

4/26



# De Conter Espresso



## DIVORCE SOCIALITS STYLE



On the 15th of July, Stéphanie Ansay, then a member of the board of aldermen, tendered her resignation by means of an inflammatory text directed against Marion Zovilé-Braquet, thereby effectively blowing up the CSV-LSAP coalition.



The agenda for every municipal council meeting is drawn up by the entire board of aldermen and must also receive unanimous approval. It follows that she also helped to prepare the agenda for the municipal council meeting of the 15th of July 2025 and had agreed to all the items which the board of aldermen had submitted for a vote. In response to concerns raised within LSAP circles, she had given the following assurance: "Even if Pol Thomé were not to vote in favour of that one item, we would still have a majority."

And yet, on the day of the municipal council meeting, Stéphanie Ansay voted

against that very item together with her fellow group member Pol Thomé, despite the fact that, according to a WhatsApp message sent to the then CSV alderman at 1.00 p.m., shortly before the meeting, she had still intended to support it.

In this way, LSAP undermined the CSV-LSAP coalition in July in a particularly perfidious and dishonest manner and thereafter failed to attend a single further meeting of the board of aldermen, even though they had been instructed by Minister Leon Gloden to do so and continued to be paid for this until November.

For weeks afterwards, there was no communication, and attempts by CSV to make contact were met only with vague and evasive letters.

With the support of DP and déi Gréng, however, they chose, behind CSV's back, to back a "second Gambia" in the municipality of Contern and did so without the slightest hesitation.

As CSV, we cannot shake the feeling that this was where the real damage was first done in July, when LSAP shattered the coalition through Stéphanie Ansay's resignation, thereby paving the way for a new coalition.

So that our municipality could finally return to working "normally" after months with a two-person board of al-

dermen and a succession of media scandals, the mayor stepped down in September in order to clear the way, and the CSV alderman took the same step after it became clear in discussions that DP and déi Gréng had no interest whatsoever in any form of co-operation. On the part of LSAP, there has to this day been no discussion aimed at preserving or continuing the coalition.

The fact that the municipal staff were drawn into this entire mess is, in itself, the greatest scandal of all. No fewer than four communiqués from almost all employees had, over a period of months, stood behind the CSV/LSAP board of aldermen when key staffing decisions were at stake, until the LSAP representatives changed course within a matter of hours, and without any genuine reason.

"Gambia" has now taken over the helm, apparently without a plan and without a compass and, worse still, without telling residents how matters are supposed to proceed from here.

In December, the three parties, each elected only as a minority, then came to power with the message that they now wished to "look ahead".

From the 15th of July until today, that is to say after more than nine months, they still have not managed to draw up and publish a declaration by the board of aldermen.

### IMPRESSUM

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### BECOME A MEMBER OF CSV CONTER.

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## FAREWELL, MARION!



It is with great emotion that we, as the CSV section, bid farewell to the first female mayor of Contern and the long-serving president of our section — for 21 years — a political figure from our municipality.

Marion Zovilé-Braquet was anything but a token woman, which she herself never wanted to be. On the contrary, in everyday political life she more than held her own.

Her path, marked by eight years as mayor and a constant presence on the municipal council since 2008, is proof of a perseverance, commitment and strength of conviction that is rarely found nowadays.

She defended the values of CSV, as well as her own personal values, with a determination that commanded everyone's respect, and she did so with openness, understanding and tolerance. We would all like to express our sincere

thanks to her here.

Thank you for her leadership: she always stayed the course, even when things were not always easy within coalitions, in dealings with the opposition and in the media.

Thank you for her closeness to the people: her open ear for the residents of Moutfort, Oetrange, Contern and Medingen, for the business community of the municipality, and for her party colleagues as well as colleagues in both coalition and opposition, made her a politician who was close to the people and who always worked in their interests.

Thank you for her perseverance: her hard and tireless work on the municipal council as group leader, on the board of aldermen as mayor, and in the section as president ... and her constant determination to fight for our concerns with the competent ministries whenever necessary, enabled us as CSV Conter to carry out many important projects for our municipality.

Marion Zovilé-Braquet leaves behind a motivated section and a momentum of which we are proud. Thank you for everything she has done for the municipality and for the CSV section of Contern.

### DEAR FELLOW RESIDENTS,

It is with a very heavy heart that I have decided to step down from my office as mayor.

This decision was not an easy one for me, because our municipality and its people have always meant a great deal to me. Throughout all these years, it was an honour and a great joy for me to com-

mit myself to our municipality. Being mayor was never merely a function or a title for me — it was a responsibility, but above all a matter close to my heart.

Together with many committed people, we launched many projects over the years, brought many to fruition and moved our municipality forward by a considerable step.

Much of what exists today came about through hard work, commitment and solidarity, always in dialogue with all of you. It makes me proud to know that I was able to play a small part in helping to shape the future of our municipality.

But the most valuable thing about all those years was not only the many projects — it was the people. It was the many encounters, conversations, the support, the trust, and the many small moments of everyday life that made this task so special. For that, I would like to thank you with all my heart. Thank you for your trust, for your support and for all the years in which I had the honour of representing our municipality and its residents.

Our municipality will always remain very close to my heart. Not only were projects created here, but also many wonderful memories, which I certainly will not forget and will dearly miss.

And even though I have now laid down this office, my bond with our municipality and its people will remain forever.

I was proud to be your mayor.

Thank you for your trust.

## NEW ON THE COMMITTEE

### BEN FELGEN

Ben is 31 years old and moved from Mersch to Moutfort in mid-2025. He works as a civil servant at the Environment Administration. A trained historian, he enjoys visiting museums, travelling and is also passionate about photography. He can also often be found out on his road bike or in nature. In Mersch, he had already gained some political experience on the Environment and Information Commission. Ben has also recently beco-



me district president of CSJ Centre.

He is particularly interested in culture and mobility. In this regard, it is important to him that residents should have access to a broad cultural offering and that the history of the municipality should not be forgotten. Another concern of his is that everyone within the municipality, whether by car, bus or bicycle, should be able to get from A to B well, quickly and safely.

### FRANÇOIS GEORGES

Franz is 59 years old and has lived in the municipality of Contern since the summer of 2024. He completed his MBA at NYU in New York and spent his entire



professional life abroad and in Luxembourg in the management of large companies and in his own business. He is the father of two grown-up children and remains committed to sound finances and good governance in society. For many years, he was also a member of the Finance Commission of Luxembourg City.

In his free time, he enjoys being out in nature with his dog and is committed to preserving our beautiful environment.

## NEW ON THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL



### **NATHALIE SCHLESSER- COUTELIER**

Nathalie Schlessler-Coutelier has been married for over 30 years, has three children and worked in banking. Contern has been her home since childhood, and she has always wanted to play her part in ensuring that life in our municipality remains pleasant.

When her children were young, she became involved both as a parents' representative and as president of the parents' association. Education remains an important issue for Nathalie, which also explains her commitment to the School Commission.

She is secretary of the Third Age Commission and of the Amicale de la Seniorie

Ste Zithe in Contern, as she wishes to help that generation feel at home and well supported. She is also a member of the Culture and Tourism Commission, to which her creative nature has drawn her.

Because of her dual French and Luxembourgish nationality, she considered it important to contribute to the Vivre ensemble intercultural Commission and to serve as a member there.

You will always find in her a listening ear for your concerns and suggestions for improvement. Both people and animals matter greatly to her, and she will always take the necessary time to be there for you.

### **MARCO SCHMIT**

Marco is 74 years old, is married, has three sons and three grandchildren, and is a retired municipal civil servant. He is currently Vice-President of CSV Conter and a member of the Finance, Sports and Building Commissions of the municipa-



lity of Contern.

Associative life is particularly close to his heart and, accordingly, he is actively involved in several local associations whose activities he has supported for decades.

He can also look back on a wide range of activities in national and international federations and bodies at social, cultural and sporting level.

The people and the life of the municipality are very close to his heart. He is particularly interested in the environment, agriculture, municipal finances, sport and culture.

In his free time, he is involved in sport, singing, local history, genealogy and hiking.

## A CLEAR NO TO THE 2026 BUDGET!

When we at CSV Conter look at the municipality's 2026 budget, we note with satisfaction that there is a certain degree of day-to-day continuity. It is reassuring to see that several projects planned and initiated over a number of years by the former board of aldermen are being maintained and carried forward. This guarantees the necessary stability in public administration. But beyond this management of day-to-day affairs, one fundamental question remains for us: where does this board of aldermen actually want to take our municipality?

Unfortunately, there is currently no communication on that point. As a result, what is lacking are ideas and forward planning. In order to vote for a budget with a clear conscience, we would need a transparent statement from the board of aldermen — a clear political plan and strategy — which, to this day, at the beginning of April, has still not been presented to us.

What is the situation with the planned centre in Moutfort? How is the social housing file progressing? Where do matters stand with the plans for the renovation of the Éiter Cultural Centre? And, following the announced provisional arrangement, what exactly is to happen to the Cultural Centre in Moutfort?

That this board of aldermen currently appears to lack forward planning and concrete ideas is particularly evident in

the case of the new town hall project, which, until mid-July, was fully supported by LSAP municipal councillors for almost one and a half terms of office and was unanimously selected by the board of aldermen, first on the advice of Mr Schiltz in an initial version and then of Mrs Ansary in a second version.

The gentlemen of the board of aldermen do not say today that they reject this project, which is complete and ready in the drawer. Yet, through this budget, they are effectively signalling to residents that they now intend to commission a third study.

Why should residents' money once again be wasted on re-analysing something that has already been developed, validated and costed by two previous CSV-LSAP boards of aldermen? Amassing study upon study does not mean acting; in our view, it means blocking.

And while we wait for new reports, the reality on the ground does not stand still. In the current premises, municipal staff are working under conditions which, in our view, are no longer acceptable. The offices are overcrowded; there is a lack of space, functionality and privacy at every turn, and this lack of room hampers the efficiency of the municipal service. How can we expect our staff to give their full commitment when we do not even provide them with the space they need to do their work properly?

This delay in the construction of a new town hall also has human consequences that go beyond the administration itself. If the construction of the new building is put on ice, we automatically block the redevelopment of the current building. It is not merely an office project that is being held up; it is our future Maison Médicale and the entire surrounding area that are being blocked.

Even more worrying is the fact that we are condemning our hard-won pharmacy to remain in provisional premises that cannot be a permanent solution. The residents and the staff of that pharmacy deserve decent and lasting infrastructure, not a temporary arrangement prolonged time and again because of ever more expert assessments.



One cannot, on the one hand, continue the straightforward files from the previous term under the framework of a so-called "transitional budget", and then, on the other hand, bury the decisive project for the well-being of staff and the health of residents under a mountain of unnecessary new studies.

As CSV, what we currently lack, as already stated, is a declaration from the board of aldermen and a multiannual financial plan that would allow us to understand precisely what the current board is planning, what the municipality's future investments are to be, and in which direction the municipality's debt is heading.

Because, in the absence of a declaration from the board of aldermen, we lack transparency regarding this board's real strategy, there was only one logical consequence for us. For all these reasons, and because our fellow residents and our staff do not expect more studies but concrete action, we at CSV voted against this budget.

## AKTUELLES

### NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION 2026



On the very first Monday of the new year, our section invited guests to the 2026 New Year's reception at the Centre Culturel Am Medepoull. The announcement that snow might be on the way certainly discouraged one or two people from coming, but those who found their way to Oetrange were well looked after. During pleasant and interesting conversations, there was naturally much discussion about the current situation in the municipality, and both Marion Zovilé and Prime Minister Luc Frieden also touched on these current developments in their speeches.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026



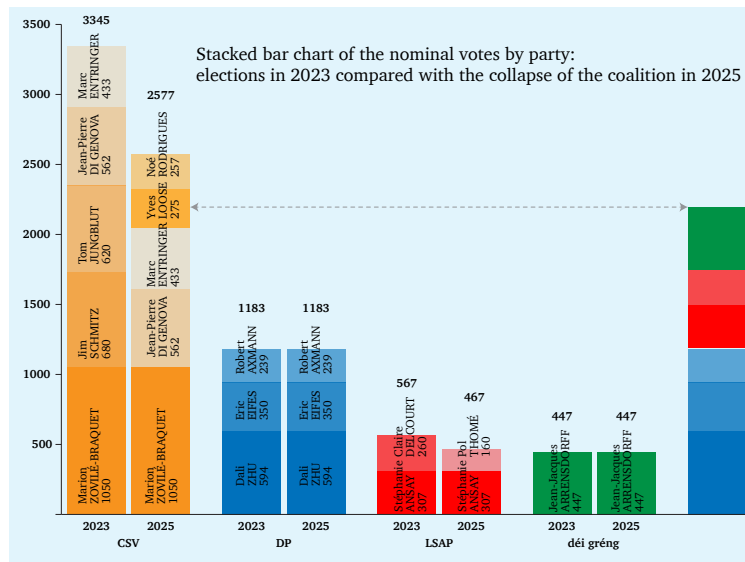
Our 2026 General Meeting was shaped above all by one subject: the political changes of 2025 in our municipality, and in particular the manner in which they came about. Even so, our section can look back on a successful year, as

# MUNICIPAL POLITICS: SIMPLY AND BRIEFLY EXPLAINED

The municipal council of Contern consists of 11 members, including 1 mayor and 2 aldermen. In the elections of June 2023, CSV received 44.25% of the vote, which gave it 5 seats on the municipal council. To have a majority, at least 6 seats are needed. To achieve this, a coalition partner is sought by holding talks with the other parties, comparing election programmes and concluding a coalition agreement with the party with which the greatest number of common points exists, for example a new municipal building or a Maison médicale. Through that agreement, the parties commit themselves to planning in the same direction and also to voting in favour of the proposed projects in the municipal council.

If one of the partners then withdraws or votes against a project, the coalition is broken and the mayor no longer has a majority. This is what happened in Contern in July 2025, following the resignation of the LSAP alderwoman. Once it became clear that the agreement signed in 2023 was no longer being respected, efforts were made to find a new partner.

That is, however, difficult when there is no shared vision for the future of our municipality. Apparently, though, that did not trouble the three other parties in the municipality. The three of them joined forces in order finally to be strong enough to send CSV into opposition. After all the commotion and the partly personal attacks directed against the mayor, she then decided to bring her political career to an end.



### ON DIGI'S RESIGNATION



Jean-Pierre Di Genova, known as Digi, has also stepped down from the municipal council. This step was not the result of any conflict, but was in line with the agreement reached after the

2023 elections that he would not complete his third term in full.

Since 2011, he had been committed to serving on the municipal council and was particularly appreciated for his closeness to residents and his open ear for their concerns. We thank him sincerely for his many years of service on behalf of our municipality.

we were highly active, were able to reconnect with earlier traditions through our autumn event, and repositioned ourselves during our retreat at Mutferter Haff in October. At the General Meeting, our long-serving president also handed over the baton to Yves Loose. With an engaging and substantively interesting conference, our minister, Mrs Martine Deprez, gave the public a very good overview of current issues such as pension reform and healthcare.