

Manifesto of the Luxembourg Christian Social Party (4 August 1945)

Caption: On 4 October 1945, the Luxembourg Christian-Social Party (CSV) resolutely reaffirms the principles of its policies in the run-up to the general elections in the Grand Duchy.

Source: Bulletin d'information. dir. de publ. Service Information et Presse - Ministère d'Etat. 31.10.1945, n° 11. Luxembourg. "Programme politique du Parti chrétien-social luxembourgeois (4 août 1945)", p. 6; 7.

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The Christian Social Party is the heir and successor of the Party of the Right. With experienced leaders and a team that includes some new blood, it continues that party's traditions and policies in these changed times, but with greater emphasis on social issues. We do not hesitate to call ourselves a 'Party' and we place ourselves squarely in the camp of Democracy. Parties are at the very heart of democracy, and attempts to unite the whole population under one banner are strangely reminiscent of times past. In any case, union can never be created out of confusion, and parties have to face each other with clear and precise programmes. This does not mean, however, that the Christian Social Party wants to play 'party politics' in the pejorative sense. The national interest must come before individual and group interests and, while defending its principles, the Christian Social Party is ready to work with all men of good will to carry out a national programme of immediate practical achievements. Far from disputing or suspecting the patriotism of other groups, and without claiming a monopoly, the Christian Social Party proudly proclaims its love of the Homeland and loyalty to the Crown, thus continuing the noble traditions of the Right. We do not intend to mix religion with politics; that would be to render a great disservice to a good cause. However the Church has inalienable rights in a nation; we intend — should it be necessary — to defend and guarantee them. Our policies will be inspired by the fundamental Christian principles at the root of our Western civilisation. We shall never forget that tolerance and respect for other sincerely held beliefs are the basis of all honest politics.

Today, more than ever, the social question must be resolved in a fair and bold manner. The Christian Social Party bases its policy on the Papal teachings, as embodied in the Encyclicals of Leo XIII and Pius XI. The human individual is the main object of this policy; our aim is to ensure the maximum physical and moral well-being for everyone. Private property, which follows from the rights of the individual, must be respected, but it must not have absolute priority and must be limited by the rights of others. Moreover, private property must be organised in such a way as to serve the common good. Every man has the right to work and consequently the duty to do so. The State must guarantee safety at work, fair wages and the minimum necessities of life for all workers. The organised professions must help the State in its efforts. The social classes have the right to make their demands heard, but those demands are necessarily subordinate to the common good. The constituent cell of the State is the family. To protect the family and enable it to develop in a healthy and harmonious way is one of the noblest tasks of the public authorities. To heal the deep wounds of the inter-war years and the years of war from 1939 to 1945, the State must pursue a determined policy of repopulation. Material aid to large families, moral encouragement, a fair distribution of taxes and a fair level of wages are some of the essential points in our programme. Education must be organised and directed by the State, with the help of those naturally called upon to assist in it. It should not end when school ends, but should continue far beyond. In our materialistic century, the Arts should play an important role. We shall pay special attention to the organisation of leisure activities, and we recognise the great importance of sport for the moral and physical well-being of our people. The State will encourage, direct and coordinate private initiative in all these areas.

The war that hit our small country so hard has created new problems. The purge is a necessary task and should be conducted without thought of revenge, in a fair and humane way. The rebuilding of our towns and villages is a vital issue for our people; we must employ methods that enable us, with the means at our disposal, to achieve the maximum in as short a time as possible. Compensation for war victims is beyond discussion; priority will be given to those with the greatest claim and in most need.

As far as foreign relations are concerned, we proclaim the principle of international brotherhood and solidarity. While asserting and defending our independence and autonomy, we recognise our duties at international level. We wish to live in friendship with all nations of goodwill and are ready to assume the duties fairly imposed on us by a world organisation guaranteeing peace and prosperity for all.

In every area of domestic and international politics, our Party is inspired by its Christian and social principles. If we had to sum up our programme in a word, that word would be 'service'.