



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Permanent Secretariat to the Alpine Convention and the Network of municipalities “Alliance in the Alps”

Preamble

Considering that the Alps form a natural environment and an economic area of special European interest,

considering that the Alps are distinguished by their culture and multifaceted history, for their variety of traditions and for a particular ecological sensitivity,

considering that the Permanent Secretariat to the Alpine Convention is entrusted, in particular, with facilitating the organising of projects in keeping with the objectives of the Alpine Convention and its Protocols, which are implemented by the Contracting Parties, the local and regional authorities, non-governmental organisations and by all the other parties concerned,

considering that, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, it is necessary to help and promote cooperation in order to implement the issues of the Convention and its Protocols for the Alpine population,

based on the observation that the

Network of municipalities “Alliance in the Alps”

- has, for several years, embarked on activities and projects whose objective is to implement the Alpine Convention, particularly at a local and micro-regional level,
- by means of these activities and projects, the application of the Alpine Convention is extended over a substantial part amounting to almost the entire territory
- the VII Alpine Conference ascertained that the Network of municipalities “Alliance in the Alps” has already done excellent work and provided important contributions to implementing the Alpine Convention and its protocols,

- on 21.07.2004, the Network presented a request to the Permanent Secretariat to the Alpine Convention to sign a Memorandum of Understanding,

pursuant to:

- article 5 (1) and (2) of the internal regulations of the Standing Committee,
- principle 6 of the "Implementation principles of the Alpine Convention and its protocols of implementation", approved by the VI Alpine Conference at Lucerne in 2000,
- the decision of the 28th meeting of the Standing Committee at point 16 of the Agenda,

between

- the Permanent Secretariat to the Alpine Convention, in the person of its Secretary-General ad int, Mr Noël Lebel, for one party
- and the Network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps", represented by its First President, the Mayor Rainer Siegele and its Second President, the Mayor Antonio Zambon, for the other party

the following **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** is signed:

I – Validity

This Memorandum of Understanding is on a permanent basis.

II – Joint aims

The cooperation agreement is in order to structure, intensify and place on a solid grounding the collaboration between the partners for implementing the contents of the Alpine Convention and its protocols of implementation, at a local level. The Network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps" will pursue, using the appropriate means, the priority issues in the multiyear Work Programme of the Alpine Conference at a local level. In this way, the Network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps" will become an important partner to the Permanent Secretariat in order to achieve sustainable regional development in the medium and small municipalities.

III – Areas of cooperation

Joint activities will be defined on the basis of a concrete work programme. This work programme, which the partners must perform in good faith, will be agreed from time to time for the duration of two years and requires that individual priorities are set. The collaboration mainly relates to the following areas of cooperation:

1. Public relations

The public relations work, in terms of an active policy of information and communication, has the purpose of increasing the level of awareness of the Alpine Convention and its protocols, as instruments for sustainable development. This sets out activities for creating a greater awareness of the contents of the Alpine Convention and its protocols at a local level. The projects for implementing the Alpine Convention, at a municipal level, must be communicated as such. Organising joint events and by having the Permanent Secretariat participate in the workshops and technical conferences of the Network of municipalities will give concrete examples for implementing the Alpine Convention at a local level.

2. Cooperation for further expanding the Network of municipalities

By being present at events in the sector, the Permanent Secretariat will be providing the due attention and attribute the correct importance to the Network of municipalities, as a partner for implementing the Alpine Convention. This will help to strengthen the cooperation between the members of the Network of municipalities and further increase its size.

3. Cooperation in building a network of municipal coordinators for implementing the Alpine Convention

The partners shall collaborate for building a network of municipal coordinators, active in all the Alpine States. The coordinators shall have the task of assisting the local and regional authorities in planning and producing projects, relating to sustainable development, which will involve the implementing of the Alpine Convention. Cooperation in this sector will include organising joint events and also technical assistance to the Network of municipalities from the Permanent Secretariat which will provide help to its partners also for preparing information material and for training and post-training of future municipal coordinators.

4. Cooperation in international mountain partnerships

In the field of international mountain partnerships, particularly as regards creating a similar network of municipalities in the Caucasus Mountains, the Permanent Secretariat and the Network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps" will work together, applying themselves to transferring know-how in order to help sustainable development at a local level.

IV – Rights and duties of the partners

The Network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps", for the duration of the cooperation, shall enjoy the following rights:

- being fully informed about the work of the Alpine Conference and the Standing Committee
- using the logo of the Alpine Convention in compliance with the current provisions in this respect.

The Network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps", for the duration of the cooperation, undertakes:

- to make every effort to ensure compliance with the obligations set forth in the Alpine Convention and its protocols.

The Permanent Secretariat, for the duration of the cooperation, shall enjoy the following rights:

- being regularly informed about the activities of the Network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps" and participating in the meeting of members, the meetings of the steering committee and in the technical conferences,
- representing the Network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps" as the partner as regards local development of medium and small municipalities.

The Permanent Secretariat to the Alpine Convention, for the duration of the cooperation, undertakes:

- to properly inform the Network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps" about all the activities that expressly concern the local and/or micro-regional level.

The partners shall undertake to meet, in terms of their respective directives, at least once a year to discuss the implementing of projects relating to this agreement.

V – Coming into force and termination

This agreement shall come into effect on being signed by the legal representatives of the parties concerned.

Both the Permanent Secretariat to the Alpine Convention and the Network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps" may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding in any moment, communicating the motive in writing within a period of two months.

Agreed at Garmisch-Partenkirchen on 16.11.2004,

<p>For the Network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps"</p> <p>Rainer Siegele, First President</p> <p>Antonio Zambon, Second President</p>	<p>For the Permanent Secretariat to the Alpine Convention</p> <p>Noël Lebel, Secretary-General ad int.</p>
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