

**Guy Weirich** begins with some fundamental reflections on our coalition system and on the role of the opposition, comments more generally on the program of the new coalition, and puts forward some suggestions. He states:

“A **coalition** is in principle more advantageous for a municipality than when one party alone holds power. Through a coalition, a larger number of voters feel represented. This is also true for this coalition. I say this knowing under what circumstances and in what manner it came about. Nor do I forget that injuries were inflicted and wounds opened. For at the municipal level, I am a supporter of the concordance system, in which political parties are involved in institutional responsibility proportionally to their size. In this sense, I would even wish for an even broader political constellation. In such a concordance system, political decisions are underpinned as broadly as possible by common solutions and compromises. That is why I particularly welcome two statements in the present coalition agreement: ‘Cooperation with the entire municipal council’ and – the second statement – ‘The present program (...) remains open to any proposals or initiatives from all parties represented in the municipal council.’

As the opposition, we are trying to live up to these expectations. Hence, on the subject of INTEGRATION, a first **suggestion**, not entirely new but increasingly common today in Luxembourg. We need spaces where people can meet even if they do not belong to an association. Such a meeting place – or developed into what is called a *third place* – I could imagine, for example, in the Schauenburg; such a meeting point would also make sense in the Helfent district.

But beyond alternative proposals, we as the **opposition** have another function to fulfil. To describe this, I refer to a verse from Goethe’s *Faust*, where it says: ‘Man’s activity can too easily weaken’ – reformulated: the drive of a political majority can fade. – That is why a companion is needed ‘who stimulates and acts’, who spurs on to new deeds when comfort and fatigue set in, or when sloppiness threatens. In this sense, for us as the opposition: through **objective criticism and constructive provocation**, we must spur the representatives of the majority to ever renewed activity – in the interest and for the benefit of all the inhabitants of Bertrange.

As for the **content of the program** presented by the DP and the Greens, by its title ‘for the period 2025–2029’ it suggests that everything could actually be realized within this period. The fact that this is illusory becomes apparent at least in some passages where terms such as ‘medium to long term’ appear, which is honest. I fear this also applies to many other ideas, without being stated, and that hopes are raised among our fellow citizens that will not be fulfilled. In four years we will certainly look at what has been achieved, but we will also measure the result against the program presented and we will be able to better judge whether far too much has been promised to us, or whether we have been misled. My wish, however, in the interest of our locality, is that as much as possible will be implemented – whether it is the concrete points or the more vague declarations of intent.

That is what I hope for, for example, in the **cultural field**. I naturally read that section with particular attention. I fully support what is set out there. I am aware of the good work of our cultural service. But it will surprise no one if I once again appeal to the political actors and argue for a broader, more systematic, and structurally stronger development of artistic activities. I remain attached to the idea of an art school to be realized in the medium term and expect from the current leadership an even more ambitious policy regarding art for young and old alike.”

Guy Weirich also explained that of course, in a short statement one cannot address everything. The opposition also has four years to come back to the various points. To make the coalition agreement more tangible for citizens, he had planned to ask two questions – requesting clarification of some aspects:

1. How does the new coalition specifically envisage ‘the expansion of footpaths and the improvement of connections to public transport’?
2. Which ‘energy-intensive events’ in the leisure sector, that are to be ‘restricted’, are meant?

With these questions, the aldermen’s council would have had the opportunity to explain at least two points and to illustrate by example what exactly they plan and how they intend to proceed. As these questions could not be asked, we will all have to exercise patience and wait.