



Dear Friends,

The summer is over and the Permanent Secretariat has many news to share and even more plans for fall.

During the summer the Report on the State of the Alps was published in print! You can now check out the fascinating topic of demographic changes in the Alps by reading the report in your Alpine language (or in English) [online](#) or [ordering](#) your free printed copy.

The Reading Mountains initiative is taking shape and we are approaching the goal of having events organized across the Alpine Arch. We are happy to have events in Berlin, Innsbruck, Bolzano/Bozen, Chambéry, in our Info-Points and with many of our partners. The map of events on our webpage already has many pins. Add a pin of your own, and joint the initiative with your event.

The EUSALP process is ongoing and the Alpine Convention is actively participating in it. Read more in the news. Here, let me just highlight that together with the Land of Carinthia we submitted the Expression of Interest to become Action Group Leader for Action 6.

The next Permanent Committee meeting is around the corner and preparations are under way for its organization. Also the Working Groups and Platforms are busy fulfilling their mandates. Read about this and more in this newsletter.

I wish you an enjoyable read.

Markus Reiterer,  
Secretary General



### **New climate project in hotel and restaurant industries**

The German Presidency has launched a new project "Climate Action and Energy Savings in Hotel and Restaurant Industries". It is a contribution to the topic "Greening the Economy in

the Alpine Region” which is a part of the Presidency programme.

The project aims to promote climate action measures and the sharing of experiences among the hotel and restaurant industries in all alpine countries. Hotel, restaurant and tourist industry organisations and operators will be invited to participate in a workshop in the spring of 2016 in Munich, where they will take part in an exchange about existing climate initiatives, discuss their application across the alpine region, develop new custom-fit approaches for the implementation of energy saving and energy efficiency measures, and consider joint initiatives for the future. The benefits of energy efficiency measures such as short return rates and high cost saving potentials will be highlighted throughout the project. The Working Group on Sustainable Tourism will be closely involved. Further information on workshop date and programme will be circulated in time.

As a follow-up to the workshop, the project will create a website and an application for mobile devices (in all four alpine languages). These will provide information on available climate initiatives and highlight examples of energy saving measures, thus promoting the transfer of successful initiatives from one country to another.

### **On the way to the first „Alpine Building Conference“ – Representatives of the Alpine countries start exchange of experience**



On 23 and 24 July 2015 the workshop “exchange of experience of the Alpine countries to nearly zero-energy buildings” took place in Merano/Meran, South Tyrol. The exchange was organized by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety in cooperation with the Bavarian Chamber of Architects within the framework of the German

Presidency. Delegations of the Contracting States Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland as well as representatives of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the Observer organizations CIRPA and Club Arc Alpin took part in the workshop. The meeting confirmed the high level of interest of the Alpine countries in an exchange of experiences on sustainable and energy-efficient building as well as on construction-cultural topics. The focus here is not just on new buildings, but also on modernization and renovation projects and solutions for sustainable quarters.

The results of this two-day workshop provide an important contribution to preparing the content of the first Alpine Building Conference, which will take place from 16 to 17 March 2016 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

## Annual Open House Day 2015 at the German Federal Environment Ministry



On 29 and 30 August 2015 the Federal Environment Ministry welcomed visitors as part of the German government's annual Open Day. This year's theme was "Stadt \* Land \* Leben" (City \* Country \* Life). The ministry showcased its work and the wide spectrum of topics it deals with in a variety of practical and interesting ways.

In view of Germany's Presidency of the Alpine Conference, one focus was on the Alps' unique natural and cultural landscape. The Alpine countries Austria, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland also took part in the activities. Their information booths focussed on the topics of climate change and melting glaciers, tourism and greening the economy. One of the highlights was a throne from Liechtenstein, where each and every visitor had the opportunity to pose for a photo as a prince or princess. The German Environment Ministry would like to thank all the embassies for taking part and helping bring some Alpine flair to Berlin.



The Berlin alphorn orchestra was also a huge hit. The publication "Mythische Berge" ("Mythical Mountains") produced by the Alpine Network of Protected Areas fascinated visitors with its Alpine legends. The Alpine Convention's film about mountain farming was shown and numerous publications about the Alpine Convention, cooperation in the Alpine region and the 2015-2016 Presidency programme were disseminated.

In short: a great PR success for the Alpine Convention.

[More info](#)

### Help Nepal

The Alpine Convention is now in the second phase of its 'Help Nepal' initiative. After the call for support through the first aid help in the days after the devastating earthquake and after the mobilization of funds the Alpine Convention invited several organizations to propose their project proposals for re-building of Nepal. With support by the German Presidency, the fund for re-building project currently holds around 12000 €. Please consider adding to this fund. The evaluation of the project proposals is currently ongoing and the final decision will be taken by the 59. Permanent Committee meeting in Berchtesgaden. After that, the selected project will be announced on the [webpage of the Alpine Convention](#).

### Alpine Convention and EUSALP

The in-depth discussion on a governance structure for the EUSALP in the Steering Committee meeting in Vienna on 2 July 2015 focused on core elements regarding the composition of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Action Groups as well as on their functions and interaction. Just as the Alpine States and Regions the Alpine Convention was invited to present until mid-September 2015 a well-founded expression of interest concerning its participation in Action Groups as leader. For the next EUSALP Steering Committee on 8 and 9 October 2015 in Milan a discussion on the AGL selection is expected.

On 28 July 2015 the European Commission published the EUSALP Communication and Action Plan. The governance foreseen includes the Alpine Convention in an advisory capacity in the political decision level and in the coordination level of the Strategy.

Furthermore the Secretary General had a fruitful exchange on governance issues with representatives of the Commission on 2 September 2015 in Brussels.

The meeting of the Working Group "Macro-regional Strategy" on 8 September 2015 in Innsbruck focused on the Alpine Convention's expression of interest to become Action Group Lead for Action 6 "To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources" together with the Land of Carinthia. The expression of interest was transmitted to the members of the EUSALP Steering Committee on 15 September.

### **Preparation for the Permanent Committee meeting**

The next Permanent Committee meeting of the Alpine Conference under German Presidency will take place in the "Haus der Berge" in Berchtesgaden on 15 and 16 October. Special attention will be drawn to the topics ecological network and biodiversity which are core issues for the implementation of the Conservation of nature and countryside protocol of the Alpine Convention. After the first part of the meeting an excursion will lead to the "Hirschbichl" pass, which is located in the ECONNECT cross-border pilot region Berchtesgaden – Salzburg. The area consists of the national park Berchtesgaden, nature park Weißbach and the biosphere reserve Berchtesgaden.

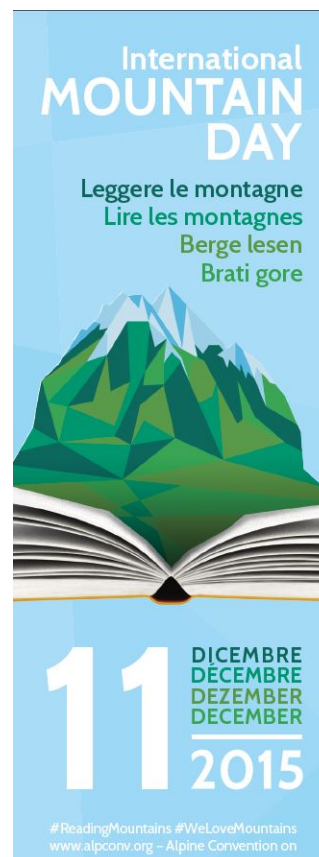


## **News from the Secretariat**

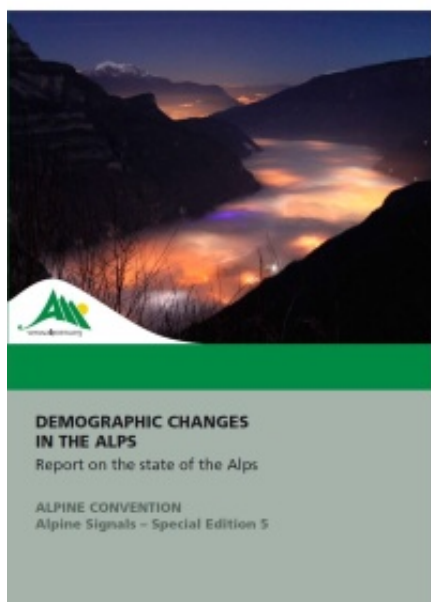
## Reading Mountains

Take part in the Reading Mountains Initiative! Organize your event and promote Alpine culture and Alpine literature. You can find all the information as well as the locations of reading on our [webpage](#).

“Reading mountains” is an initiative of the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention 2015-2016 in the scope of the International Mountain Day 2015. The idea is to initiate events dedicated to reading modern Alpine literature in various places around the Alps on the International Mountain Day (11 December). The goal of the initiative is to promote modern Alpine culture, which is an essential part of the Alps as we know them, through Alpine literature. All participating organizations will receive posters and bookmarks for the promotion of their event.



## The Fifth Report on the State of the Alps has been published



This Fifth Report on the State of the Alps (RSA5) tackles a crucial issue for the Alps: demographic change. Today, overall population growth and depopulation of certain areas in the Alps co-exist next to each other and population density varies dramatically. The current Report on the State of the Alps presents a complex and fascinating picture and provides clear and updated data to decision-makers and other stakeholders. The Report presents in an exhaustive way the most recent population developments at alpine level. Moreover, analyses on the labour market and education – both of which are closely related to demographic dynamics – are included.

Another strong point of this collaboration concerns the harmonising of the data collected not just in terms of the indicators selected and shared but also as regards the extent of territorial detail (all the way down to Municipal level), the reference period and the definitions used for the various indicators. The collected information presents an important input to the System for observation and Information of the Alps.

The elaboration of the Report was one of the priorities of the Italian Presidency to the Alpine Convention 2013 - 2014. The then President of the Permanent Committee Paolo Angelini stated that the main objective was to analyse demographic change starting from the driving

forces that move them, and disseminating good practices that can be replicated.

During the year a number of events to disseminate and present the RSA5 has already taken place throughout the Alps. Currently the Italian Delegation is planning further events in Rome (for the national stakeholders) and in Brussels.

The report is available in 5 languages in the [electronic form](#). For a printed copy [write us](#) an email. Enjoy reading.

### **Young Academics Award**

The Young Academics Award is a prize awarded to outstanding theses on topics relevant for the Alpine Convention and follows the tradition initiated in 2012 with the Young Scientist Award. The next call will focus specifically on the younger generation of future scientists and research in the Alps: master students. The call's topic will be "greening the economy in the Alps"; this is also the topic of the Sixth Report on the State of the Alps, which is currently being elaborated by an expert Working Group under German Presidency.

The selected finalists for the prize will be evaluated by an international scientific jury and will have the unique opportunity of participating in a workshop in Grassau (Germany) during the "Alpine Week" 2016. The winners will be awarded on the occasion of the Alpine Conference 2016.

The Young Scientist Award call will be published in the next weeks. [Stay tuned](#).

### **"Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck" – next events**

The Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck is an initiative with the aim to provide a forum for public information and discussion to address the issue of climate change in the Alpine region. The first edition of a new series of events, called Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck, took place on 23 June in the Aula of the University of Innsbruck on the topic of climate change and natural risks. The next Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck will take place on 20 October on the thematic of **climate change and energy** and on 9 December on the thematic of **climate change and tourism**. More information will be available [here](#). The events are organized jointly by the Research Focus "Alpine Space - Man and Environment" and the France focus center of the University of Innsbruck, the alpS-Research Center, the French Institute in Austria and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention.

### **Towards new challenges**



Punctual as the clock – always arriving in the office at exactly 8:50 a.m. – and always in a good mood – greeting everyone with the “Guten morgen” at the door of each office. After 13 years of service to the Permanent Secretariat, Doris Jaffre will retire. Dear Doris\*, a huge thank you for all you have done. We wish you exciting, active and adventures retirement! Come visit any time!

\*Doris Jaffre was the accountant for the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention since its establishment in 2003 and a vital part of all the teams so

far.

### **We are Alps tour 2015**



A journey through the Alps for the 13 selected journalists from most of the Alpine Countries as well as from Romania and Nepal was organized also this year by the Permanent Secretariat. The tour took place between 29 June and 6 July and focused on the topic of climate change. Traveling from Grenoble, via Megève, Sallanches, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, Interlaken-Jungfrauoch, Liechtenstein,

Großes Walsertal and Sonthofen to Zugspitze presentations and research of climate change observation, adaptation and mitigation in the Alps were organized in cooperation with many local stakeholders. Projects on glacier monitoring, climate change education, innovative mobility, energy efficiency, changes in biodiversity, new approaches in agriculture and tourism were presented; and people from different fields – from researchers, farmers, experts, business people, inhabitants and politicians of different governing levels were met. The tour concluded meeting the German Federal Minister for the Environment Dr Barbara Hendricks and her Bavarian colleague Ms Ulrike Scharf. Not just through presentation and examples, the members also experienced climate change first hand with an average daily temperature well over 30°C. During the trip, sustainable means of transport were used – busses (a total of 15), trains (a total of 29), bikes and traveling by foot. The aim of the tour is to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities of our region and the Alpine Convention as a toolbox for a balanced development of a territory shared by eight states. The tour showed the characteristics, features, opportunities and common issues the Alpine inhabitants are facing. A representative of the Presidency country Germany took part in the tour – Mr Martin

Waldhausen saw the tour as a great experience about what climate change in the alps implies and what we can do for adaptation and mitigation – thanks to perfect preparation and organisation of the Permanent Secretariat and its partners. You can read the impressions of participating journalist in their articles, as well as the views of the local journalist that joined the tour for a day, on the [webpage](#) of the tour. On this page, you will also find a photo-gallery and a day-by-day-blog. Intrigued? Stay tuned for next year's edition.

### Secretary General visited Sonthofen



The Secretary General, Mr Reiterer has been welcomed very warmly for a visit in Sonthofen where preparations for the Permanent Committee meeting and the Conference on Sustainable Tourism in June 2016 are already under way. Sonthofen is a good practice example Alpine town on a variety of topics; starting with being the first "Fairtrade town" in the Alps; a nature outdoor pool, which is

free to use for the public; the transformation of 1.3 ha repeatedly flooded farmland into the public nature project area "Biberhof" etc. Another example with best practice potential is the protective forest management initiative, which is aiming at "getting the forests fit for the future under changing climate" by including many stakeholders into processes of decision making in this matter. Challenges for the Alpine municipality, projects and opportunities for further cooperation were discussed with the Mayor of Sonthofen Mr Christian Wilhelm, the third mayor Ms Ingrid Fischer and a group of the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention.

### Online activities

The Permanent Secretariat regularly publishes photos from the events on the webpage and on the Social media. Check it out on the [webpage](#), like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).



Facebook



Twitter



## News from the Working Groups and Platforms

### Sustainable tourism

The Working Group on Sustainable Tourism met for the second time on 3 July 2016. The meeting was hosted at the Munich University of Applied Science, home-base of the German co-chair. During the meeting, future initiatives of the working group were discussed, such as,



for example, an analysis of the role of Alpine tourism governance for sustainability.

### **Working group for Mountain forests met on 8 July 2015 in Oberammergau**

The first meeting of the Working Group for Mountain forests within the current Mandate for the period 2015-2016 was dedicated to defining a common work program. The first thematic focus of the WG chaired by Italy is the protective function of Alpine mountain forests and its relationship with the productive function. It is envisaged to prepare a report, which will include the definition of protective forests in the Alpine area, some data on them, examples of good practices and projects related to the protection function of Alpine forest, which is an essential aspect in the densely populated and infrastructure rich Alps. Management, conservation and subsidies for enhancement of the protection function will be discussed and compared.

The German Delegation presented the Bavarian project Bergwald Offensive on mountain forests, climate change and protection function. The next meeting of the WG will take place on 3 November in Engelberg, Switzerland, during the European Forest week – Silva 2015.

### **WG Transport: a data base and ambitious road maps**

On 10 July the working group transport met in Paris. On basis of the rapports developed by the expert group sustainable mobility in the previous mandate period, a data bank has been developed and will be available soon on the website of the Alpine Convention. Moreover, the groups had intense discussions on the ongoing work on the external costs of transport and on innovative logistics solution: two road-maps are being developed – one by France and the other by Italy – both with the support of Switzerland – to organize the work until 2016. Next meeting of the working group will take place in January.

### **Water Platform meeting**

On 17 and 18 September 2015, the Workshop on “Dialogue between the Water Framework Directive and the Flood Directive” was hosted by the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection in Munich. During the workshop, good-practice examples from each country of the joint application of the two directives have been presented and discussed. The international contributions from science and administration have been the basis for exchange about synergies of both directives, problems conflicts as well as possible solutions.



## **News from Delegations, Observers, Partners**

### **Mediterranean Mountains: Climate Change, Landscape and Biodiversity**

*(Contribution by the Italian Delegation)*



Over 50 experts representatives of Mediterranean institutions, universities and scientific bodies and actors from the civil society as well as the Permanent Secretariat, gathered on 4 September in EXPO Milan to discuss sustainable development in the mountain areas of the Mediterranean at a workshop "Mediterranean Mountains: Climate Change, Landscape and Biodiversity. A partnership for enhancing

Sustainable Mountain Development in the Mediterranean".

The initiative aimed at renewing the dialogue among the Mediterranean Mountains, to promote sustainable development of mountain territories in the framework of the long-term collaboration between the Alps and the Carpathian. It also gave the experts a chance to discuss the issues of Climate Change, Sustainable Tourism and Biodiversity; it facilitated networking among policy makers and stakeholders, and identified synergies possible common projects.

The event was organized by the Italian Delegation of the Alpine Convention, in collaboration with UNEP Vienna SCC the Bio-Mediterranean Cluster at EXPO and EURAC Research. A cooperation process to which the Italian Government and the Ministry of Environment intends to contribute, as also highlighted in the note of the Under Secretary for the Environment Barbara Degani to comment the initiative. In her address, she reaffirmed the need to recognize mountains as a "common good", in order to enhance them and promote local initiatives, both public or private, that can be useful to their protection and development, in a perspective of territorial cohesion inspired by the principles of the European Union.

As stated by Paolo Angelini, head of the Italian Delegation of the Alpine Convention, this workshop was the first step of a wider "Road-Map for the Mediterranean Mountains" that, as wished, should reach an understanding between the main institutions and organizations, from the central to the local level, involved with the sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

More information and documents available [online](#)

**"Youth at the Top" - A real success for the 2015 edition!**

*(Contribution by Alparc)*





© Nationalpark Berchtesgaden

Artwork by the young Participants in Berchtesgaden/D

With a little help from the sunny weather in the whole Alpine Arc, groups of young people participated with great enthusiasm in the first edition of this innovative project: sharing a physical, human, cultural and artistic experience in the mountains at the same time.

On 16 and 17 July 2015, a total of 27 events took place simultaneously in 5 alpine countries: France, Italy, Austria, Slovenia and Germany. More than 370 young people aged between 7 and 28 and 105 adults (guides, rangers, families, educators, artists, artisans...) participated across the whole Alpine arc. The first edition of "Youth at the Top" was organized by ALPARC (Alpine Network of Protected Areas) and Educ'Alpes with the financial support of the German Ministry for the Environment.

Discover what went on in each of the 27 events that were part of the project and have a look at the first videos and pictures from each area at the [webpage](#) or visit the [Facebook page](#). A retrospective video will also be published soon!

Find this press release in full version and in 4 Alpine languages on Alparcs [webpage](#) as well.

## Land art & Photo Contest for the 20 anniversary of ALPARC

*(Contribution by Alparc)*



On the occasion of its 20. anniversary, ALPARC - the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, has launched a Land art & Photo contest titled "Connecting people, mountains and nature".

The land art & photo contest "Connecting people, mountains and nature" aims to highlight individuals building the network ALPARC and to strengthen the link between people and nature. The contest involves staff members of the Alpine Protected Areas as well as the general public depending on the categories of the contest. The contest includes 3 categories: Land Art self-portrait, Thematic Land Art Illustration and the 3. category "My favorite place in a protected area" – Text & Picture.

Registration for the contest is now open and participants can submit their pictures until the 20 December 2015 at this [link](#).

The participation is free of charge. For further information, rules and prizes related to each category, please read the "[Terms and Conditions](#)".

## **"Climate change mitigation now!" Conference for municipalities in the Alps**

*(Contribution by CIPRA)*

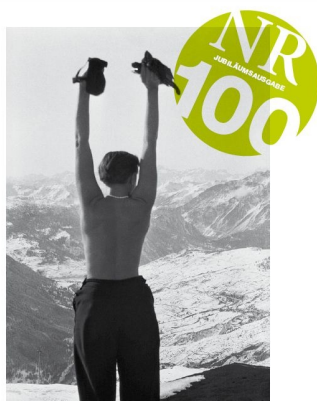
Action at the local level is essential if we are to face climate change successfully. At the conference on climate change mitigation, taking place in Benediktbeuern on the 29 and 30 October 2015, Alpine municipalities put theory into practice. The conference emphasizes on local potential and achievements and provides solutions for potential obstacles in the implementation of practical measures. The conference is part of the official program of the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention. It is organised by CIPRA International, the network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps" and the "Alpine Town of the Year" association.

The conference is funded by the German Federal Environmental Foundation and the German Federal Ministry for Environment.

[More information](#)

## **CIPRA's new publications on sustainable building and gender equality**

*(Contribution by CIPRA)*



**Frauen im Vorstieg**  
Ihr Beitrag für Natur und Gesellschaft in den Alpen

With its 35 pilot buildings the MountEE project is putting sustainable building into practice in different climate zones. The final report exposes how it works. The 100 edition of CIPRA's topic magazine is dedicated to women's contribution for nature and people in the Alps.

According to the EU directive on the energy performance of buildings, from 2018 all new public buildings must meet the "nearly zero energy" standard. Within the MountEE project, experts have helped to improve construction and renovation strategies in six European mountain regions, from northern Sweden to the Pyrenees, with the aim of greater energy efficiency and

sustainability. 35 pilot buildings have been renovated or newly built. The final report gives an overview about challenges and opportunities for mountain municipalities. It's available in English, German, French and Italian. MountEE received financial support from the European Union in the context of the "Intelligent Energy Europe" programme. CIPRA International was responsible for the project coordination and communication.

Another new publication of CIPRA is dedicated to the role of women in the Alps and their contribution for nature and society. The 100 edition of AlpsInsight asks, what opportunities and perspectives women have in Alpine regions. Often they care for social life in villages. Rarely, they lead municipalities, companies or organisations. Are they closer to nature? Do they act more consistent with diversity and the aims of sustainable development? The printed magazine is available free of cost in German, French, Italian and Slovene. Write [international@cipra.org](mailto:international@cipra.org) or to download on CIPRA's [website](#).



## Upcoming events

The list contains events organized in the framework of the Alpine Convention, as well as by Partners. Please bear in mind that this list may not be exhaustive.

### October

Wednesday, 30 Sept Thursday, 1 Oct	Econet Platform meeting	Bled, Slovenia
Wednesday, 7 Oct Thursday, 8 Oct	RSA 6 Expert group meeting	Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
Wednesday, 7 Oct Thursday, 8 Oct	Bavarian forum on land saving	Bad Reichenhall, Germany
Thursday, 8 Oct Friday, 9 Oct	EUSALP Steering Committee meeting	Milano, Italy
Tuesday, 6 Oct Friday, 9 Oct	Innsbruck Nature Film Festival	Innsbruck, Austria
Tuesday, 13 Oct Wednesday, 14 Oct	PLANALP meeting and Conference: Schutzsysteme gegen Naturgefahren - dauerhaft fit durch Systems engineering	Munich, Germany
Thursday, 15 Oct Friday, 16 Oct	59. Permanent Committee meeting	Berchtesgaden, Germany
Tuesday, 20 Oct	Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck	Innsbruck, Austria
Friday, 23 Oct Saturday, 24 Oct	Alpine Town of the Year, General Assembly meeting and discussions on the topic of Sustainable tours	Trento, Italy
Thursday, 29 Oct Friday, 30 Oct	Climate protection now! Alpine communities implement	Benediktbeuern, Germany

### November

Monday, 16 Nov Tuesday, 17 Nov	MAP Working Group meeting	Berlin, Germany
Monday, 23 Nov	Working Group on Sustainable Tourism meeting	Innsbruck, Austria

### December

Monday, 30 Nov Friday, 11 Dec	United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris	Paris, France
Wednesday, 9 Dec	Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck	Innsbruck, Austria
Thursday, 10 Dec	Poetry Slap, International Mountain Day celebration	Innsbruck, Austria
<b>FRIDAY, 11 DEC</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY: READING MOUNTAINS EVENTS</b>	<b>ACROSS THE ALPS</b>
Tuesday, 15 Dec Wednesday, 16 Dec	Compliance Committee	Benediktbeuern, Germany

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