



Geneva
June 27th 2013

THE ALPINE CONVENTION IS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL TREATY FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF A CROSS-BORDER MOUNTAINOUS REGION
italian presidency 2013-2014
alpine convention

The Alpine Convention: Water and Climate Change

Instruments, Working Groups, Results and Objectives



The Convention

- The Alpine Convention is an international treaty signed in 1991
- 8 Countries and the EU are involved
- 8 legally binding thematic protocols
- Water management is a crucial and central task but, at the moment, there is no need for a “Water Protocol” (focus on water management in different protocols as well in EU directives and national legislations)



Legend

- National border
- Perimeter Alpine Convention
- City
- River
- Lake
- Glaciated area (> 3000 m)

**Alpine Convention
2nd Report on the State of the Alps - Water
(Report on the State of the Alps 2008)**

**Overview map
perimeter Alpine Convention**

Date: 2008 Author: umwelt.bundesamt Austria

Scale 1 : 3,300,000

0 25 50 100 150 200 km



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The Convention and climate change

- Climate change is extremely trans-sectoral
- Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change (2006)
- Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps (2009)
- Collection of good practices
- Publications

The Convention and climate change

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Declaration on climate change

The Alpine Conference

with reference to the decision of the 8th Alpine Conference about natural hazards;

recognises with concern that the global climate change particularly affects the Alpine Area. The average temperature increase since the pre-industrial age is clearly above the global average in this area. Already today this shows itself through the increase of the threat through natural hazards or as a visible effect in the form of the progressive melting of glaciers and the reduction of the permafrost;

notifies that, according to the climate scenarios supplied by the scientific community, significant climate changes must be taken into account by 2100 in the Alpine Area;

emphatically requires the worldwide implementation of the framework convention on climate and of the Kyoto protocol as well as the definition of ambitious objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gases for the period after 2012 with a view to the necessary stabilization of greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at a level at which a dangerous anthropogenic disturbance of the climate system is prevented and the increase of the global surface temperature, according to the conclusions of the presidency at the meeting of the European Council of 22/23 March 2005, is limited at maximum 2 °C with respect to the pre-industrial level;

with respect to the progressive climate change for the future, indicates that it is necessary to develop appropriate strategies and activities for the Alpine area for the adaptation to the consequences that will result from the climate change, that consider the "Five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change" under the UN framework agreement about climate changes, as well as the European Climate Protection Programme (ECCP), that are also aimed at specific sectors and include regional peculiarities, needs and abilities for the adaptation;

deems efforts for the promotion of international research projects as necessary, in order to achieve better understanding about the effects of climate change on the Alpine area (among other things, on land use, land use changes, on the water balance with the envisaged more frequent occurrence of extreme rainfall events and drought periods and the consequences

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« Making the Alps an exemplary territory for prevention and adaptation to climate change »

PREAMBLE

The Alps are particularly sensitive to climate change. As the OECD report «Climate Change in the European Alps – Adapting Winter Tourism and Natural Hazards Management» confirms, the effects of climate change in the Alps are three times higher than the world average. Moreover, this is a densely populated (14 millions inhabitants for approximately 200 000 km²) and tourist area, thus requesting special measures.

In the face of climate change, mountain ranges, with their water reserves and their capital for biodiversity, have a key role to play towards other territories. Therefore, their protection goes beyond the supra-national dimension.

Alpine regions should take part in the collective effort to reduce the greenhouse effect by searching for adapted solutions to tackle the specific issues that affect them, particularly in terms of transport, energy efficiency, buildings, tourism, farming and water.


The Action Plan following the Ministers' Declaration of Alpbach rests on the joint commitments taken by the Alpine countries which fall under the Framework Convention on climate change and the Kyoto Protocol. This Action Plan is part of the ongoing discussions to reach a comprehensive and ambitious post-2012 agreement and takes into account the commitments made in this regard by the European Union. Its aim is to go beyond the general framework to offer concrete measures that are **specific** to the Alps by promoting, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation, themes and measures that could be the subject of regional co-operations in the frame of the Alpine Convention, and by taking into account actions that are already in place on a national, regional and local level.

The Action Plan on Climate contributes to both the global effort aiming at reducing greenhouse effect following international commitments by the Contracting Parties and to the quality of life of Alpine populations for present and future generations.

This Plan complements a full and complete implementation of the Protocols of the Alpine Convention by the Contracting Parties. The fight against the effects of climate change goes hand in hand with a real policy on sustainable


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ALPINE CONVENTION

**THE ACTION PLAN ON
CLIMATE CHANGE IN
THE ALPS**



Source : Centre de Recherche sur les Ecosystèmes d'Altitude (CREA)

Main Objectives
adopted by the Xth Alpine Conference,
(Evian, March 2009)

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Climate change in the WGs and PFs

- Platform Natural Hazards [\(1\)](#)
- Platform Water Management [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#) [\(3\)](#) [\(4\)](#)
- Platform Mountain Farming
- Platform Ecological Network
- Working group Transport
- Working group Mountain Forests
- Platform Energy
- Task force on Sustainable Tourism

Synergies

- Possible cooperation on:
 - sharing of experiences and good practices;
 - dialogue and exchange of experiences between the two institutions about the impacts on spatial planning of natural hazards management;
 - dialogue and exchange of experiences between the two institutions about the adaptation plans in the field of water management;
 - common occasions for creating networks and exchanging experiences (e.g. 5th Alpine Water Conference)

Thank you for the attention

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on behalf of the in-turn Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention

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