

## For coherent and effective protection of Luxembourg's architectural heritage

- A general moratorium on demolitions.  
Any building built before 1957 should be automatically protected, with partial or total demolition permitted only in exceptional and duly motivated cases.  
The repurposing of buildings that no longer serve their original function should be facilitated.
- Harmonisation of protection criteria at national and municipal level; differentiation of the degree of protection according to the historical and architectural value of a building, its rarity and authenticity.  
Transparency in classification procedures. For all buildings owned by public entities, the public should have free access to the file and be able to express its opinion.
- Measures to maintain and conserve vernacular architecture such as bridges and low walls, washhouses and wayside shrines.
- Information and awareness-raising campaigns on the value of architectural heritage and the qualities of old buildings, starting with schools and including all those involved in the process of protecting and preserving heritage.
- Development of specific expertise at the level of consultancy firms and craft companies.
- Support, free of charge, for all private owners wishing to rehabilitate an old building, particularly in respect of improving its energy performance and the treatment of structural defects, humidity, etc, irrespective of whether it is protected.

### *Statement of reasons*

In June 2020, ***Luxembourg Under Destruction*** launched a public petition calling for better protection of Luxembourg's architectural heritage, which collected almost 5300 signatures.

However, and despite the adoption in early 2022 of a new law to improve the protection of nationally classified buildings, demolitions continue: in 2022, Ettelbruck station, undeniably a witness to the country's economic and social development, was demolished. At municipal level, heritage protection often merely consists of the so-called protection of the "gabarit", i.e., the outer shape of a building, which de facto permits its demolition provided that the new building which comes to replace it is constructed within the same building lines and outer dimensions.

The current policy of population densification is often pursued at the expense of old buildings. Many buildings are also sacrificed on the pretext of their poor energy performance.

Architectural heritage represents the history and cultural identity of a country. It provides points of reference for indigenous people and newcomers. It also reflects the country's level of craftsmanship and its traditions.

At a time when the surge in the prices of raw materials and energy is a painful reminder of the limitation of our resources, we should preserve and enhance what has been passed on to us by our ancestors so that we can, in turn, pass it on to our children.