

Declaration of the College of Aldermen (LSAP and CSV) for the years 2023 to 2029

Based on the election results of June 11, 2023, following which the LSAP was elected with 34.55% respectively six seats, and the CSV with 32.36% respectively five seats ;

- taking into account a shared commitment to work together for Schifflange,
- taking into account a harmonious fundamental philosophy in municipal politics and management,
- on the basis of an equivalent approach to the living together of citizens, local clubs and associations,
- as well as our stance on a social and sustainable economy ...

... the party branches of the **LSAP and CSV in Schifflange have agreed to form a coalition**, ... to jointly form the aldermen's college for the next six years, knowing that two representatives of the LSAP and CSV parties will occupy the aldermen's college in equal numbers throughout this period.

Working collegially, constructively and competently for Schifflange

This statement by the alderman's college is of course based on the coalition agreement, which both parties discussed intensively...

... to clarify, define and determine later on the main points, visions and intentions together.

In this way, we are striving to establish a sustainable, forward-looking cooperation for the positive development of our municipality, in the full knowledge that unexpected challenges may arise, which will have to be addressed and resolved as a matter of priority when the time comes.

In a complex environment, we need to find and formulate solutions to correlate and coordinate the challenges of economic development, sustainability and living together.

The coalition program - the agreement between LSAP and CSV - is the result of an exchange of ideas, visions and priorities defined in common...

- how we want to lead our commune into the future,
- how can we get citizens more involved?
- with the will to work together,
- with the courage to renew what needs to be renewed, to change what needs to be changed,
- with the energy and zeal to allow new ideas to grow
- to offer new perspectives to our community
- and to master today's challenges!

It goes without saying that we are all aware of our responsibilities.

We wish to carry out our tasks **with a clear conscience**, and to commit ourselves to meeting the expectations of all citizens,...

... to strengthen social cohesion, and to encourage the promotion of social harmony and sustainable development in our municipality.

We therefore insist on a **certain continuity**, in particular with regard to certain services that have proved their worth, and also with regard to certain undisputed projects from the last legislature that can be pursued, in the knowledge, of course, that there will undoubtedly be new questions of detail and unforeseen circumstances to clarify, modify or refine.

We will not shy away from **certain changes** that become necessary as a result of new knowledge, new situations or new parameters, particularly with regard to projects, intentions or programs that are moving in the wrong direction.

Our basic philosophy:

- Our aim is to create a municipality with a high quality of life and living space, thanks to environmentally-friendly urban planning that is close to nature, while at the same time ensuring coherent urban development and an up-to-date traffic concept.
- We will maintain the principle of citizen participation and invite interested citizens to get involved in decision-making processes.
- We want to ensure open and transparent communal politics...
 - ... we want to promote democracy, an awareness of living together for our diverse associations, cultures and nationalities, young and not-so-young citizens, in the knowledge that above all our local sports, cultural, leisure and social clubs play a central role...
 - ... we want to ensure solidarity from within and without, in the knowledge that the Schëffleng Hëlleft Association and the Fairtrade Team Schëffleng, as well as institutions co-financed by the municipality such as the "Office Social" and the initiative for integrating jobseekers "Centre d'Initiative et de Gestion Locale (CIGL)", lend an indispensable hand ...
 - ... we want to guarantee efficient, modern services,
 - ... we want a school for our children, a municipality with which our citizens can identify and where they can feel at home.
- We want our finances to be sound, stable and sustainable!

In order to organize, combine, regulate and plan everything, **the college of aldermen with its competences and responsibilities** will be structured as follows:

- **Mayor Paul Weimerskirch**, who will be responsible for budget and finance, education and culture, among other things
- **1st alderman Carlo Feiereisen**, who will take up the post of mayor on August 1, 2025, and who will be responsible for the "Service des Travaux neufs et Infrastructures" and the "Service Régie", as well as youth, sport and leisure activities (alderman in charge of infrastructure, mobility, sport and youth).
- **Alderman Marc Spautz**, who will be responsible for social cohesion, integration, seniors, social affairs and economic development (alderman in charge of integration, social cohesion, equal opportunities and economic development)
- **Alderman Rizo Agovic**, who will be responsible for the "Service d'Urbanisme et du Développement durable" (alderman in charge of urban development, climate protection and sustainability).

Stable and crisis-resistant communal finances

Healthy, stable municipal finances are **essential to our ability to work**, invest and plan. The LSAP and CSV representatives on the college of aldermen are committed to implementing a far-sighted and responsible financial policy,... while respecting the communal financing rate, the principles and directives of government bodies, particularly with regard to cost coverage, the usefulness of borrowing, the level of indebtedness, income and expenditure, property taxes, etc.

Regular monitoring and analysis of the communal financial situation, with a particular focus on the scope for action, is planned, with the aim of maintaining a high level of investment.

A prudent and sustainable budgetary policy must be the guiding principle when drawing up the budget, in the knowledge that the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, together with recent inflation and interest rate trends, other crises, negative impacts or additional parameters (e.g. financial commitments and costs for communal unions/syndicates) affect our finances...a challenge we want to tackle actively.

New projects can only be launched once financing has been secured. Our finance department (“Service financier”) plays a key role in these financial tasks and obligations.

A municipality at the service of its citizens

Schiffflange has changed in many ways. We are home to almost 12,000 people, citizens of almost one hundred nations, nationalities and cultures...

... they all have the **right to efficient, competent and high-quality services**, optimal information and rapid communication with the municipality.

Transparency and openness are paramount.

Now more than ever, our services must be well structured to meet the challenges of the digital world.

An essential task is to establish a community at the service of its citizens.

Our administrative and technical staff, our cleaning teams and many others ensure that public life in our municipality runs smoothly.

We therefore need **committed, well-trained, competent and friendly staff** in all areas.

In the interest of the citizen - and in view of current developments - we want to push ahead with digitization and optimize it decisively, in order to speed up procedures and simplify service to the citizen.

Nevertheless, we also want to ensure that all citizens who are not familiar with digital media maintain access to all public information and services via traditional means of communication, in the knowledge that digitization can in no way replace direct contact with competent interlocutors.

To enable all citizens to make proper use of digital means of communication, we support all associations which, through information meetings or other educational offers, prepare people to learn new digital ways.

We are also planning to offer and implement **new services for citizens**:

... the free public letter-writing service (“Ecrivain Public”) is to be maintained and a housing service (“Service Logement”) is to be set up.

We want to recruit a youth coordinator, a seniors coordinator and a sports coordinator ...
... these should all help to develop new qualities in interacting with citizens, associations and many others.

In order to keep all this under control and guarantee optimal, efficient organization, we need to think about **restructuring/reorienting the municipal services**. If necessary, certain responsibilities need to be reassessed and certain competencies extended.

It is important to ensure that citizens have access to competent, high-quality services. It goes without saying that we must ensure that personnel costs bear a healthy and reasonable relationship to the commune's financial situation.

A good urban development is necessary

The municipality of Schifflange has undergone **considerable change** over the past few years: demographic change and population growth forced the constant development of numerous public infrastructures.

The removal of the railway level crossings has enabled a fundamental urban redevelopment of the center of Schifflange.

The current concept of creating a "**shared space zone**", with colorful green areas close to nature, is firmly under development and should add value to the quality of life and living.

Work on current projects such as the "A Kassen", "Mettler" and "Entenich" houses, as well as the construction of an underground parking, **is nearing completion**. Here, too, we're talking about added value for the quality of life and living.

Of course, the harmonious development and urbanization of our community cannot be taken for granted:

- The general development plan (PAG), specific development plans (PAP) and building regulations (règlement des bâtisses) form the basis for ensuring clean, structured, balanced and optimal development. The aim is to achieve a balance between housing, work, leisure and recreation.
- The College of Aldermen will continue with the current philosophy of developing the municipal planning instruments PAG, PAP and building regulations, based on the legal conditions and possibilities, in order to comply with the legislative framework as quickly as possible. Where necessary, adjustments are envisaged to meet current planning requirements. Close collaboration between elected representatives, administration, experts and citizens is necessary in order for these developments and changes to happen.
- The development of our municipality is an ongoing process that the College of Aldermen and the Communal Council will continue to examine, in discussions and debates with citizens, in dialogue with associations and in debates with Communal Council members and communal advisory commissions.

Following the completion of construction and renovation work in the town center, the coalition has decided to implement a wish expressed by many citizens, namely the creation of a "**shared space zone**" in the area from the entrance to rue Drusenheim to avenue de la Libération, in the direction of rue Basse to place Grande-Duchesse Charlotte, including rue du Fossé; a zone where all road users can move around on equal ground.

At the same time, **it will be examined how the main square in front of the Town Hall can be visually enhanced and made more attractive through appropriate and additional construction measures.**

In addition, a reorientation - i.e., a redesign - of the Place Grande-Duchesse Charlotte by means of a green space, a park with playgrounds is to be examined and implemented; bearing in mind that the existing parking spaces there are to be compensated for. Our wish is to design this area together with the citizens and redesign it in such a way as to improve the quality of living and recreational use.

Planning work for the PAP "Am Rit" with new sports and cultural facilities is continuing, in coordination and dialogue with associations and residents. In the first phase, the necessary road infrastructure must be created to make the residential area accessible, before the final plans can be drawn up.

The municipality is also ready to respond to a request from the Ministry of Education and to examine whether the construction of a **"lycée international" in Schiffflange** is timely, useful and feasible. A feasibility study is due to be carried out as soon as possible to clarify the situation.

New public buildings, new needs, new qualities

As far as possible, several new public buildings should be able to offer new possibilities and perspectives. The plan to create a new, modern and efficient infrastructure for the primary school and the "Maison Relais" is well underway and should be completed in the next few years.

The renovation and conversion of the Moulin Bestgen remains a priority. The same applies to the redevelopment of the "Maison des jeunes".

The construction of a **new police station** in rue de Drusenheim is also planned.

There are plans to provide the **CIGL with appropriate new premises**, in line with its needs and requirements, for its administration and technical department.

Work to **restructure and extend the "Atelier technique"** remains an absolute necessity and is continuing.

Additional, citizen-focused premises are needed to optimize municipal services by means of a "Biergerzenter" (citizens' reception center). The College of Aldermen intends to present the necessary plans as soon as possible. In this context, the possibilities of redeveloping existing buildings, the realization of a possible extension to the current Town Hall, or even the need for a new administrative building will be examined.

Soft mobility and modern transport infrastructure

Issues relating to an **optimal transport and mobility** concept are another important topic, at local, regional and national level. As far as possible, we are striving to improve the current situation, focusing on traffic calming, reducing through-traffic in our municipality and improving the efficiency of soft mobility.

Not everything is in our hands, not everything is immediately achievable and yet we are persevering with our efforts in this area.

- The **systematic improvement and renovation of Schifflange's streets** remain a priority. The principles of "design for all", traffic calming and road safety must be applied to every new project.
- By lobbying the relevant government bodies, we ensure that our **state roads also remain in impeccable condition** and that they are renovated and upgraded where necessary. Our primary aim is to ensure the safety of all road users, but we also want to ensure that traffic is kept to a minimum and speeds are limited by appropriate measures.
- **Increasing soft mobility remains a priority.** Citizens are encouraged to take advantage of public transport. At the same time, infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists must guarantee the best possible safety.
- We want to develop our local cycle paths, and connect them, as far as possible, optimally with regional and national cycle paths, so as to separate them to a large extent from motor traffic, in order for cyclists to travel on safe cycle paths.
- In addition, we want to discuss with the relevant authorities to what extent the crosswalk over the CFL railroad can be improved for people with reduced mobility, particularly in line with the "design for all" principle. In this context, **a new, more pedestrian-friendly bridge is to be built between the Wendel district and Rue du Fossé.**
- Car traffic goes hand in hand with the parking situation, which is problematic and needs to be constantly re-examined, especially as new elements, indicators and parameters have to be constantly complied with. An analysis of our residential parking concept is essential.

Communal housing, a complex issue

The housing market is extremely tight.

Nevertheless, as a community, we are encouraged to do all we can to create new, low-energy and affordable - in short decent - housing.

The College of Aldermen is more aware than ever that the municipality must assume its responsibilities in this respect.

We want every opportunity available to our municipality to be used to build as much communal housing as possible.

This is certainly not an easy task. Nevertheless, we have a number of possibilities and ideas at our disposal:

- **A new department - the Service Logement** - is intended to help better coordinate the administrative management of people's applications for communal housing, while also looking after the management of existing housing in the municipality.
- Under **Pacte Logement 2.0**, the municipality also has the opportunity to create additional living space, which can then be made available at affordable prices.
- We are committed to ensuring that the long-vacant and uninhabited houses of the Fonds du Logement are finally repaired, refurbished and rented out.

- We are also committed to ensuring that so-called “chambres meublées” (furnished rooms) in single-family homes do not become the rule and that single-family homes are not systematically replaced by large residences.

Schifflange's educational landscape, continue in the planned direction

This too remains an ongoing task for the College of Aldermen.

Much has been achieved so far or is in the pipeline. Other dossiers are currently being processed.

The renovation and modernization of our existing school buildings and the construction of additional premises for the Maison Relais are continuing and are being implemented on the basis of the "Masterplan Bildungslandschaft".

A fourth school is currently under construction in the district "op Hudelen".

If a significant increase in pupil numbers should make the construction of a 5th school necessary, then timely reaction and planning are assured.

Children and youngsters: ensuring a stable future and adequate structures

We want to continue to be a municipality that cares about the needs of children and young people. New initiatives should make this possible :

- A **youth coordinator** is to become an important pillar and provide support for communal activities for children and young people ; this in cooperation with the Maison des Jeunes of Schifflange, under the motto: Youth on the move.
- The **Maison des Jeunes** will be renovated and modernized and will continue to provide a meeting place, a space for creativity and cultural and sporting activities for young citizens.
- Together with interested young people, a **communal youth plan** is to be discussed and defined, as a guideline for various actions and measures in favor of the younger generation.
- **One important challenge, where concrete action is needed, concerns playgrounds in our municipality.** The College of Aldermen wants to play an active role in the development of our playgrounds, adapting them to the needs of children of all age groups and making them a lively meeting place for children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and other accompanying adults.
- We want to actively involve children and young people in communal politics. The catalog of activities is to be expanded through collaboration with the "Zentrum fir politesch Bildung" foundation.

Active for our seniors

For many years, our community has been actively committed to our senior citizens, not least thanks to a committed seniors' commission and the activities of the Club Haus Beim Kiosk.

This active commitment to our senior citizens is set to continue in the future.

A **seniors' coordinator** will be able to provide new impetus and perspectives for a communal seniors' policy.

Within the framework of a **communal senior plan**, the needs, offers and concrete measures for a sustainable future senior policy are to be examined, discussed and defined. Senior-friendly housing and assisted living are topics that should also be addressed.

Protecting the environment, nature and climate, a sure priority

These three terms have been familiar to our municipality for many years and we are recognized and certified at European level for our sustainability activities and initiatives. This commitment to active protection of the environment, nature and climate will be maintained at a high level.

- Work on the Climate Pact is continuing in line with the criteria and rules of the European Energy Award. The "Klima Team" plays a key role in this context, and a **youth climate working group** will be set up, where young people can express their ideas and concerns about climate protection and beyond.
- Schiffflange is actively involved in the realization of the decarbonization objective, an initiative of the Pro-Sud communes with the aim of implementing a climate-neutral "Minett Unesco Biosphere" southern region by 2050. A noble and equally important goal.
- Against this backdrop, the commune of Schiffflange is developing and adopting an **energy concept** that is intended to reduce climate-damaging emissions to a minimum, and thus gradually limit dependence on fossil fuels and reduce it significantly, not least through the establishment of a district heating network.
- **Consultation and awareness-raising** in the fields of energy efficiency, nature conservation, environmental protection and climate protection are resolutely pursued and supported by the allocation of subsidies.
- The municipality is also doing its utmost to continue its commitment to the protection of **natural habitats** at local level and beyond, and to actively accompany and support biodiversity, particularly within the framework of actions and measures developed and desired by the "Naturpaktteam".
- At the same time, an **"intervention cell"** will be set up to analyze the municipality's mandatory emergency plan, to redirect it if necessary and qualify it in accordance with legislative requirements, to examine critical infrastructures in terms of supply security, and to possibly draw up a catalog of measures with action guidelines to be applied in the event of disasters.

Local Business - our business parks/industrial zones

It goes without saying that the attractiveness of a city center goes hand in hand with dynamic commercial activity.

This also applies to Schiffflange, where the avenue de la Libération and the square in front of the town hall are a **meeting place for Schiffflange's local shops and craft businesses**, and a venue for festivities and numerous other local events.

However, in view of the increasing competition from supermarkets in the area around Schiffflange, it is proving difficult to maintain a lively local trade with healthy businesses, skilled craftsmen and other service providers, without the commitment of the municipality.

- We therefore want to create better conditions for commerce.
- We want to encourage and support our local businesses and craftsmen as much as possible in all their promotional initiatives.
- We want to make every effort to rent out premises in Schiffflange at affordable prices.

Schiffflange must remain an attractive location for small and medium-sized businesses. As far as possible, we want to provide the right conditions for local businesses to grow and develop.

In addition, collaboration with the regional business park ZARE, or the "Syndicat intercommunal pour la création, l'aménagement, la promotion et l'exploitation d'une zone d'activités économiques à caractère régional à Ehlerange", will be further strengthened, in the interests of ensuring optimal development of the "Op Herbett" business park.

Culture, sport and leisure for a lively community

Sport, culture and leisure activities enrich the life of a municipality and strengthen community cohesion.

Community life is an opportunity to meet other people. The Schiffflange continues to support our strong and stable community and recreational life.

The art gallery "**Schëfflenger Konschthaus**" will remain in the Feitler house, which has become an important cultural meeting place.

Additional activities should keep this meeting place alive: themed evenings, small concerts, an art café and other socio-cultural activities.

The local authority is currently investigating the possibility of making its premises temporarily available for art workshops.

In addition to the activities of the "Schëfflenger Konschthaus" gallery, the municipality wishes to offer **amateur artists and young creators the opportunity to present their artistic works to the public** in appropriate premises.

In this context, the former railway station and the current police building could serve as an exhibition space for amateur artists, once the police station has moved to new premises in Drusenheim Street.

As part of the redevelopment of the Arcelor-Mittal steel industry site and the planning work for the new "Metzeschmelz" district, a concept for the **future use of the listed "Pompelhaus"** is to be developed and implemented in collaboration with the AGORA development company.

This represents an opportunity to create a new meeting place for music and art, and above all to house the "Musée du Patrimoine de la Sidérurgie et des ouvriers métallurgistes". Heritage means history and life in and of our municipality, which is why we continue to support historical research for and in Schifflange, in cooperation with various institutions. At the same time, the necessary steps are being taken to ensure that communal documents are stored in appropriate archiving facilities.

We therefore want to ensure that our archives, which are considered historically important, are properly preserved thanks to clear internal guidelines; this also applies to digital sources.

New sports and cultural facilities are planned as part of the "PAP am Rit" which is currently underway. This will also open up new opportunities and perspectives for numerous associations.