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Ständiges Sekretariat • Secrétariat permanent • Segretariato permanente • Stalni sekretariat

*High Level Segment on Transboundary Water Cooperation in Central Asia and the Role of the Water Convention*

Geneva, 12 November 2009

## **STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION**

Many issues on transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia raised by the honourable panellists at the High-Level Segment of the Meeting of the Parties to the UNECE Water Convention, such as competing interests in relation to the use of waters and unbalanced availability of waters are relevant also in the Alpine Region.

The Alpine Convention is a multilateral framework Treaty between Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland and the European Community, which has been equipped with a large number of thematic Protocols. It is the first international binding legal instrument for the integrated, sustainable development of a mountain area and as such it promotes transnational cooperation in the environmental, the social and the economic sphere. In March 2009, the Parties to the Alpine Convention adopted an Action Plan on climate change in the Alps (available at [www.alpconv.org](http://www.alpconv.org)) which addresses, among other topics, adaptation measures in the field of water resources.

In order to cope with the challenges of water management the Parties to the Alpine Convention decided to publish a special report on the state of the Alps dedicated to water issues, which was adopted at the Ministerial Conference in 2009. This report (also available on the Alpine Convention's web site) describes the state of waters in the Alpine space, the relevance of the Alpine area for water supply to surrounding areas as well as the main challenges for the future.

Furthermore the Parties to the Alpine Convention established a new Platform for the exchange of best practice examples and assigned it the tasks of conducting a survey of river basins water management plans, the elaboration of recommendations for the sustainable production, transport and distribution of hydroelectricity in the Alps and the assessment of needs for adaptation to climate change considering interaction with downstream areas. About 50 representatives of the Contracting Parties and Observers to the Alpine Convention take part in the Platform.

Since 2002 Central Asia is a priority area of cooperation for the Alpine Convention. The projects carried out with the support of the States Parties to the Alpine Convention relate to the sustainable development of mountain villages and the building of networks of mountain villages. Within this frame a wide range of projects has been carried out, including projects on soil and water conservation technologies.

The Alpine Convention is therefore ready to share its experiences in the field of management of water resources with the Countries of Central Asia.

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