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PRESS RELEASE

11. December - INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY The Climate Portal of the Alpine Convention is now on-line!

Innsbruck, 11 December 2009

Today 11 December 2009, on the occasion of the International Mountain Day and the Copenhagen climate negotiations, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention launches a new “Climate” Portal as a concrete measure of implementation of the Action Plan on climate change adopted at the Xth Alpine Conference in March 2009.

International reports and European records indicate that mountain regions are highly sensitive areas when facing climate change. Climate change is impacting strongly on European Alps, according to monitoring throughout the region, where temperatures have raised twice than the average world temperature, where snow cover is thinning, glaciers melting altogether with permafrost. The Climate Portal is available in five languages, the four official languages of the Alpine Convention and English, at the following address:

http://www.alpconv.org/climate/index_en.htm

The objective of the Climate Portal is to collect and diffuse information about issues, events, developments relating to climate change in the Alpine territory, acting as a Clearing-house on the issue. The public targeted is as large as possible: from the main public to local and regional authorities interested in the topic of climate change.

Six main sections within the Climate Portal will offer these actors the information they might be looking for, such as

- the text of the Action Plan on Climate change in the Alps,
- essential links to the UN and EU dedicated webpages on climate change,
- a database on good practices,
- an inventory of existing databases on good practices in the fields of energy efficiency, soft mobility etc.,
- bibliographical references to the list of European Territorial Cooperation Projects concerning Climate change in the Alpine region,
- a “Knowledge Centre” with substantial information for those actors interested in acting concretely.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention trusts that the climate portal will be a useful tool contributing to the implementation of the Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps and highlights the interactive character of the portal, inviting any interested body or actor to submit useful information which could be published on this portal.

For any further information, please write at: climate@alpconv.org

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