



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE IN PROSTOR

11th Alpine Conference
8-9 March 2011, Brdo pri Kranju

MINUTES OF DECISIONS

Item 1 Approving the agenda

The Alpine Conference approved the agenda.

Item 2 Decision on authority

The Alpine Conference ascertained that the representatives of the Contracting Parties were furnished with the full powers required.

Item 3 Admission of Observers

The Alpine Conference stated that the organisations present were admitted as observers.

Item 4 Current state of ratification

The Alpine Conference acknowledged the report of the Depositary.

**Item 5 Reports from the Contracting Parties on implementing
the Alpine Convention**

The Alpine Conference acknowledged the progress reports from the Contracting parties about implementing the Alpine Convention.

Points A in the agenda (adopted without debate)

Item A1 Reviewing procedure

The Alpine Conference

1. approved the report from the Compliance Committee on the current state of compliance with the Alpine Convention and its Implementation Protocols¹,
2. upheld the recommendations² made to the Contracting Parties at the time of the 10th Alpine Conference and asked the Contracting Parties to bolster the measures necessary for their implementation,
3. asked the Compliance Committee to revise the reviewing procedure on the basis of Decision VII/4 of the Alpine Conference considering the experience gained from the first and second reviewing procedure, also taking account of the contents of the Enclosure³, and to present the results for a decision to be made at the 12th Alpine Conference,
4. approved the report of the Compliance Committee on implementing the “Population and Culture” Declaration adopted by the 9th Alpine Conference⁴,
5. asked the Contracting Parties and the Observers to illustrate the contents of the “Population and Culture” Declaration to the representatives of politics and the

¹ See Enclosure 1 – document AC11/A1/1

² See Enclosure 2 – document AC11/A1/2

³ See Enclosure 3 – document AC11/A1/3

⁴ See Enclosure 4 – document AC11/A1/4

economy, and also to the local populations, and to explore the issues by means of joint activities,

6. asked the Permanent Committee to prepare a draft decision of the possible need to draw up a Protocol regarding "Population and Culture" for presenting at the 12th Alpine Conference.

Item A2 Operations by the Alpine Network of Protected Areas

The Alpine Conference approved the 2011-2012 Working Programme of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas⁵.

Item A3 Extension to the Secretary General's mandate

In compliance with the Charter of the Permanent Secretariat (Annex II, Article 3), the mandate of the Secretary General was extended for a further two years.

Item A4 International mountain partnerships

The Alpine Conference

1. acknowledged the report of the Permanent Secretariat about the evolution in international mountain partnerships in the Alpine Convention⁶,
2. decided to continue with the existing international mountain partnerships with the areas of cooperation of the Alpine Convention by means of shared activities and individual contributions by the Contracting Parties and the Observers,

⁵ See Enclosure 5 – document AC11/A2

⁶ See Enclosure 6 – document AC11/A4

3. asked the Contracting Parties and the Observers, each within their own abilities, to ensure the continuation of the international mountain partnership activities, providing sufficient contributions in terms of content and funding,
4. expressed its favourable opinion to including the international mountain partnerships in the foundation document and in the strategic action plan of the 2011-2016 multiannual Alpine Convention Programme.

Item A5 Working Group: “Transport”

The Alpine Conference

1. thanked the “Transport” Working Group for its efforts,
2. approved the mandate⁷ of the “Transport” Working Group until the 12th Alpine Conference,
3. expressed its trust that the work performed by the “Transport” Working Group during its mandate will be firmly supported by the Contracting Parties, especially in terms of funding to the extent of their means.

Item A6 Working Group: “UNESCO World Heritage”

The Alpine Conference

1. acknowledged the report by the UNESCO World Heritage Working Group⁸,
2. also acknowledged the further documentation⁹ produced by the “UNESCO World Heritage” Working Group (the results from the two workshops of experts in Berne

⁷ See Enclosure 7 – document AC11/A5/1

⁸ See Enclosure 8 – document PC45/B8

⁹ See Enclosure 9 – documents PC45/B8/1-7

and Trieste, preliminary document on the universally exceptional values of the Alps, update of the survey “Alpine Sites and UNESCO World Heritage”),

3. renewed the mandate of the “UNESCO World Heritage” Working Group until the 12th Alpine Conference, placing particular importance on:

- the contribution to harmonising the lists of proposals, applying the methods already developed by the WG and the results achieved to the present time, by means of investigating the information on potential serial transnational and/or transboundary sites and organising workshops of experts to assess the potentially exceptional universal value of the issues identified. The aim of this investigation is to focus on how the sites analysed meet the criteria of the World Heritage Committee, the comparative studies, the possible synergies between the issues and the relations between the sites,
- a further consequent developing of the survey, starting from the preliminary document, and defining of exceptional universal values in the Alps from a technical-scientific point of view,
- the resulting facilitation (under the coordination of the Parties and with the involvement of the territorial organisations and the local communities) of the exchange of experiences at sites already registered and about the development of proposals for potential serial transnational and/or transboundary candidacies in the Alps, with the support of the scientific institutions where necessary, applying the knowledge and experience developed by the WG,
- examining the possibility to use the UNESCO Convention for Protecting the intangible Cultural Heritage and of applying other UNESCO systems for extending awareness and maximising specific sites and activities in the Alps, such as mountaineering,
- communicating and publishing the results and exchanging knowledge, at national level, with other bodies in the Alpine Convention, particularly the Working Groups and Platforms, and technical bodies of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention,

4. asked the Contracting Parties and the observers to ensure their active participation in the operations of the “UNESCO World Heritage” Working Group.

Item A7 Working Group: “Demographics and Employment”

The Alpine Conference

1. acknowledged the interim report¹⁰ of the “Demographics and Employment” Working Group focused on regional development factors for improved management of the changing demographics of the Alps,
2. aware of the importance that the socio-economic aspects have for viably managing development in the Alpine territories and of the difficulties found in amassing data, tasked the Working Group to continue its activities under the same remit previously given and in harmony with the new Multiannual Working Programme until the 12th Alpine Conference, in order to complete the work of assessing and analysing regional development factors directly related to maximising territorial potential for socio-economic growth, producing a final report to be delivered to the 12th Alpine Conference. To this end, the WG shall continue its profitable exchange of information with the partners in the main territorial projects on these aspects,
3. thanked Italy for the extensive effort put into coordinating the activities of the Working Group, renewing its Presidency until the 12th Alpine Conference.

¹⁰ See Enclosure 10 – document ACXI/A7/1

Item A8 Platform: “Ecological Network”

The Alpine Conference

1. acknowledged the report¹¹ on the activities in 2009/2011 by the “Ecological Network” Platform under the presidency of France and thanked the members of the Platform for their work,
2. extended the mandate of the “Ecological Network” Platform until the 12th Alpine Conference. This mandate will be the same as the multiannual programme of the Alpine Convention (2011-2016) and will include the following working issues:

New implementation activities

- Based on the work done for the previous projects, analyse the linking/diverging elements between the national/international ecological networks in order to boost transboundary and interregional cooperation,
- support the implementing of the Alpine Convention’s climate action plan by, for instance, reinforcing the role of the ecological networks as part of the strategies for adaptation to climate change in collaboration with other Platforms and Working Groups,
- encourage the practical application of the activities regarding issues selected from those considered of priority for the research project “50 questions for targeting research into ecological connectivity in the Alps”,

Continuation of works

- Support and attentively follow the activities of the Pilot Regions in order to guarantee an exchange of experiences and knowledge between the new pilot regions and those already established, and inform the Permanent Committee and the Alpine Conference

¹¹ See Enclosure 11 – document AC11/A8

on the results achieved. Ensure that the experience and the good practices of the Pilot Regions are known/easily accessible to the widest number of subjects possible,

- contribute to improving and updating the catalogue of measures for good practices in support of the European Commission's "Green Infrastructures" strategy and also as a means for monitoring the Alpine ecological network,
 - assure constant exchange and cooperation with other projects, initiatives and conventions (European Union, Council of Europe, Carpathian Convention, CBD etc.), particularly as regards the *Cooperation Memorandum* signed with the Carpathian Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),
 - continue the work of developing the indicators for evaluating the activities supporting ecological connectivity in the Alps under the guidance of the Italian delegates to the Platform,
3. asked the Contracting Parties to the Alpine Convention to propose new pilot regions,
 4. asked the "Ecological Network" Platform to continue its work according to the mandate and to report on this work to the 12th Alpine Conference,
 5. entrusted Germany with the presidency of the "Ecological Network" Platform for the 2011-2013 period.

Item A9 Platform: "Natural Hazards"

The Alpine Conference

1. acknowledged the progress report presented by the "Natural Hazards" Platform (PLANALP)¹²,

¹² See Enclosure 12 – document AC11/A9/1

2. acknowledged the report on adapting to climate change presented by the “Natural Hazards” Platform (PLANALP)¹³,
3. extended the mandate of the “Natural Hazards” Platform (PLANALP) approved at the 10th Alpine Conference in Evian in March 2009, prioritising the following aspects:
 - evaluation of the projects for integrated risk management in protecting against natural hazards
 - devising and implementing recommendations in the following areas:
 - adapting the strategies against safety risks and natural hazards to climate changes
 - economising the protection programmes
4. entrusted Switzerland with the presidency of the “Natural Hazards” Platform (PLANALP) until the 12th Alpine Conference.

Points B in the agenda (points for debate)

Item B1 Report from the Slovene Presidency (Activities from March 2009 to March 2011)

The Alpine Conference acknowledged the Progress Report of the Presidency on actions by the Alpine Conference and its bodies in the two years 2009-2011¹⁴.

Item B2 Report from the Secretary General

The Alpine Conference acknowledged the report from the Secretary General¹⁵.

¹³ See Enclosure 13 – document AC11/A9/2

¹⁴ See Enclosure 14 – document AC11/B1

¹⁵ See Enclosure 15 – document PC45/B2

Item B3 Future of the Alpine Convention and debate about a European strategy for the Alps

The Alpine Conference

1. in view of the objectives of the EU Treaty for territorial cohesion, is in favour of the current debate on the future European strategies and decided to make its own contribution to a possible strategy for an Alpine macro-region,
2. emphasised the fact that the long-term framework and juridical and political function of the Alpine Convention fully fits with the objectives and policies of the EU and that it is characterised by:
 - a broad area of application which takes in the aspects of preservation and development, helps to ensure an integrated approach and stimulates innovation
 - a clear geographic extension, based on the specific features of the Alpine territory and on its shared challenges
 - the extensive use of transnational cooperation, in response to the mutual needs and resources of the mountain territories
3. in order to further increase the contribution of the Alpine Convention to the debate on a possible future European strategy for the Alpine area, has established a Working Group, presided over by Slovenia, Switzerland and Italy,
4. asked the Permanent Committee to approve the mandate of this Working Group in its 46th session,
5. approved the enclosed declaration¹⁶,
6. acknowledged and expressed satisfaction for the creation of the Network of Alpine Regions and expressed the wish that, in the future, this network works closely with the bodies in the Alpine Convention.

¹⁶ See Enclosure 16 – document AC11/B3/1

Item B4 Multiannual Programme of the Alpine Convention (2011-2016)

The Alpine Conference

1. approved the multiannual programme of the Alpine Convention for the period 2011-2016 consisting of the foundation document¹⁷ and a strategic action plan¹⁸, which will be integrated on the basis of point 3,
2. asked members of the Alpine Convention to actively cooperate for achieving the objectives of the multiannual programme,
3. asked the presidents of the Working Groups and the Platforms to send their contributions to the strategic action plan by the end of April 2011 and, thereafter, on a regular basis to the Permanent Secretariat which shall generally coordinate the action plan.

Item B5 Implementing the Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps

The Alpine Conference

1. acknowledged the report of the Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat¹⁹ and confirmed the activities anticipated for implementing the Action Plan on climate change in the Alps until the 12th Alpine Conference and also encouraged the continuation, in the Alpine territory, of implementing the action plan relating to mitigation and adaptation points,
2. asked the Contracting Parties to reach a joint definition of climate neutrality, based on the alternatives stated in the aforementioned report,

¹⁷ See Enclosure 17 – document AC11/B4/1

¹⁸ See Enclosure 18 – document AC11/B4/2

¹⁹ See Enclosure 19 – document AC11/B5

3. asked the Contracting Parties to combine forces to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to apply the potential for neutralising them in the Alpine territories to as broad an extent as possible, in the various sectors, taking into consideration the national policies for mitigation and the regional and local initiatives adopted in the Alpine territory,
4. acknowledged the fact that some Contracting Parties are involved in the proposed ALPSTAR project for making the Alps into a neutral climate region by 2050, presented as part of the Alpine Space programme,
5. thanked Liechtenstein for having organised the international competition on sustainable “green architecture” in the Alps.

Item B6 a) Third Report on the State of the Alps regarding sustainable rural development and innovation

The Alpine Conference

1. acknowledged the report from France, the Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention²⁰,
2. approved the third Report²¹ on the state of the Alps “Sustainable Rural Development and Innovation”, with its conclusions and the challenges identified.

b) Choosing the object of the fourth contribution to the Report on the State of the Alps

The Alpine Conference

²⁰ See Enclosure 20 – document AC11/B6a

²¹ See Enclosure 21 – document AC11/B6a/short/en/fin and PC45/B6a/long/en/fin

1. established that “Sustainable Tourism” will be the theme of the fourth Report on the State of the Alps,
2. asked the Permanent Secretariat to coordinate drafting the fourth Report on the State of the Alps in agreement with the Swiss Presidency of the Alpine Conference, accompanied by an ad-hoc group of experts presided over by France, involving the representatives of the Contracting Parties and the main scientific contacts, the observers and other institutions concerned,
3. asked the subjects in Point 2 to present, at the next meeting of the Permanent Committee, the structure of this Report and a timescale for its preparation.

Item B7 Platform: “Large Carnivores and Wild Ungulates”, guidelines

The Alpine Conference²²

1. acknowledged the report²³ on the activities of the Presidency of the “Large Carnivores and Wild Ungulates” Platform,
2. supported a multi-sector, global and transboundary approach to wildlife and society and decided to change the name of the Platform from “Large Carnivores and Wild Ungulates” to “Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society” (wildlife and society - WISO),
3. acknowledged the guidelines²⁴ elaborated by the Platform as a basis for the development of transboundary projects,
4. entrusted Switzerland with the Presidency of the Platform until the 12th Alpine Conference,

²² Regarding Germany and Italy’s assent to this decision, they refer to the declaration enclosed with the minutes of the 45th Permanent Committee on this matter.

²³ See Enclosure 22 – document AC11/B7

²⁴ See Enclosure 23 – document AC11/B7/2

5. requested the Platform to particularly investigate the following areas for action:
 - development of an Alpine programme for monitoring large carnivores
 - a census of the population and distribution of ibex
 - exchange of programmes for dissemination of information and knowledge, and also for improving knowledge of society about relations between wildlife and society.

Item B8 Platform: “Water management in the Alpine Space”, common guidelines for using the small hydroelectric power station in the Alpine region

The Alpine Conference

1. approved the documents prepared in the 2009-2011 period²⁵ and decided in favour of implementing the guidelines,
2. approved the mandate for the 2011-2012 period²⁶.

Item B9 Mountain Agriculture in the Alps

The Alpine Conference

1. established a “Mountain Agriculture” Platform presided over by Austria,
2. asked the Permanent Committee to define the mandate of this Platform at its next meeting.

²⁵ See Enclosure 24 – documents AC11/B8/1, AC11/B8/2/en, including the enclosures and AC11/B8/3

²⁶ See Enclosure 25 – document AC11/B8/4

Item 6 Presidency of the Alpine Conference for the 2011-2012 period

The Alpine Conference entrusts Switzerland with the Presidency of the Alpine Conference for the period from 2011 to 2012 and thanked Slovenia for the work done in the course of its Presidency.

Item 7 Information on the first Dinaric conference

The Alpine Conference

1. was pleased to accept the initiative to hold the first Conference of the Dinaric Arc Region during the 11th Alpine Conference,
2. acknowledged the resolution²⁷ for the protection and sustainable development of the Dinaric mountain chain adopted by the Conference, which paves the way to reinforcing cooperation for sustainable development in the mountain territories,
3. expressed its support to this scheme and asked the Contracting Parties and the Permanent Secretariat to further promote this cooperation.

Item 8 Approval of the Minutes of Decisions

The Alpine Conference approved the preliminary Minutes of Decisions and shall forward them to the Permanent Committee for the approval of the final version.

²⁷ See Enclosure 26 – document “Resolution on the Sustainable Development of the Dinaric Arc Region”

List of Enclosures

- Encl. 1 Report of the Compliance Committee to the 11th Alpine Conference on the current state of compliance with the Alpine Convention and its implementation Protocols – document AC11/A1/1
- Encl. 2 Recommendations by the Compliance Committee to the Contracting Parties, adopted by the 10th Alpine Conference – document AC11/A1/2
- Encl. 3 Elements for revising the reviewing procedure – document AC11/A1/3
- Encl. 4 Report of the Compliance Committee to the 11th Alpine Conference on implementing the “Population and Culture” Declaration adopted by the 9th Alpine Conference – document AC11/A1/4
- Encl. 5 2011-2012 working programme of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas – document AC11/A2
- Encl. 6 Report of the Permanent Secretariat about the evolution in mountain partnerships of the Alpine Convention – document AC11/A4
- Encl. 7 Mandate of the “Transport” Working Group – document AC11/A5/1
- Encl. 8 Report by the “UNESCO World Heritage” Working Group – document PC45/B8
- Encl. 9 Documentation of the “UNESCO World Heritage” Working Group - documents PC45/B8/1-7
- Encl. 10 Interim report of the “Demographics and Employment” Working Group - document AC11/A7/1
- Encl. 11 Report on the activities in 2009/2011 by the “Ecological Network” Platform – document AC11/A8

- Encl. 12 Report on the activities in 2009/2010 by the “Natural Hazards” Platform – document AC11/A9/1
- Encl. 13 Report of the “Natural Hazards” Platform on adapting to climate changes – document AC11/A9/2
- Encl. 14 Progress report on the actions by the Presidency in the 2009-2011 period – document AC11/B1
- Encl. 15 Report from the Secretary General on activities in 2009-2011 – document PC45/B2
- Encl. 16 Declaration from the 11th Alpine Conference – document AC11/B3/1
- Encl. 17 Multiannual programme of the Alpine Convention for the 2011-2016 period, foundation document – document AC11/B4/1
- Encl. 18 Multiannual programme of the Alpine Convention for the 2011-2016 period, strategic action plan – document AC11/B4/2
- Encl. 19 Report on implementing the Action Plan on climate change in the Alps – document AC11/B5
- Encl. 20 Report on producing the Third Report on the State of the Alps – document AC11/B6a
- Encl. 21 Report of the State of the Alps: “Sustainable Rural Development and Innovation” – documents PC45/B6a/short/en/fin and PC45/B6a/long/en/fin
- Encl. 22 Progress report on the activities of the “Large Carnivores and Wild Ungulates” – document AC11/B7

- Encl. 23 Reference framework of the “Large Carnivores and Wild Ungulates” Platform – document AC11/B7/2

- Encl. 24 Documentation of the “Water management in the Alpine Space” Platform – documents AC11/B8/1, AC11/B8/2/en with enclosures AC11/B8/3

- Encl. 25 Mandate of the “Water Management in the Alpine Space” Platform – document AC11/B8/4

- Encl. 26 Resolution on the Sustainable Development of the Dinaric Arc Region