

Manifesto of the Luxembourg Communist Party (4 August 1945)

Caption: On 4 August 1945, three months before general elections in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Luxembourg Communist Party announces its manifesto and reaffirms its determination to fight capitalism.

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Manifesto of the Luxembourg Communist Party (4 August 1945)

A young people's party! A party with absolute faith in the future of Luxembourg! A party free from all the political intrigue of the old school.

Here is a political party of a new kind and of a size unusual in our country — the Communist Party of Luxembourg.

The Luxembourg Communist Party, like other Communist Parties, has its roots in the materialist philosophy of the 18th century Encyclopaedists, which developed into the dialectical materialism of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

We are followers of philosophical Marxism, which has no recourse to the supernatural in its explanation of the external world but is based on the principle that the world and the laws that govern it can perfectly well be understood, and that our knowledge of the laws of nature and society is real and valid. We believe that scientific knowledge of the world and its development is, if not sufficient, at least a reasonable and ever closer approximation of the truth. Without betraying our philosophical principles, we believe in total religious toleration. We support all good Luxembourg citizens, those who go to Church and those who do not. We advocate and propound the dialectical materialism of Marx and Engels, as enriched by Lenin and Stalin. We apply it as a revolutionary method of understanding and transforming reality! The Communist Party therefore combats all varieties of capitalist ideology and of theoretical and practical opportunism. It opposes, first of all, all policies that lose sight of the goals of the working class, and all revolutionary gesticulation and verbiage that discredits our movement and serves our enemies. Our aim is to socialise the means of production and exchange, in other words to transform capitalist society into a collectivist and communist society. In order to achieve this objective, we proclaim it essential that power pass into the hands of the workers.

We do not confine ourselves to defending the present and future interests of the workers; we also defend the present and future interests of the agricultural population, shopkeepers, craftsmen, intellectuals, office employees, and all victims of exploitation by the trusts.

We advocate a considerable widening of democracy for the whole people. We combat all racial prejudice. We maintain fraternal relations with all free peoples and defend the principles of liberty and independence. To demonstrate the superiority of the principles to which the Communist Party adheres, we spread knowledge among the masses of the glorious achievements of socialism in the USSR under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin. This does not contradict the claim that the Communist Party is a national party. We are a national party in that we defend Luxembourg's true interests in all circumstances. The Communist Party will not mechanically transpose the experience of another country onto Luxembourg: it seeks to bring about the victory of socialism under the conditions appropriate to the situation and specific genius of the Luxembourg nation. This does not prevent us learning from the experience of the international workers' movement. We therefore maintain friendly relations with parties in other countries pursuing the same aims. But it must be emphasised that we freely determine our own policy and accept no outside pressure from any source.

The programme that the Luxembourg Communist Party proposes to undertake consists first in freeing the Grand Duchy from domination by the trusts that have betrayed it, then in rebuilding and modernising our industry, reorganising agriculture, establishing the basis for national culture, and achieving a genuine national revival and the creation of a new Luxembourg.

We are convinced that at the present time a heavy responsibility lies with the working class, whose party we are. Now that the war is over, the working class is called upon to play a role of the utmost importance at the head of all working people. It will be the staunchest and most steadfast fighter in the struggle to root out fascism within the country and in the international arena, to implement genuine democracy in all spheres of social life — political, economic and cultural — and to achieve the far-reaching application of democratic principles in domestic policy and in international relations. The fate of our country and that of all humankind in the period now beginning will depend to a large extent on the unity and cohesion of the working class and

its trade union organisations, on their action and intransigence in the struggle against the onslaughts of the enemies of the freedom of peoples and of peace among nations.

To solve the complex and difficult problems of the post-war period, the Luxembourg Communist Party strongly advocates closer international cooperation, and especially an alliance of the victorious, peace-loving great powers. We trust that our country will understand the benefits of pursuing a foreign policy of fraternity with all the victorious nations.

The Communist Party will go forward on the strength of its principles, which guarantee our people the end of man's exploitation of man, the fruits of individual labour, and the independence of Luxembourg in an atmosphere of security and well-being.