the internet and smartphones; they have never known a world without digital tools or social media. The consequences of this development are already being felt.

We are witnessing increasingly pronounced behavioural issues, sleep disturbances, anxiety, and even depression among children. And from an early age, significant gaps in social and cognitive development.



The latest report by the *Ombudsman fir Kanner a Jugendlecher* is alarming. Not only are children spending more and more time in front of screens, but they are also exposed to increasingly violent and sexualised content – especially on social media platforms.

We must protect our children from such content. This is part of their fundamental rights. We need to address this challenge at the European level, with regulations like the Digital Services Act.

But the greatest challenge lies in the potential long-term impact of these developments on children's mental health. Mental health, in general, has become more fragile. The effects of the pandemic are still felt deeply. At the same time, we are seeing a rise in cases of autism and other forms of neurodiversity, such as dyslexia and attention deficit disorders.

Mental health must no longer be treated as a taboo. It is a fundamental component of overall well-being. To enhance care for the most severe cases, we are increasing the capacity of juvenile psychiatric units by adding more beds. Above all, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education have made prevention a top priority:

- by integrating this topic into health education in schools;
- by developing a new digital tool to make it easier to keep track each child throughout their school career;
- by increasing mental health first aid training;
- by improving children's screen-life-balance through sports in schools and after-school care ('Maisons relais'), and through clearer rules on smartphone use in schools.

But school only covers part of the day. That is why we also want to raise awareness among parents, particularly through information campaigns and targeted conferences organised as part of parent forums. Because as parents, we must lead by example at home. During this year, in close consultation with those working in the field, we will explore new ways to help children grow up worry-free. We will not give up – we cannot give up.



Our goal is a generation that is genuinely happy and does not just post happy pictures. This is a new side of our modern society, one that we take seriously and will address with the dedication it deserves. The world is changing, not just internationally, but in very concrete ways. This can be seen in our daily lives and in the way we live together.

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This Government is actively seeking dialogue. Dialogue is not always easy. But listening respectfully and taking into account different points of view is essential.

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Mr President,

We do not want to remain spectators of social change; we want to accompany and shape it.

Our ambition is to pursue a modern social policy. This also applies to the tax system, labour law and pensions. With targeted adjustments. Not with revolutions, but with evolutions – in accordance with the spirit of our times.

One objective is to promote a better work-life balance to accommodate all family structures. The state should not impose one family model over another. Every couple and family must be free to make their own choices. Our policies must respect them all.

With regard to the tax system, the Government is committed to proposing a single tax bracket. With individualisation, every family model will be treated and taxed in the same way. This is first and foremost a question of equity.

Preparations for this reform are progressing well, allowing the Minister of Finance to present various options to Parliament and the social partners in July. One option being considered could be a new tax class, close to the current 1A tax class, with an extended transitional phase for married or PACS taxpayers, to ensure that they are not disadvantaged.



With the same objective of achieving a better work-life balance, we are also revising our labour law. It's not about revolutionising the system, but about making targeted adjustments that reflect the needs of our time.

These are not top-down decisions, but the result of dialogue with our social partners. That is why this Government maintains regular contact with social partners – as I did myself just a few days ago.

This Government is actively seeking dialogue. All the policies I am presenting here today are evidence of this. We do not govern in isolation, we believe in dialogue:

- With political parties on defence issues,
- With farmers for agriculture,
- With professionals on housing and renewable energies,
- With the whole population on pensions,
- And with the trade unions as regards labour law.

Dialogue is not always easy. But listening respectfully and taking into account different points of view is essential – and that is what we do. Disagreement is part of the democratic process: not every challenge is an attack, not every criticism an opposition.

It is precisely the ability to express differing opinions without fear of repression that distinguishes a democracy from a dictatorship.

It is in this spirit that we continue to listen to trade unions and civil society on the issue of the right of assembly. This is a fundamental right in our democratic system. Therefore, this Government will not legislate on this issue without prior consultation of trade unions and civil society.

At the same time, dialogue does not necessarily imply co-decision on every point. The parliamentary majority has a responsibility, and it will be judged on its ability to shoulder it. That's what a democracy is all about – and rightly so. If we know who makes the decisions, we also know who bears the responsibility – for better or for worse.



The majority is committed to implementing a modern social policy. In this context, we have proposed an adjustment to opening hours and work on Sundays. Allow me to put this proposal in the appropriate context.

Sundays will not become ordinary working days. They will continue to be dedicated to family life and social, cultural and sporting activities. At the same time, it is already possible to eat in a restaurant, go to a supermarket, or to take a bus on a Sunday.

We are proposing nothing more, and nothing less, than to give greater flexibility to businesses that are already authorised to open on Sundays. Instead of limiting work to 4 hours, up to 8 hours will be allowed, not imposed. People working in these specific sectors will receive a 70% bonus.

In doing so, we create more opportunities for employees, businesses, and society as a whole. It is not a step back, but a step forward. One that brings more choice and more freedom.

The proposals by the Minister of the Economy on opening hours in the retail sector follow the same logic: to offer more options and more choices. But that does not mean that a clothing store will stay open until 10 pm.

These changes have been the subject of in-depth discussions with the social partners. And these were far from superficial – they led to a link between certain aspects of opening hours and collective agreements. This is proof that we are listening.

And it is also proof that collective agreements remain a central element of our labour law, as well as an essential lever for trade unions.

However, we also note that the current system no longer reflects the different realities of our society and economy. Collective agreements must remain an attractive tool for both social partners.

At the same time, agreements concluded at company level will be given an expanded role. They will make it possible to regulate aspects specific to the reality of each company and the needs of its employees.



These changes are not intended to strengthen one side or weaken the other. The aim is to act in the interests of society as a whole, in line with modern politics.

Whatever statements are made on May 1st, in the media or elsewhere, this Government remains resolutely committed to social dialogue and social partnership, and fully respects the role of the trade unions. This is why I announced in January that social round tables will be held. Dialogue and exchange with the social partners are important to me, both as an individual and as Prime Minister.

Together with the Ministers of Labour and of the Economy, we have met the social partners on several occasions over the last few months. In pairs or threes, by phone and in person. Our approach was to be objective, free from any external pressure. Our priority was dialogue, not media coverage.

That was the aim of these "social round tables". And they have been successful: despite a difficult start, the three partners have been able to come closer together, listen to each other and engage in a dialogue based on mutual respect. The Government wishes to continue this respectful exchange over the coming months, including within the institutions dedicated to social dialogue.

In addition to these discussions, this year we will present the flexibilisation of maternity leave and the introduction of part-time work for family reasons. The goal is to allow parents to spend more time with their children during the crucial first months and years of life. In a modern social policy, work and family life are not opposing forces – they go hand in hand. Every child should have the chance to grow up in a happy family.

It is not the composition of the family that matters, but the quality of care the child receives. The reform of adoption law, presented by the Minister of Justice, is fully aligned with this child-centred approach.

In addition to the growing diversity of family models, modern policy must also keep pace with changes in our life expectancy.



We launched a wide-ranging consultation on the pension system in October. On behalf of the whole Government, I would like to thank everyone for their contributions. All these perspectives are extremely useful. This issue has clearly generated real interest, which is a success in itself. It is the very expression of a vibrant democracy.

This stage of the consultation proved very useful. And now we must define the direction ahead. To this end, the Minister of Social Security will present her detailed proposals before the summer. But I would like to make three points already today.

First, the pension system is a social achievement that we must preserve and guarantee for future generations. A strong, universal public pension system must remain the central cornerstone of our retirement system.

Second, pensions are a promise. A promise based on trust. That trust must be preserved. We will not be introducing any changes for people who are already retired or close to retirement. Study years and baby years will continue to count towards contributory periods.

Third, the pension system is an insurance for old age. A safeguard that should allow every generation to look towards retirement with confidence and peace of mind. Today, the retirement period is almost as long as the contribution period. This situation is clearly no longer viable. In addition, with an average retirement age of around 60, Luxembourg has the lowest effective retirement age of all EU and OECD countries.

This is why we will gradually increase the number of contribution years. The career length required to qualify for a pension will be extended by three months each year over a number of years.

Unlike our neighbouring countries, the legal retirement age will remain at 65. Thanks to this reform, we aim to ensure that the actual retirement age moves closer to that legal retirement age. To support this transition, we are also introducing the option of progressive retirement – a period during which a person has the choice to gradually work less while already receiving part of their pension.



We will financially secure the system for the next 15 years:

- Through a fiscal contribution funded by revenues from an existing consumption tax. For example, half of the revenues from the CO₂ tax earmarked for social measures could be used for this purpose;
- By maintaining the existing reserve, so that it continues to generate as much return on investment as possible;
- And by upholding the reform adopted by Parliament in 2012, including the measures that come into force if expenditures exceed revenues.

In addition to these key principles for the pension system, we would like to propose two further adjustments.

We will introduce targeted social assistance for people at risk of old-age poverty. And for those who are fortunate to have extra savings, we will make private third-pillar pensions more attractive. To encourage people to build up an additional safety net for their old age.

I would like to reiterate that the broad debate on this subject has been very useful. It is a debate that needs to be revisited regularly to take account of ever-changing demographic and economic developments. This is because our pension system remains de facto dependent on our economic success.



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To strengthen our competitiveness, we need to breathe new life into entrepreneurship and give our SMEs the space they need to thrive.

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Mr President,

In an increasingly uncertain world, we must redouble our efforts to remain competitive and preserve our country's economic success.

In an ocean of international instability, it is all the more important to control what we can control. To stay the course in calm waters. And to preserve, strengthen and capitalise on the stability that is our strength.

To strengthen our competitiveness, we need to breathe new life into entrepreneurship and give our SMEs the space they need to thrive. That is why we will continue to simplify administrative procedures. By the end of the year, the Minister of the Economy will present a series of adjustments to the right of establishment.

In addition, we are also planning to present a reform of the ITM to strengthen its consultative role. The emphasis will be on prevention, awareness raising and support, rather than sanctions.

We also support efforts to reduce the administrative and regulatory burden on our businesses at European level. With the so-called ‘Omnibus’ proposals, for example, the European Commission intends to simplify the regulatory framework without neglecting the political objective of these texts.

Better regulation does not mean no regulation. However, effective rules remain essential to making the European market more attractive – and thus to ensure the survival of our SMEs, which create so many jobs in our country. The purpose of a company is not to write reports, but to create value, whether in the form of goods or services.



To achieve this, a company needs skilled and motivated staff. People trained here in Luxembourg, as well as talented people from abroad who are ready to contribute to our success. With this in mind, we will make targeted investments in vocational training. We will offer and recognise post-baccalaureate training in Luxembourg. And we will encourage companies to invest in their employees - in particular by improving apprenticeship allowances and developing "Skills Bridge" training.

To attract foreign talent, new tax measures were introduced in January. Over the next 12 months, we will also define strategies to identify in a targeted manner the talents each sector needs.

All these measures will enable us to create the right conditions for economic growth. Growth creates jobs. It provides the state with the revenue it needs to pursue a strong social policy and make essential investments – in the energy transition, the digital future and defence.

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This is a question of respect for the law – respect for others and for the rules that underpin our society. Without this, trust in the rule of law will diminish.

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But growth needs to be managed. Initiatives are therefore necessary in the areas of housing, mobility and security. In order to build the necessary housing, we first had to contain the crisis in the construction sector. We achieved this through short-time working and targeted tax measures. Today, this crisis is behind us. It is not the State's role to support the housing market indefinitely. The market has to function on its own.



That is why the Government will phase out the temporary tax package. The tax credit on notarial instruments (*bëllegen Akt*) for primary residences at 40.000 euros will remain in place. That means that a couple that buys an accommodation of around 1 million euros for personal use does not have to pay registration fees. This measure helps young families to acquire their own home.

We are committed to building more, and faster. To achieve this, we have initiated a true paradigm shift in procedures last year. This is the way to boost the market in the medium term while ensuring that everyone has access to affordable housing.

With this in mind, reforms aimed at restoring the balance between housing needs and environmental protection were presented to Parliament in January, such as the principle of "*Natur auf Zeit*" and the "One-time compensation".

Other important measures, such as the second phase of the "Silence means consent" principle, the unified building standard and the simplification of the PAG and PAP procedures, will be introduced in the coming months. The Government will also present its proposals for a mobilisation tax on unused land within building zones before the summer with the aim of encouraging construction on designated plots.

We are continuing to invest in infrastructure in order to ensure mobility in line with population growth:

- In rail, with major projects such as the Luxembourg-Bettembourg line and the new transport hub in Hollerich,
- On the roads, with the completion of the bypass of Hosingen,
- In the tramway network, with financing laws for the extension of the *Areler Strooss* and *Escher Strooss*,
- And at the airport, with the extension of the current terminal and the modernisation of security checks to reduce waiting times.



The rule of law must also adapt to changes in our society. Security is a fundamental prerequisite for the exercise of our freedoms. And sometimes a simple feeling of insecurity can be enough to restrict them.

This is a question of respect for the law – respect for others and for the rules that underpin our society. Without this, trust in the rule of law will diminish. To maintain this confidence, we need an effective and responsive judicial system and a police force that is responsive to citizens and their concerns. These are the requirements and that is why they are the objectives of this Government.

To this end, the judiciary has been strengthened. Additional posts have been created and access to the judiciary has been broadened. The Minister of Justice also plans to make the recruitment of judges to the administrative courts more attractive and to adapt the training of judicial assistants.

In addition to staffing, more efficient procedures are needed. Lengthy proceedings are detrimental to victims, the rule of law and society as a whole. With this in mind, the digitalisation of procedures will continue. We have already digitised communication between the judiciary and banks, as well as with Member States. And from autumn onwards, a new software will enable better electronic processing of files.

The police will also be given the necessary resources, whether in terms of staff, equipment or powers. Recruitment will be maintained at a high level to ensure greater presence, proximity and prevention. To this end, adjustments to the legislative framework are necessary: strengthening provisions relating to eviction measures, simplifying Visupol surveillance procedures, and creating a legal basis for a municipal police.

These changes will be implemented in a targeted manner where appropriate. The aim is not to create a surveillance state in which citizens lose their right to privacy. In fact, the opposite is true: in some places, such as the quarter around the train station, the current situation restricts residents' freedom. Our aim is to guarantee everyone the right to move and live freely.



These specific areas are particularly affected by drug-related crime. This issue needs to be addressed with all stakeholders as part of a balanced approach combining law enforcement against dealers and social support for victims.

It is well known that organised crime in Luxembourg often operates across borders in an attempt to evade justice. Recent operations against drug trafficking networks are proof of this. It is clear that Luxembourg is not the destination market for such quantities of drugs. And yet, this is where they were seized. I would like to congratulate the police, customs and judicial authorities for their excellent work and cooperation in these operations.

The fight against cross-border crime requires cross-border cooperation. And we will strengthen this cooperation. This requires enhanced data exchange within the Schengen area. The Government will also introduce an automatic number plate recognition system. This system, which already exists in many European countries, will help us identify wanted persons more quickly and bring them to justice.

This cooperation is at the heart of the Schengen Information System. Without Schengen, it would be impossible to fight crime effectively. Likewise, a strong economy cannot exist without the free movement of goods and services. But Schengen is much more than that.

Schengen is a symbol of Europe and of our union. It is the tangible expression of a united Europe. For centuries, this was unimaginable on our continent. This summer will mark the 40th anniversary of the Schengen Agreement. And it is here, more than anywhere else, that what I said at the beginning of my speech rings true: progress is never guaranteed. We have to work for it, every day.

In this spirit, Luxembourg will continue to work at European level to preserve the Schengen area and to support open internal borders. The problem of illegal immigration can only be solved at European level, with stronger controls at external borders.

Migration policy must be based on humanity and reason: inspired by the heart, guided by reason.



The right to asylum must be guaranteed: it reflects our fundamental principles of humanity and openness. Furthermore, legal immigration is essential to maintaining our economic and social model in Europe. At the same time, illegal immigration must be tackled, and people entering Europe illegally must be expelled.

This is also part of the rule of law. It is an essential requirement for successful integration.

I am convinced that the people of Luxembourg want to help those fleeing war. The solidarity shown during the conflicts in Syria and Ukraine has clearly shown the human face of Luxembourg society. But if we overburden the system with people who do not meet the requirements to stay here, social cohesion is likely to suffer.

Luxembourg cannot be accused of a lack of humanity. Our country already takes in one of the highest numbers of refugees in Europe proportionally to its population. But our structures are also reaching their limits. Even if other structures are planned, we need a responsible migration policy with a clear, fair and objective framework.

Applicants who have a real chance of being granted refugee status must receive a swift response to avoid unnecessary frustration. And those who have no real chance of being granted refugee status must not be given false hope. In such cases, we take a humane approach.

In this context, the Maison du Retour opened last September. It provides psychological and social support to help people return to their countries of origin in dignity and with prospects for a sustainable future.

The numbers show that this approach is working. In the last 12 months, voluntary returns have outnumbered forced returns. Since the start of this Government's term of office, the total number of returns – of those who were unable to stay in the country – has more than doubled compared to 2022. By implementing this policy, we are ensuring that the integration capacity of our society is not exceeded.



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That is the conviction of this Government: Progress through stability. Stability through progress.

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Mr President,

Peace, freedom, justice. These fundamental principles cannot remain confined to history books. They are values that we must embody every day. Ideals that we must defend relentlessly. Each generation must redefine these values. Previous generations fought for women's rights – and yet further steps were needed to strengthen them.

That is what this Government has done:

- by banning virginity certificates and hymenoplasty,
- by increasing justice and protections for victims of violence and creating a dedicated national contact point,
- and by abolishing the mandatory reflection period before abortion in the first 12 weeks.

The same will apply to all the values we hold dear:

- Our defence commitment and resilience strategy ensure peace and security,
- The deployment of renewable energies promotes sustainability,
- Innovation and entrepreneurship are creating wealth,
- Reconciling work and family life paves the way for greater choice and equality,
- Efforts to ensure a happy childhood and a dignified retirement help to strengthen equity in our society.

All these concrete measures show that we have the means to shape reality and the world around us in line with our values – through our actions and our decisions.



That is what sovereignty is all about: the freedom to make your own decisions and shape your own future. That is what we want for our country. Progress is possible, but it does not just happen. All progress is the result of change. What we must avoid at all costs is standing still, paralysed by the fear of change.

In a democracy, all these changes give rise to discussion and debate. But it is not about imposing one's truth or discrediting the other. It is about moving the country forward together, with the general interest as our compass.

We all have different opinions, perspectives and visions. But let us work together, in the interests of our country and its citizens.

It is this dialogue, this willingness to overcome differences of opinion and work together, that is our country's strength. It is what makes us stand out internationally. It is what we call, quite simply, stability. That stability is the foundation of our progress.

That is the conviction of this Government: Progress through stability. Stability through progress.

Thank you very much.