



## **Memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the VIA ALPINA**

### **Preamble**

In consideration of the fact that the Alps constitute a vital economic space of particular interest for Europe,

In consideration of the fact that the Alps are characterised by the diversity of their culture, their history and their traditions, as well as by their particular ecological sensitivity,

In consideration of the fact that the specific mission of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention is to support the implementation of projects corresponding to the objectives of its Protocols, projects which are implemented by the Contracting Parties and their local authorities, Non-Governmental Organizations and all relevant partners,

In consideration of the fact that, for the reason mentioned above, it is necessary to develop and promote the creation of partnerships and the development of projects allowing a better knowledge and understanding of the themes of the Convention and its Protocols by the Alpine population,

On the basis of the fact that the partners of the **VIA ALPINA**

- have been implementing the Alpine Convention for several years, particularly in the areas of soft tourism and mobility and through the creation of links between tourism and mountain farming,
- perform their activities on the whole territory of the Alpine Convention,
- have already implemented several initiatives, particularly through the common implementation of a « Note Book » with information on the Alpine Convention and the VIA ALPINA,
- signed on 09.02.2005 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention which expired on 09.02.2008,

the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, represented by its Secretary General Marco Onida,

and

the VIA ALPINA, represented by its Secretary general François Gillet,

sign the following Memorandum of Understanding:

## **I – Duration**

The validity of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is not bound by limits.

## **II – Common objectives**

With a view to proceeding with their cooperation, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the partners of the VIA ALPINA conclude a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for an unlimited time, without prejudice to the fact that each partner has the right to end the MoU in case the conditions for its implementation no longer exist.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) intensifies, structures and perpetuates the cooperation between the two partners in areas where the VIA ALPINA follows the objectives of the Alpine Convention and of its Protocols, particularly through the application of the **Tourism, Conservation of nature and landscape protection, Spatial planning and sustainable development, Mountain farming and Mountain forests** Protocols.

## **III – Cooperation areas**

The MoU mainly aims at using possible synergies in order to implement common activities. The cooperation is concentrated on the following areas:

**- Public relations**

**- Cooperation aiming at implementing the Climate Action Plan and in terms of tourism**

**- Cooperation aiming at developing and implementing pilot projects**

#### **IV – Rights and duties of the partners**

- For the entire duration of the cooperation, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention will keep the VIA ALPINA fully informed about the work of the Alpine Conferences and the Standing Committee and about the activities of the Permanent Secretariat that concern the VIA ALPINA. This will particularly relate to the experiences of other bodies of the Alpine Convention and its networks of observers (for instance, the « Transport » work group, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, the Network of Municipalities) so that it can be integrated into the activities of the VIA ALPINA.
- The VIA ALPINA shall use the logo of the Alpine Convention in accordance with the current provisions in this respect.
- For the duration of the cooperation, the VIA ALPINA undertakes to actively ensure compliance with the obligations set forth by the Alpine Convention and its Protocols.
- The VIA ALPINA undertakes to inform the Permanent Secretariat about its activities.
- The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention may attend the meetings of the international Steering Committee of the VIA ALPINA and the thematic workshops organised by the latter.
- The partners to this Memorandum of Understanding undertake to organise occasions for discussions about the needs of the VIA ALPINA (for instance, as part of the events aimed at implementing the Declarations on “Population and culture” and on climate change by the Alpine Conference).

#### **V - Monitoring**

Every two years, and for the first time within two years of signing this Memorandum of Understanding, the partners will jointly prepare a report on the activities performed in cooperation in the previous two years. The Permanent Secretariat will send a copy to the Standing Committee. This report will be used for preparing the work programme for the following two years.

#### **VI – Effectiveness and termination**

This Memorandum will take effect upon signature by all authorised delegates from the partners.

However, each partner may terminate the Memorandum by sending a written communication to the other partner. In this case, the Memorandum of Understanding shall cease to have effect once three months have passed from such communication.

Done in Evian, on 12.03.2009,

<p style="text-align: center;">For the VIA ALPINA</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">François GILLET, Secretary General of the international Steering Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">For the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Marco ONIDA, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention</p>
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