

CONFERENCE OF THE ALPINE REGIONS

13 February 2009

In Chambéry (France)

DECLARATION

The Alpine Regions, assembled this day in Chambéry, have a shared desire to see sustainable development within the Alpine Arc.

In a context in which environmental issues are becoming increasingly central to the debate on the future of our planet, the Alpine Regions, which seek to be exemplary, wish to restate their attachment to the massif, to the shared culture of the inhabitants who give it life, to the quality of its landscapes, its rich assets and the economic production they yield.

Such an environment deserves our undivided attention and needs, in particular, environment-friendly transport policies.

Today, the question of modal shift relative to transport is central to the preservation of a common destiny. This is why the regions, despite the different institutional frameworks that govern them, feel close to the inhabitants' concerns. They therefore intend to submit the following proposals, drafted at regional level, to the national governments of the Alpine Convention signatory States:

- pooling of ideas and research on transport issues throughout the Alps, whether on the initiative of the States, the Zurich Group, the interregional programmes sponsored by the European Union, or the regions themselves, with a view to capitalisation and development of that work;
- coordination of the various infrastructure programmes around the corridors identified in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), and complementary to these, with preference given to projects that facilitate an efficient modal shift and enhance the environmental impact;
- development of an economic model for transport costs that includes external costs and tax measures, or support for investment, in a form likely to encourage a shift towards the most environmentally friendly methods and the smallest "carbon footprints";
- support for initiatives in terms of intermodality, interoperability and controlled territorial development, so as to concentrate and optimise the transport flows;
- and to ask those signatory States to take action to introduce technical, pricing and regulatory measures aimed at facilitating such a modal shift.

In addition, the regions wish to pursue their collaboration via an interregional platform that would meet every two years on a major subject of common interest in conjunction with the Alpine Convention Governmental Conference.

The Regions present hereby empower the President of the Alps-Mediterranean Euroregion, Jean-Jack Queyranne, to submit this declaration, on their behalf, to the Ministers of the Alpine Convention at their meeting to be held on 11 and 12 March 2009 in Evian under the French presidency.