

**MINUTES OF DECISIONS
OF THE X MEETING OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE
EVIAN, 12 MARCH 2009**

Item 1 Approval of the agenda

The Alpine Conference approved the agenda.

Item 2 Decision as to authorities

The Alpine Conference stated that the representatives of the Contracting Parties possessed the required authorities.

Item 3 Admission of Observers

The Alpine Conference stated that the present organisations were admitted as Observers and acknowledged with interest the declaration of the Observers on the future of the Alpine Convention¹.

Item 4 Current state of ratification

The depositary reported no new ratifications. The Alpine Conference welcomed the ongoing ratification of the Traffic Protocol by the European Community. Moreover, the Alpine Conference invited the signatory states to ratify the protocols.

¹ See Enclosure 1: Declaration of the Observers on the Future of the Alpine Convention

Item A1 Half-time review of the Multi-Annual Working Programme of the Alpine Conference (2005-2010)

The Alpine Conference

1) Acknowledged the report² by the Permanent Secretariat and thanked the Permanent Secretariat for its further support in the implementation of the Multi-Annual Working Programme of the Alpine Conference for the years from 2005 to 2010 subject to the decisions made by the X Alpine Conference in Evian,

2) Decided to continue the revision of the Multi-Annual Working programme of the Alpine Conference with the support of an expert group presided over by Switzerland and requested the Permanent Secretariat to present in coordination with the Slovene Presidency and Switzerland a proposal for the preparation process in time for the 41st session of the Permanent Committee.

Item A2 2007/2008 balance sheet and 2009/2010 budget of the Permanent Secretariat

The Alpine Conference

1) acknowledged the report³ by the Secretary General and discharged him from liability for the 2007/2008 budget period,

2) approved the proposed 2009/2010⁴ budget with contributions by the Contracting Parties with a total sum of 861,827.20 Euros for 2009 and 874,754.61 Euros for 2010,

3) laid down that this decision did not anticipate the decisions on mandatory contributions by the Contracting Parties for the years after 2010,

² See Enclosure 2: Document PC40/5

³ See Enclosure 3: Document AC X/A2

⁴ See Enclosure 4: Document AC X/A2/3

4) acknowledged the financial conduct of the Secretary General, who was responsible for budget administration in the 2005 and 2006 budget period.

Item A3 Changes to the Staff Rules and the Financial and Accounting Rules of the Permanent Secretariat

The Alpine Conference

1) Approved the Financial and Accounting Rules of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention in the Enclosure⁵,

2) Asked the Permanent Secretariat to proceed with its work on the Staff Rules with the Contracting Parties by means of written procedure for approval at the next session of the Permanent Secretariat.

Item A4 Mode of operation of the Protected Areas Task Force of the Permanent Secretariat

The Alpine Conference asked France to proceed with its work on the definite legal status of the Task Force until the XI Alpine Conference by consulting all involved parties, especially the financiers, Contracting Parties and project partners, the Permanent Secretariat, the Task Force, and the President of the international Steering Committee of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, with a view to a proposal to the Permanent Committee for the decision-making of the XI Alpine Conference.

Item A5 Activities of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas

The Alpine Conference

1) Acknowledged the 2007/2008⁶ activity report by the Alpine Network of Protected Areas,

⁵ See Enclosure 5: Document AC X/A3/2

⁶ See Enclosure 6: Document AC X/A5

2) Approved of the Working Programme 2009/2010⁷ of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas,

3) Acknowledged the 2007/2008 financial report and the 2009/2010⁸ budget of the Protected Areas Task Force.

Item A6 Large Carnivores and Wild Ungulates

The Alpine Conference

1) Established the Platform “Large Carnivores”, whose mode of operation and frequency of meetings were laid down in the mandate in the Enclosure⁹,

2) Entrusted Liechtenstein with the Presidency over the “Large Carnivores” Platform until the XI Alpine Conference.

Item A7 System for the Observation of and Information on the Alps (SOIA)

The Alpine Conference

1) Acknowledged the Permanent Secretariat’s report¹⁰ on the System for the Observation of and Information on the Alps,

2) Requested the SOIA Working Group to actively participate in the further development of SOIA by the Permanent Secretariat, especially concerning:

- the development and implementation of the research agenda of the Multi-Annual Working Programme of the Alpine Conference,
- the integration of the Alpine Convention within the framework of European environmental observation, and asked the Working Group to present to the Permanent Committee concrete proposals on how to perform integration into the SEIS,

⁷ See Enclosure 7: Document AC X/A5/2

⁸ See Enclosure 8: Document AC X/A5/3

⁹ See Enclosure 9: Document AC X/A6

¹⁰ See Enclosure 10: Document PC40/9

3) Entrusted the Permanent Secretariat with the coordination of the “SOIA” Working Group until the XI Alpine Conference.

Item A8 Research agenda of the Multi-Annual Working Programme of the Alpine Convention (2005-2010)

The Alpine Conference acknowledged the report by ISCAR.

Item A9 First Conference of Regions within the framework of the Alpine Convention

The Alpine Conference acknowledged the report on the first Conference of Regions within the framework of the Alpine Convention and encouraged the regions to further develop this initiative in coordination with the follow-up presidencies.

**Item B1 Report by the Secretary General
(including “International Mountain Partnerships”)**

The Alpine Conference acknowledged the report by the Secretary General and thanked him for his work.

International Mountain Partnerships

The Alpine Conference

1) Approvingly acknowledged the report¹¹ by the Permanent Secretariat,

2) Welcomed the further development of the Mountain Partnerships in the regions cooperating with the Alpine Convention,

3) Asked the Contracting Parties and Observers to continue to support Mountain Partnerships in the regions cooperating with the Alpine Convention in terms of content and funding as far as they are able through common activities and individual contributions.

¹¹ See Enclosure 11: Document PC40/11

**Item B2 Report on the Reviewing Procedure and exchange of opinions as to
the Implementation of the Alpine Convention**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Approved the report by the Compliance Committee on the current state of compliance with the Alpine Convention and its Implementation Protocols (Enclosure 1)¹²,

- 2) Acknowledged the recommendations to the Contracting Parties (Enclosure 2)¹³ following from this report and requested the Contracting Parties to take the measures necessary for their implementation,

- 3) Asked the single Contracting Parties to submit to the Permanent Secretariat within the framework of the new Reviewing Procedure a completed and/or updated national report by 1 September 2009 in all Official Languages of the Alpine Convention,

- 4) Asked the Compliance Committee to set new common priorities in the next Reviewing Procedure, giving special consideration to the shortcomings which it had pointed out in the course of the first Reviewing Procedure;
If necessary, to make use of the possibilities mentioned in Article 3.1.3 of Decision VII/4 of the Alpine Conference, with the support of experts, and to develop an according procedure,

- 5) Asked the Contracting Parties to report on their performed activities related to the "Population and Culture" Declaration and to use in so doing the standardised structure (Enclosure 3)¹⁴ devised for this purpose.

¹² See Enclosure 12: Document AC X/B2/1

¹³ See Enclosure 13: Document AC X/B2/2

¹⁴ See Enclosure 14: Document AC X/B2/3

Germany pointed out that determined support for the implementation of the recommendations by the Compliance Committee was in order.

Item B3 Reports by the Working Groups and Platforms in the fields of Transport, UNESCO World Heritage, Ecological Network, and Natural Hazards

Working Group “Transport”

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Thanked the “Transport” Working Group for its work and gave special thanks to Marie Line Meaux for her committed presidency,
- 2) Approved the mandate¹⁵ of the Working Group “Transport” until the XI Alpine Conference,
- 3) Expected that the surveys conducted by the Working Group be supported by the Contracting Parties, especially in terms of funds within their means.

Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage”

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Acknowledged the report¹⁶ by the “UNESCO World Heritage” Working Group,
- 2) Adopted the recommendations (Enclosure 4)¹⁷ prepared by the “UNESCO World Heritage” Working Group over the first two years of activity and acknowledged the gathered and compiled documentation (Enclosures 1, 2, and 3)¹⁸,

¹⁵ See Enclosure 15: Document PC40/13/1

¹⁶ See Enclosure 16: Document PC40/14

¹⁷ See Enclosure 17: Document PC40/14/4

¹⁸ See Enclosure 18: Document PC40/14/1-3

3) Renewed the mandate of the Working Group until the XI Alpine Conference and asked them to pursue the following goals especially:

a) contribution to the harmonisation of the lists of proposals by means of the further development of the method used by the Working Group for the reviewing of the topics formulated in the course of the first mandate, also on the basis of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention guidelines, with regard to serial transnational and/or transboundary nominations,

b) identification of universal Alpine values on a technical-scientific basis considering the UNESCO World Heritage Convention guidelines,

c) support and development of proposals for nominations of transboundary and serial transnational sites in the Alpine Space, also by being ready to organise international seminars on topics and problem areas that are crucial to the Alpine space,

d) publication of the duly approved documentation of the Working Group via the website of the Alpine Convention and pertinent publications,

e) exchange of the experiences of the Working Group with the responsible national administrations and the main international regions cooperating with the Alpine Convention,

f) explanation of the results of the “UNESCO World Heritage” Working Group and the compiled documentation to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on the part of the Permanent Secretariat, the presidency of the Working Group, and the respective delegations of the Contracting States,

4) Thanked the members of the “UNESCO World Heritage” Working Group and the Italian presidency for their work.

Platform “Ecological Network”

The Alpine Conference

1) Acknowledged the 2007/2008 progress report¹⁹ by the “Ecological Network” Platform presented under the presidency of Germany in the Enclosure and thanked the platform for their work,

2) Extended the mandate of the “Ecological Network” Platform adopted in 2006 by the IX Alpine Conference until the XI Alpine Conference, with the following working priorities:

- continuation of the existing catalogue of measures for the implementation of the Ecological Network;

- identification of indicators for success control in the implementation of the Ecological Network;

- selection of pilot regions;

- ascertainment of possible further sources of funding for measures for the implementation of the Ecological Network, and identification and, if necessary, elaboration of proposals for joint projects within the Platform;

- implementation of the communication strategy of the Platform (within the framework of the communication strategy of the Permanent Secretariat) and continuation of the website as well as compilation of an appropriate documentation on the Ecological Network (if possible in the “Alpine Signals” series);

- The platform would present a proposal as to its structure and constitution which would be approved by the Permanent Committee;

¹⁹ See Enclosure 19: Document PC40/15

- selection of a Contracting State for the Platform presidency following that of France from 2011 onwards;

- in cooperation with SOIA, coordination of various initiatives in the field of data management (EU, ECONNECT, Ecological Continuum Project, etc.), e.g. organising a workshop for exchange of experiences;

- continuation of exchange and cooperation with various projects, relevant initiatives of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, and of the Carpathian Convention and the CBD;

- making the most of the 2010 UN Year of Biodiversity in order to draw more attention to the activities promoting the Ecological Network in the Alps (e.g. by means of participating in conferences and events);

- further support in the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions with the CBD;

3) Instructed the Permanent Committee and the “Ecological Network” Platform to continue their work in accordance with the adopted mandate and to report on it to the XI Alpine Conference,

4) Entrusted France with the presidency of the “Ecological Network” Platform for the period from 2009 to 2011.

Platform “Natural Hazards”

The Alpine Conference

1) Acknowledged the 2007/2008 progress report presented by the “Natural Hazards” Platform (PLANALP) (Enclosure 1)²⁰,

²⁰ See Enclosure 20: Document PC38/9/1

2) Acknowledged the hotspot papers and conclusions (Enclosure 2)²¹ compiled by the “Natural Hazards” Platform (PLANALP) in the 2007/2008 period and requested the Contracting Parties to implement them,

3) Acknowledged the recommendations for the local level (Enclosure 3)²² and requested the Contracting Parties to support their implementation at the local level,

4) Extended the mandate of the “Natural Hazards” Platform (PLANALP) adopted in 2006 by the IX Alpine Conference with the following working priorities until the XI Alpine Conference:

- strategic concepts for dealing with natural hazards
- evaluation of concepts for integrated risk management in protecting against natural hazards
- devising and implementing recommendations for the following areas:

- residual risk from natural hazards
- climate change
- risk dialogue
- spatial planning

5) Entrusted Switzerland with the continued presidency of the “Natural Hazards” Platform (PALNALP) until the XI Alpine Conference.

Item B4 Implementation of the “Population and Culture” declaration

The Alpine Conference

1) Acknowledged the report²³ by Italy and thanked Italy for its work,

²¹ See Enclosure 21: Document PC38/9/2

²² See Enclosure 22: Document PC38/9/3

²³ See Enclosure 23: Document AC X/B4

2) Decided to establish a Working Group presided over by Italy to work on regional development factors for better handling of demographic change in the Alpine Space (employment, innovation, brain drain). In doing so, the Conference was conscious that it is important to discuss topics that are of public concern, and aware of global economic and financial problems which would affect especially weaker regional economies.

3) Instructed Italy to elaborate for this purpose the mandate of this Working Group in consultation with the Contracting Parties and to present it to the Permanent Committee for approval at its 41st session.

Item B5 Second Report on the State of the Alps on the subject of water, establishment of the Water Platform, and selection of the subject of the third Report on the State of the Alps

Second Report on the State of the Alps

The Alpine Conference

1) Thanked the Ad-hoc Expert Group for their work and the results achieved,

2) Appropriately acknowledged the results of the Water Conference in Munich on 30 and 31 October 2008,

3) Adopted the second Report on the State of the Alps, titled “Water and Water Management Issues”²⁴.

²⁴ See Enclosure 24: Documents AC X/B5/EN-long, AC X/B5/EN-short, AC X/B5/DE-short, AC X/B5/FR-short, AC X/B5/IT-short, AC X/B5/SL-short

Platform “Water Management in the Alpine Space”

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Acknowledged the report²⁵ by the Permanent Secretariat and the presidency of the Ad-hoc Expert Group,
- 2) Established a Platform named “Water Management in the Alpine Space”, constituted as specified in Enclosure 1²⁶ and with the mandate described in enclosure 2²⁷, which would be valid until the XI Alpine Conference,
- 3) Entrusted Austria and Switzerland with the presidency of the “Water Management in the Alps” Platform until the XI Alpine Conference,
- 4) Acknowledged Italy’s readiness to organise a Water Conference in 2010 for the presentation of the work of this Platform.

Subject of the third Report on the State of the Alps

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Fixed “Sustainable Rural Development and Innovation” as the subject of the third Report on the State of the Alps and asked the Slovene Presidency to fix the sub-topics, giving special attention to the important energy issue in relation to climate change.
- 2) Asked the Permanent Secretariat upon consultation with the Presidency of the Alpine Conference to coordinate the elaboration of the third contribution to the Report on the State of the Alps, accompanied by an Ad-hoc Expert Group presided over by France, with the involvement of the Focal Points of the Contracting Parties on the one hand and the main groups of reference of science, of the Observers, and of other interested

²⁵ See Enclosure 25: Document PC40/12a bis

²⁶ See Enclosure 25: Document PC40/12a bis/1

²⁷ See Enclosure 25: Document PC40/12a bis/2

institutions on the other hand, and to present it to the XI Alpine Conference in the year 2011.

Item B6 Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps

The Contracting Parties of the Alpine Conference at their meeting in Evian on 12 March 2009 in accordance with the related decision of the IX Alpine Conference in Alpbach adopted the Action Plan²⁸, which aims at making the Alps an exemplary region for combating and adapting to climate change, and bind themselves to pursue its implementation by means of concrete measures and to provide the necessary funds for this purpose.

Recognising the facts that curbing the effects of climate change requires immediate action, and that joint action of the Contracting Parties of the Alpine Convention leads to added value, they consensually decided:

1) to implement joint projects within the spatial scope of the Alpine Convention for the concentrated application of the measures contained in the Action Plan, with the support of the structures of the Alpine Convention and its Working Groups, especially

- to document the effects of climate change on natural hazards in the Alpine Space, with the support of the “Natural Hazards” Platform PLANALP,

- to develop guidelines for the monitoring of the Alpine mountain forests exposed to climate change

- to identify tourist companies offering “low-carbon” products in terms of travel and stay, disseminate good practices, and recognise the best projects implemented by means of Ad-hoc initiatives (such as the Award for Sustainable Alpine Tourism, the CIPRA Award, the Pro Natura – Pro Ski Award),

²⁸ See Enclosure 28: Document AC X/B6

- to implement an ecological network in the Alps for the facilitation of the migration of animal and plant life, based especially on the work of the "Ecological Network" Platform,

- to develop guidelines for the construction, optimisation or reconditioning of small hydroelectric power stations saving aquatic life and biodiversity,

- to implement projects in the field of ecological construction, make them known, and if necessary adapt respective existing regulations;

2) to request the Ministers of the "Group of Zurich", who are examining various methods of regulating Alp-crossing goods transit, for example by means of an Alpine Crossing Exchange, to give urgent attention to the implementation of means of curbing greenhouse emissions in order to ameliorate climate change

and for this purpose to organise as quickly as possible exchange of information between the two institutions,

3) to request the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention:

a) to establish an internet site on which relevant and up-to-date information on climate change can be collected and with the help of solutions can be exchanged so that the population and local decision makers in the Alpine Space can be closely involved in the implementation of the Action Plan,

b) periodically to adapt the implementation of the Action Plan as appropriate.

4) to perform a first evaluation of the implementation of the Action Plan on the occasion of the next Alpine Conference in order to apply any necessary adaptations,

5) to conduct a survey in order to explore how the Alps can be made climate neutral by 2050.

Item 5 Presidency of the Alpine Conference for the 2009-2011 period

The Alpine Conference entrusts Slovenia with the Presidency of the Alpine Conference for the period from 2009 to 2011 and thanks France for the work done in the course of its Presidency.

Item 6 Approval of the Minutes of Decisions

The Alpine Conference approves the preliminary Minutes of Decisions and forwards them to the Permanent Committee for the approval of the final version.

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