

Compte Rendu

Dezember - März
décembre - mars

District council meeting of 2 December 2020

Convened and announced on 26 November 2020

Present: ZOVILE-BRAQUET Marion (CSV), Mayor, SCHILTZ Fernand (LSAP), Deputy Mayor, JUNGBLUT Tom (CSV), Deputy Mayor, LORENT Guy (DP), EIFES Eric (DP), DI GENOVA Jean-Pierre (CSV), LAKAFF Laurent (CSV), ARRENSDORFF Jean-Jacques (Déi Gréng), SCHMIT Claude (Déi Gréng), WEYMERSKIRCH Patrick (LSAP), Councillors, TAZIAUX Tim, Acting Municipal Secretary, REIFFERS Cindy, Secretary

Apologies: SCHMITZ Jean-Pierre (CSV)

Before the start of the meeting, the Mayor said a few words in memory of the recently-deceased former Contern District Council employee, Frank Braun.

On behalf of the Cabinet and of the District Council, she expressed her condolences to his two children, his mother and his family.

1. Determination of venue for the district council meeting

The district council unanimously approved the Cultural Centre in Moutfort as the venue for this district council meeting.

2. HR matters

In closed session

3. Termination of 2 tenancy agreements

The district council unanimously agreed to accept the termination of two tenancy agreements. These were tenancy agreements with refugee families who had been able to build up a life in their new home country, with the help of the district council, and were now able to buy or rent a home independently on the open housing market. The district council was also unanimously agreed in noting that one of the families was already moving out of its accommodation early and that it was not required to repay the rental charges still outstanding.

The Cabinet will take advice on how the released premises can be used in future.

The Mayor wished both families every success for the future.

4. Presentation of the council budget

The Mayor explained how difficult it was to undertake planning work in the current health crisis. Accordingly, it had not been possible to implement various projects this year, technically and practically. However, the Cabinet had put an emphasis on making the district fit for all future events.

The Deputy Mayor for Finance, Tom Jungblut, presented the council budget for 2021. He explained that the council budget underlines the Cabinet's efforts to pursue coherent and sustainable policies. Investments should be made with vision and for the long term, and the council should not live beyond its means.

Under Regular income, a € 1.9 million fall in income was noted in the amended budget via the global funding for the municipalities (Fond de dotation global des communes). The forecasts for 2021 are € 12 million. By comparison, in 2020 it was € 13.2 million.

Under Regular expenditures, an item for € 15,000 was created, covering the delivery service for the elderly and vulnerable persons during the health crisis.

The expenditures invested in internal and external communications extend into 2021. Rising staffing costs are associated with the growth in the municipality. Maintenance of buildings and of the vehicle fleet is ensured, in spite of a financially prudent approach.

The Cabinet is placing particular emphasis on the upkeep of public spaces, since this year and next year particularly large numbers of residents will be spending time outdoors, due to the current crisis, but will have to forego events. This item was costed at € 219,000.

€ 600,000 is being invested in maintaining the water supply network and protecting water sources. € 1,732,000 in the amended budget was attributable to the purchase of water, although in the 2021 budget this reduces significantly, to € 521,000.

Extraordinary income shows € 4.3 million in the amended budget and € 10.2 million in the budget for 2021.

Under Extraordinary expenditures, the focus is on the key projects which the district of Contern needs to remain functioning and to take account of future growth. A further focus is on sustainability, environmental protection, climate policy and the safety of our residents.

Sustainability and climate impact are reflected in residents being offered the opportunity of heating their home with sustainable raw materials, via a district heating network. Electric mobility likewise continues to be encouraged, and non-motorised transport is being supported with funding of € 100,000. There is € 600,000 in support for affordable housing.

Investment in the young generation is reflected in the “Séchere Schoulwee” initiative, itemised at € 500,000. One new play area is envisaged, at a cost of € 45,000.

€ 100,000 is being committed for renovating the mortuary in Moutfort.

Investments in water management are planned not only as regular expenditure, but also as extraordinary expenditure. These expenses total around € 500,000 and cover, inter alia, renewal of the water pipes in Um Kinert and resumed operation of the Milbech water source.

There is a € 5.5 million provision for the purchase of properties and land. It was not possible to complete the acquisition of Conterstuff café-restaurant, which was outstanding and is being carried forward to 2021.

Further major items are the construction of a new sports hall, renovation of the “An Henkes” cultural centre, and the school extension.

Total exceptional expenditures come to € 13,674,670.

- Despite the high investments, a positive balance of € 400,000 is posted.

Contern district council has debts of € 14,616,494.29, and is thus posting a per capita debt of € 3,700. Annual rates are around € 1,000,000.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff provided information on his request to SIAS (Syndicat intercommunal pour l'assainissement du bassin hydrographique de la Syre, the inter-communal association for nature conservation in the Syre drainage basin) that it should take on management of the house-martin and artificial nests in the whole SIAS area. The Mayor explained that the Cabinet wanted to engage more residents in the house-martin project and encourage them to take part, and for that reason had already been in discussion with Marc Thiel from SIAS.

The council budget was now being issued to the members of the Finance Committee for scrutiny.

5. Approval of income

Income totalling € 9,897.05 was unanimously accepted for 2020.

6. Announcements and councillor questions

The Mayor announced that, for the known reasons, no Festival of the Third Age could be held. For anniversary celebrations, such as golden weddings, flower arrangements were being delivered to the residents in question. Every resident celebrating a birthday with a zero at the end was given a "Loterie Nationale" advent calendar.

The council's staff also had to miss out on the annual Christmas party, and as a gift were receiving an 'eat out to help out' voucher which can be redeemed in local cafés and restaurants.

54 tablets, 9 laptops and 11 computers were handed over to the school. In these crisis times, the Cabinet considers it important that all pupils should be able to take part in home schooling. Additionally, there is provision in the 2021 budget for the purchase of a dedicated server for our school.

The Mayor announced that the Cabinet has purchased an intercom system costing € 30,000, in order to ensure better sound quality and acoustics when holding district council meetings and for all other events in the large hall of the Moutfort Cultural Centre in future. This is financially more sensible than paying hire charges of € 1,600 per meeting. This system can operate with a total of 138 microphones. Particularly during these coronavirus times, this is vital equipment which can be used at all smaller and larger events, including those organised by our clubs and associations.

Patrick Weymerskirch reported on a SICEC video-conference (Syndicat intercommunal ayant pour objet la construction, l'entretien et l'exploitation d'un crématoire, inter-communal association for crematorium construction, maintenance and operation) held on 26 November 2020, in which the amended budget for 2020 and the budget for 2021 were accepted.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff inquired whether it would be possible to receive the budgets for all such associations, and the Mayor agreed to this.

The Mayor thanked Tim Taziaux, Acting Municipal Secretary, and Laurence Bauler from the Council Administration's Finance Department for their committed work on the council budget.

Patrick Weymerskirch provided information on the video-conference with François Bausch, Transport Minister, concerning developments on the RGTR transport network. Fernand Schiltz, Deputy Mayor, added that it was possible to download a summary and a PowerPoint presentation following the conference, at Emwelt.lu, and that an interactive map was available at RGTR.lu.

District council meeting of 16 December 2020

Convened and announced on 10 December 2020

Present: ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET Marion (CSV), Mayor, SCHILTZ Fernand (LSAP), Deputy Mayor, JUNGBLUT Tom (CSV), Deputy Mayor, LORENT Guy (DP), EIFES Eric (DP), DI GENOVA Jean-Pierre (CSV), LAKAFF Laurent (CSV), ARRENSDORFF Jean-Jacques (Déi Gréng), SCHMIT Claude (Déi Gréng), WEYMERSKIRCH Patrick (LSAP), Councillors, TAZIAUX Tim, Acting Municipal Secretary, REIFFERS Cindy, Secretary

Apologies: SCHMITZ Jean-Pierre (CSV)

1. Determination of venue for the district council meeting

The district council unanimously approved the Cultural Centre in Moutfort as the venue for this district council meeting.

2. HR matters

In closed session

3. Creation of a post

The Council unanimously approved the creation of one employee post. This position is to assist the forest warden. The post was created by agreement with Sandweiler Council and the costs arising are being split between the two councils.

4. Approval of resignation by a member from a committee

The Council unanimously accepted the resignation of Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff from the Comic Festival Committee. The Mayor thanked him for his contribution.

5. Approval of a document – exchange of land in Oetrange (parcel of forest)

The Council unanimously accepted the exchange of land in Oetrange. The exchange concerns 2 forest parcels owned by Ms Anne-Marie Françoise Wurth and Mr Michel Alphonse Léon Wurth, located in “Kackeschbusch” in Oetrange, of 47 are and 50 m², which are being exchanged for 2 forest parcels owned by Contern district council, located in “Kackeschbusch” in Oetrange, of 46 are and 40 m². A balancing payment of € 275 is being paid by the Council to Ms Anne-Marie Françoise Wurth and Mr Michel Alphonse Léon Wurth. This exchange is of public benefit and was agreed due to the extension of the drinking water distribution network.

6. Approval of a document – exchange of land in Oetrange

By 6 votes in favour and 4 votes against, the Council agreed the document for land exchange in Oetrange. The Council is exchanging a parcel located on “Auf der Stras”, of 11 are and 50 m², for a parcel owned by Mr Jean Aloyse Schmit and Ms Gabrielle Brigitte Hoffmann, located in “In der Delt”, of 5 are and 90 m². Under this exchange, the Council is acquiring a larger, contiguous area of land, since the adjoining parcels already belong to the Council.

7. Approval of a document – purchase of 4 parcels in Oetrange

The Council unanimously approved the purchase from Mr Jean-Paul Weitz and Ms Viviane Marie-José Fischbach of 4 parcels of land, located in Contern in “Auf der Haide”, of 140 are and 70 m², for a price of € 140,700. This purchase was agreed in order to construct a new water supply.

8. Approval of a tenancy agreement with the Red Cross Luxembourg in Medingen

The Council unanimously approved the tenancy agreement with the Red Cross Luxembourg. This relates to the parking spaces opposite the Cultural Centre in Medingen, which are being leased by the Red Cross Luxembourg to Contern District Council for a price of € 100 per annum.

9. Approval of a request from Weiler-la-Tour Council to join the SEC

The Council unanimously approved the request from Weiler-la-Tour Council to join the SEC (Syndicat des eaux du Centre, the central district water board).

10. Determination of grants to clubs 2020 (continued)

The Council unanimously approved to accept the outstanding club grants for 2020. The majority of the grants were already approved by the Council on 18 November 2020.

11. Confirmation of changes to the traffic orders for Contern district – temporary changes

The Council unanimously accepts the temporary changes to the traffic orders for the Contern district.

12. Approval of income

Income totalling € 327,301 was accepted.

13. Approval of the Council budget 2021

By 6 votes in favour (4 CSV votes and 2 LSAP votes) and 4 votes against (2 DP votes and 2 Déi Gréng votes), the Council approved the Council budget 2021.

The Mayor thanked the Acting Municipal Secretary and the Finance Department for its excellent work in preparing the Council budget. This was now presented in a more comprehensible format. The Mayor also thanked the Finance Committee, which had devoted 2 sessions to analysing the budget and arrived at a judgement of soundness. The Mayor quoted from the Committee's work: "In an unfavourable economic context, the Cabinet is not losing sight of the investments that are necessary, whilst keeping the budget in line with the Cabinet's declaration."

The Mayor emphasised that preparing the budget was a challenge for every council, in these times.

The Cabinet had a list of priorities which it intended to implement – adapted at all times to the Council's financial situation. It needed to be understood that the Council was receiving € 1.6 million less from the state for 2020, due to the pandemic.

Expansion of the school, the sports infrastructure, and "De séchere Schoulwee"

The education and well-being of our children is an absolute priority, and for that reason the school infrastructure, the Maison Relais day-care centre and the sports infrastructure at "Ewent" are being expanded.

Given the increase in the number of residents over the coming four to five years, expanding the school and the day-care centre is an absolute necessity and an investment in the future. A new sports hall is also planned, primarily for school sports and for the sports-related activities of the day-care centre. Naturally, the new hall is also intended to be used outside school hours by sports clubs and for the Council's sports courses.

The new sports hall will also provide the caretakers with their own rooms, along with sanitary facilities and sufficient space for vehicles and for storing all the materials.

“De séchere Schoulwee” was planned. Implementing this will not only improve the safety of the schoolchildren, but will also benefit all pedestrians.

Safety and well-being of our residents

To counteract the increasing volume of through traffic, the Cabinet is planning a “shared space”, to include works to enhance the centre of the village in Contern. A large village square is to be created, and traffic reduced to a minimum via the 20 or 30 km/h zone.

In Oetrange, two new car parks with a total of over 25 spaces are being created by the Cultural Centre.

The residential parking arrangements will come into force at the end of 2021 and a Council officer and civil enforcement officers are being recruited.

In addition, traffic calming measures in the Rue de Syren and in the Rue de Luxembourg are being undertaken. These are costed at € 325,000 and € 270,000 respectively. The works on the Rue de Syren are to be arranged to follow on from the drain works.

Substantial investment is being made in our cemeteries. New columbaria are being added in Contern, Moutfort and Oetrange. Meadow orchards are then being laid out in Moutfort, Oetrange und Medingen, while the orchards in Contern are being made over. The morgue in Moutfort is being fully renovated, and the cold room is being enlarged.

In these difficult times, the Cabinet considers it important to create a pleasant environment in our district, where all residents can enjoy their free time.

The Cabinet will adapt its expenditures to the situation and, as previously mentioned, progressively implement the priorities defined in advance.

Fire brigade

The Mayor announced that the Cabinet had already submitted several requests to the Ministry of the Environment for various possible sites in the Contern district for construction of a fire station. The Ministry’s response in one case was negative, and the other response has not been received as yet. The last site was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment following a suggestion from the acting Commander of the local fire brigade.

Property

The purchase of “Conterstuff” (€ 4,950,000) represents a major investment.

The Mayor announced that it had not yet been possible to complete the purchase of “Conterstuff”, and that its acquisition will be carried forward into 2021. This listed building will play a key role in the redevelopment of the centre of the village. The Conterstuff is the largest of the areas in Contern village centre that are, as yet, not owned by the Council. The Council now already owns several hectares in the centre of Contern.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff proposed that the Council administration should be accommodated in the “Conterstuff” barn.

Fernand Schiltz, Deputy Mayor, acknowledged that the costs of acquiring “Conterstuff” were high, but made reference to the social component that this building offers: the intention is that it should also serve as a venue for meetings.

The Council building is already too small, just five years after its completion. In that regard, it would surely have been appropriate to scope the project at the time. The Mayor made reference to the planning of the Cabinet back then, which was not geared to the future.

The “Henkeshaus” renovation works were progressing and were set for completion in summer 2021.

HR policy

The Mayor emphasised that the HR policy is a key pillar of a well-functioning council, and one in which consistent investment was being made. This was evidenced, for instance, in the creation and recruitment to new posts, the recent founding of new departments (Finance Department, Schools Department) and the ensuring of good working conditions (“Südkollektivvertrag” – the collective agreement for council workers in the Southern districts, and the introduction of flexible working time).

In order that Council employees can work to their best in serving our residents, they are provided with the necessary equipment, respecting the highest possible safety standards.

Through new staffing appointments and internal reorganisations, preparations are underway for all those who in the coming months and years will find a new home in our district.

Social matters

The municipality’s Plan for the Third Age has been funded for € 15,000, and € 12,000 has been committed for integration work.

Following the purchase of the old post office in Oetrange, this is being renovated for the regional social welfare office.

The Cabinet is also planning several projects with social housing.

Finance matters, studies and planning

The Mayor emphasised that the current Cabinet looked to a basis of facts before committing to projects. Studies needed to be realised for major planning projects, such as converting the village centres and the safety and traffic-calming measures in our villages.

Tom Jungblut, Deputy Mayor for Finance, explained that the Council was under pressure to expand the school buildings due to the rising number of residents, and he made reference to the potential of the school site, which was being planned with a far-sighted vision. A second site for the school, as proposed by Eric Eifes, could not be considered, as the capacity of the current site was far from being exhausted, and moreover the proposal would necessarily result in even more surface sealing.

Climate matters, environment and mobility

Fernand Schiltz, Deputy Mayor for Climate Matters, wished to remind members that despite Covid-19, the climate should not get forgotten. The year 2020 was notable for the worst forest fires. Concern Council will continue its commitment to the Climate Pact and will sign up to “Klimapakt 2.0”. The Council is also planning to commit itself to the “Nature Pact”, as soon as the project has cleared the official channels for approval. He emphasised that the Cabinet was ‘walking the talk’ and being active at the district level, with a strongly practical focus.

So far, 24 associations had signed up to the climate charter. The “Fair Trade Label” document was being progressed consistently, and the Cycle 1 photovoltaic system at the primary school had been taken into service. When it comes to water conservation, Contern Council was taking on a pioneering role, and the new law on waste, seeking to bring about a circular economy, was coming into force on 01.01.2021. The 2021 budget included a sum of € 145,000 partly for the environment.

Mobility also affects our climate, and for that reason work was continuing on expanding the network of cycle paths and on the mobility concept, while the grants for bicycles and electric bikes were being adjusted.

Fernand Schiltz, Deputy Mayor for Climate Matters and Fair Trade, thanked Claude Schmit for his excellent contribution to the climate team and in the fair trade group over many years.

Patrick Weymerskirch expressed his appreciation of the value of the water supply network, and stated that the cost factor and the work invested in it should not be underestimated. He reminded members of the ‘polluter pays’ principle, which was the basis for the new waste provisions. He rated the Cabinet as excellent for its budget plan.

The provision of a cycle path between Contern and Hesperange is lodged with the official channels for approval and is set to be implemented soon.

14. Announcements and councillor questions

The Mayor announced that, due to the current health crisis, the Christmas party for Council employees cannot be held. Accordingly, the Cabinet has decided to gift Council staff, and the members of the district council, a bottle of Luxembourg Crémant and a voucher that can be redeemed in local restaurants.

Eric Eifes asked about insurance for under-12s visiting the youth centre. The Mayor replied that the Cabinet would clarify this with the youth centre managers.

Claude Schmit, district councillor for the party “Déi Gréng”, announced that he was standing down from the Council because he was moving to another area. He thanked the Council and stated that he had learned a lot from his time as councillor.

Guy Lorent, district councillor for the party “DP”, similarly announced that he was standing down. He likewise thanked the Council for his many years of working on it.

District council meeting of 10 February 2021

Convened and announced on 04 February 2021

Present: ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET Marion (CSV), Mayor, SCHILTZ Fernand (LSAP), Deputy Mayor, JUNGBLUT Tom (CSV), Deputy Mayor, EIFES Eric (DP), DI GENOVA Jean-Pierre (CSV), SCHMITZ Jean-Pierre (CSV), LAKAFF Laurent (CSV), ARRENSDORFF Jean-Jacques (Déi Gréng), WOLTER Laurence (Déi Gréng), WEYMERSKIRCH Patrick (LSAP), Councillors, TAZIAUX Tim, Acting Municipal Secretary, REIFFERS Cindy, Secretary

Apologies: LORENT Guy (DP)

1. Determination of venue for the district council meeting

The district council unanimously approved the Cultural Centre in Moutfort as the venue for this district council meeting.

2. Notification regarding the resignation of a councillor

The Mayor notified the meeting of the resignation of Councillor Claude Schmit, who is moving to another district and thus is no longer permitted to remain a councillor in this district council. The Mayor thanked him for his constructive contribution to the Council's work.

3. Update to the Council's "Table of precedence"

The "Table of precedence" was updated due to Laurence Wolter joining the Council for the "Déi Gréng" party.

At the next council meeting, this document will be further revised due to a member of the "DP" party joining the Council.

The Council unanimously accepted the "Table of precedence".

4. Decision in principle for the planning and execution of a housing complex in Contern: special specifications including cost estimate and tender procedure

The Council voted unanimously to approve the Cabinet continuing to work on the project for a housing complex in Contern. The project in question, which was presented by the consultancy firm MC Luxembourg, is for construction of five affordable dwellings in "Contern South" which, subject to conditions, can be acquired at a price of € 450,000 upwards.

5. HR matters

In closed session

6. Creating a post – "Salarié(e) à tâche intellectuelle" ("Clerical officer")

The Council voted unanimously to approve the creation of a clerical officer post ("salarié(e) à tâche intellectuelle"). This person will direct workers in future, and serve as the intermediary between the Head of Technical Services and the workshop.

7. Approval of the implementation agreement (“convention d’exécution”) and implementation design (“projet d’exécution”) for the special development plan PAP Kinert in Moutfort

By 8 votes in favour and 2 abstentions (Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff and Laurence Wolter), the District Council accepted the implementation agreement and the implementation design for PAP Kinert in Moutfort. This is a site of approximately 68 are, on which 14 houses are to be built.

8. Approval of termination of a tenancy agreement with the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth for offices in Contern, at 24 rue Edmond Reuter

The Council voted unanimously to approve termination of a tenancy agreement with the Ministry of Education, Children and Youth for offices in Contern, at 24 rue Edmond Reuter. The Cabinet intends to offer the property for rent again at the earliest opportunity.

9. Approval of termination of a tenancy agreement with the operator of a physiotherapy practice for offices in Contern, at 24 rue Edmond Reuter

The Council voted unanimously to approve termination of a tenancy agreement for offices in Contern, at 24, rue Edmond Reuter with Ms Nathalie Mangen, the operator of a physiotherapy practice. The Cabinet is considering using these premises for the community in future.

10. Approval of an agreement regarding the “Mais kappen” project with Weiler-la-Tour council

The Council voted unanimously to approve the agreement with Weiler-la-Tour council regarding the corn trimmer. This agreement provides for the Contern Council’s corn trimmer now also to be used on the land belonging to Weiler-la-Tour council. Through the Cabinet’s initiative to progress this project from 2019-2020, Contern Council is taking a leading role in the “Syrdall” water conservation area.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff praised the principle of this sustainable field management and would have liked the SIAS (Syndicat intercommunal pour l’assainissement du bassin hydrographique de la Syre, the inter-communal association for nature conservation in the Syre drainage basin) to have set up an inter-authority project in this context.

11. Approval of an agreement with Post Luxembourg for a PackUp station

The Council voted unanimously to approve the agreement with Post Luxembourg for a PackUp station. This service to residents now makes it possible to collect parcels ordered from closer to home.

12. Approval of a document concerning the sale of land in Moutfort

The Council voted unanimously to approve the document concerning the sale of land in Moutfort. This relates to a plot located in the Rue d’Oetrange, with a size of 1.42 are, which is being sold to Mr Armand Joseph TILGES, at a price of € 50,000.

13. Approval of a traffic order – Rue des Prés – temporary change

The Council voted unanimously to approve the temporary change to the traffic order in the Rue des Prés. This is necessary due to work on the water supply.

14. Confirmation of changes to the traffic orders for Contern district – temporary changes

The Council voted unanimously to approve temporary changes to the traffic orders.

15. Approval of several resignations by a member from various committees

The Council voted unanimously to approve the resignations by Claude Schmit from various committees.

16. Grants to clubs – supplement for USMM

The Council voted unanimously to approve a grant of € 1,050 to the sports club USMM (Union sportive Moutfort-Medingen).

17. Approval of several statements of accounts

The Council unanimously approved six statements of accounts.

18. Request for a loan – in-principle agreement

By 8 votes in favour and 2 votes against (Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff and Laurence Wolter), the Council approved the request for a loan in connection with the purchase of “Conterstuff”.

19. Approval of two rights of way in Contern

The Council voted unanimously to approve two rights of way in Contern. These were approved in order to permit the crossing of land by third parties during instatement of the rainwater retention basin.

20. Approval of the cost estimate for traffic calming in the Route de Luxembourg in Contern

The Council voted unanimously to approve the cost estimate for the traffic calming measures in the Route de Luxembourg. A working party has already been convened with regard to this, and the opinion of the Transport Committee has been sought.

21. Approval of the cost estimate for the Heed – Kackeschbesch water supply

The Council voted unanimously to approve the cost estimate for renewing the Heed – Kackeschbesch water supply.

22. Statement on noise reduction action plan proposals (“Projets de plan d’action contre le bruit”)

The Mayor reported on noise being generated by the heavily trafficked Rue de Canach in Oetrange, the sports aircraft training over Contern district, and the station in Oetrange. This statement had become necessary due to complaints from residents. The Council unanimously approved the statement.

23. Approval of a resolution against the free trade agreement between the EU and Mercosur, the South American trade bloc

Fernand Schiltz, Deputy Mayor, explained that the European Commission is seeking to move forward with ratification of the free trade agreement between the EU and Mercosur, the South American trade bloc. However, this agreement is not consistent with human rights and climate protection. The Council unanimously agreed to send a letter to the Foreign Ministry, assuring it of support from Contern Council.

24. Approval of income

Income totalling € 1,524,630.00 was accepted.

25. Announcements and councillor questions

The Mayor announced that the Social Welfare Office expenditures, based on the medium-term budget plan (Plan pluriannuel financier), were increasing slightly.

The Mayor also announced the abolition of the AAA label on energy-saving electrical devices, which is being replaced by an “A” labelling.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff asked about the unfilled Council posts and proposed that some should be deleted, in order to have a better overview. The Mayor replied that there was no provision for this since the intention was to plan with an eye to the future. As part of the efforts by the Cabinet to improve Council services for the residents, for example through having quarterly or monthly statements of the Council charges, there was a need to increase staffing; in part, this was also having regard to the rapidly growing numbers of residents.

The Mayor provided information about the current coronavirus situation in the “Um Ewent” primary school and in the nursery.

A resident asked whether he was billed for the emptying of his waste bin even if he did not put it out for collection. The Mayor said that was not the case.