PILLAR 1

Defending democracy, the rule of law and the government

To protect our democracy, our rule of law and the proper functioning of our institutions, we must be prepared to face increasingly complex threats. Some malicious actors use hybrid methods – such as information manipulation, cyber attacks, espionage or sabotage – to weaken our constitutional institutions and sow division in our society. These attacks aim to remain discreet, below detection thresholds, making any response difficult. By targeting our democratic values, these actors seek to encourage extremism and polarisation, in order to destabilise our institutions, endangering the stability of our government and society. Other risks, such as natural disasters, or major crises, can also disrupt the functioning of the state. To ensure the continuity of our constitutional institutions and preserve our fundamental rights, we must anticipate these threats and actively prepare for them. This requires constant vigilance, enhanced cooperation between public and private actors, and collective mobilisation to defend the principles that underpin our society: democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

Objective: To guarantee the continuity of constitutional institutions, maintain democracy and preserve the rule of law in order to ensure Luxembourg's stability.

✓ Key actions

ANTICIPATE
To prevent is to act

Several actions are being implemented to achieve this objective, such as:

To protect the rule of law and ensure institutional continuity:

- We ensure that, in the event of an emergency, the government is authorised to take necessary, appropriate and proportionate regulatory measures in accordance with the Constitution and in compliance with international law and obligations.

- We maintain democratic rule of law and guarantee the separation of powers in times of peace and crisis.

- We ensure that essential public services continue to function by establishing a national priorisation plan for critical institutional activities.

- We are implementing business continuity plans (BCPs) for all public institutions and authorities, appointing a "resilience officer" whose mission is to ensure the implementation of the BCP and to serve as a point of contact for all matters related to national resilience.

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To combat hybrid threats and protect democratic sovereignty:

- We formalise a national strategy on hybrid threats in order to better identify Luxembourg's political and societal vulnerabilities and respond more effectively to this new type of threat.

- We combat disinformation and the manipulation of information that may originate from malicious state or non-state actors, in particular by strengthening the fight against the dissemination of illegal content or false information.

- We develop a guide on disinformation aimed at raising public awareness of the phenomenon of disinformation and explaining the potential risks and consequences of this new threat.

To strengthen international cooperation, exercises and trust among citizens:

- We are strengthening international cooperation, both bilaterally and multilaterally, as well as within the EU and NATO, to improve the exchange of essential information and situational awareness on malicious actors.

- We are committed to providing high-quality, accessible public services and transparent, participatory and effective governance in order to maintain public trust in public institutions and authorities.

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