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PRESS RELEASE

XIIth Alpine Conference – POSCHIAVO (Switzerland)

7 September 2012

The XIIth Alpine Conference has just been concluded by its President, the Swiss Minister Doris Leuthard in presence of the Environment Ministers of Austria, Germany, Italy and Liechtenstein, of the representatives of France, Monaco, Slovenia and the European Union, and of the Observers of the Alpine Convention, associations or political actors, especially representing the regional and local levels of the Alpine territory. Beyond the high political discussions that confirmed the Alpine Convention as the core of the Alpine regional governance, important decisions for the future of the Alps have been taken on the following issues:

Energy

The Alpine Conference decided the creation of a platform on energy issues. It considers that the improvement of the international cooperation regarding energy issues is necessary, especially in the framework of the Action plan on climate change of the Alpine Convention and taking into account the current challenges in climate issues. This platform will dedicate its work to the reduction of energy consumption, and the production and use of renewable energy sources in the Alps.

Mountain forests

The Alpine Conference also decided the creation of a working group on mountain forests to improve the management of Alpine forests and reinforce their role to protect the territory, as carbon sink and to develop its economic value.

Sustainable tourism

The Alpine Conference confirmed that the issue of sustainable tourism was a priority, especially underlining the issues of territory consumption, cultural patrimony, climate change adaptation, and regional wellness.

Report on the state of the Alps on demographic changes

The Alpine conference decided to dedicate the next report on the state of the Alps to demographic changes because of the importance of this issue for the Alps, where many regions suffer from losses of population and have difficulties to maintain their population level.



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Macroregional strategy for the Alps

The Alpine Conference adopted a contribution to develop a potential macroregional strategy for the Alps. This document underlines the essential role of the Alpine Convention in this process. The Convention and its Protocols should indeed be the core of this future process.

Rio +20 Process

The Alpine Conference confirmed the commitment of the Alpine Convention in the Rio +20 Process as an exemplary area in the implementation of the guidelines of the final document *The future we want* (as for example green economy or the use of resources) thus participating to the creation of an international platform to defend the interests of mountain areas.

For further information:

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