



Work programme for implementing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Permanent Secretariat to the Alpine Convention and the «Alpine City of the Year» Association for the years 2008 and 2009

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for strengthened cooperation between the Permanent Secretariat to the Alpine Convention («the Secretariat») and the «Alpine City of the Year» Association («the Association»), signed in Brig (Switzerland) on 11 January 2008, requires the realisation of joint activities on the basis of a firm work programme lasting two years.

This work programme is prepared for the years 2008 and 2009. If necessary, it may be amended during its period of validity based on an agreement between the signatories to the MoU. This work programme takes account of the Multiyear work programme of the Alpine Conference (2005-2010) and also the current activities of the Alpine Convention and the Association. It was approved by the Association's Steering Committee on 14 March 2008.

Granted that the necessary human and financial resources are available, the following activities will be jointly achieved:

«Joint events» sector

- The Association will actively participate at the international conference «The Population and Culture Declaration by the Alpine Convention: towards actual implementation», organised by Austria, Italy and the Permanent Secretariat at Villach (Austria) on 3 and 4 March 2008, particularly at the theme seminary «Role of the towns and of rural territories».
- The Permanent Secretariat shall support and take part in the organising of a theme seminary on Alpine towns and climate change which will take place in Gap (France) on 12 September 2008 as part of the 2nd 2008 meeting of members of the Association. During the seminary there will also be discussed the draft action plan on climate by the Alpine Convention.

- The Permanent Secretariat shall support and take part in organising a theme seminary on balanced development in the urban and rural areas of the Alps, in cooperation with the Network of municipalities «Alliance in the Alps» which will take place in 2009 in Bad Reichenhall (Germany) as part of the 2nd 2009 meeting of members of the Association.
- The Secretariat shall involve the Association in the «Superalp II» project (crossing the Alps using sustainable means of transport) where there will be transit through some of the member towns of the Association (Chambéry, Briga).
- The Secretariat and the Association will organise a theme seminary whose object is the Report on the state of the Alps by the Alpine Convention on transport and mobility.

«Systematic Exchange of information and public relations» sector

The signatory parties to the MoU undertake to regularly exchange information about the activities that may be of interest to the other party. In detail:

- The Association or its individual members, through the secretariat to the Association, shall inform the Secretariat of each event when the Alpine Convention's logo is used, and also of each project for implementing the Alpine Convention.
- The Secretariat shall send to the Association, in the month following the meeting of the Standing Committee, a report on the decisions taken in the areas of interest to the Alpine towns.
- The Association, within the month before the next meeting of the Standing Committee, shall send a report to the Secretariat on the steps taken in these areas by the associate towns. Particular attention is given to transferring information about «good practices» that can be extended to other areas of the Alpine territory (particularly to the sectors of tourism, climate change, water management, transport and population and culture).
- This information will be attached to the report on the activities performed in cooperation in the two years 2008-2009 according to the provisions in article 4 of the MoU and will then be jointly published (for instance, on websites) by the Secretariat and the Association, since they are measures implementing the Alpine Convention.
- The Association shall include on the Agenda of each of its general meetings the point «Report on activities performed in cooperation with the Alpine Convention». The Secretariat is invited to take part in these meetings and to inform the Association about the activities performed in cooperation.
- The Secretariat and the Association shall issue joint press releases in relation to events organised jointly and they shall also make sure of mentioning the MoU when communicating with the press.
- The Association shall make available to the Secretariat the Association's presentation brochures in the four languages of the Alpine Convention, and vice-versa. The Association and the Secretariat shall distribute these brochures at every occasion considered appropriate.
- The Secretariat shall produce an article for each electronic information bulletin («brief info») of the Association on general and/or specific issues of the Alpine Convention (four times a year). To this end, the Association will work with the Secretariat sufficiently in advance of the date of its scheduled publishing.

- The Secretariat and the Association shall publish the MoU and the Work programme in their respective websites.

Information can be conveyed in one of the languages of the Alpine Convention. However, depending on requirements, each party will ensure that the transfer of information to the other party is followed, in a reasonable time, by a translation in the other three languages of the Alpine Convention and, if available, in English.

«Cooperation with the current “Alpine City of the Year”» sector

- A meeting between the Secretariat and the competent authorities of Brig will be organised by mid-2008 for updating on the actions taken and scheduled by the Alpine City of the Year 2008 in relation to the Alpine Convention.
- As part of the launching seminary that will take place in the summer of 2008 with the Alpine City of the Year 2009, there will be organised a meeting between the competent authorities and the Secretariat in order to define the cooperation in accordance with Article 2(3) of the MoU.
- When there is the transit of the «Superalp 2» project (crossing the Alps with sustainable means of transport) at Brig on 17 June 2008, there are due to be a meeting between the Secretary-General of the Alpine Convention and the competent authorities of Brig and a joint press conference.