

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE
AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON AIR QUALITY
FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE XV AND XVI MEETINGS OF
THE ALPINE CONFERENCE (April 2019 – December 2020)**

1. Overview of the mandate or relevant decision of the Alpine Conference

Summary of the main tasks according to the 2019-2020 mandate (for Working Groups) or decision ACXV/A6 of the XV Alpine Conference (for Boards)

The XVth Alpine Conference entrust the ad hoc Working Group with the task of drafting the eighth Report on the State of the Alps on the topic of air quality in the Alps. In particular, the Group was mandated to focus on the following aspects

- Establish precisely and objectively the state of air quality in the Alps and understand the complex underlying mechanisms;
- List relevant international, national and local regulations;
- Showcase Alpine local good practices;
- Formulate recommendations for public policies.

2. Meetings

Summary of the meetings (date, place, main topics and outcomes)

- **Paris, June 4-5th, 2019:** get together, agreement on main objectives, definition of the scope, of the draft structure and of the overall content for RSA 8.
- **Annecy, October 10-11st, 2019:** update of the draft structure, sharing of drafting tasks, decisions on data collection and analysis, presentation of local initiatives in the French Alps.
- **Innsbruck January 27-28th, 2020:** review of the comments and amendments of the first draft
- **Webconference May 7th 2020:** review the modifications to all available chapters of the draft report, remarks on the data analysis and request for further analyses to be carried out, discussion on the set of recommendations:

- **Webconference May 26th, 2020:** discussions and decisions on the set of recommendations and on the executive summary
- **Munich September 21-22nd:** inclusion in the report of the remarks from the ministerial consultation and approval of the text.

3. Activities carried out

Synthetic report on activities carried out (including outreach and communication activities)

As an *ad hoc* Working Group, the Group dedicated its work to the drafting of the Report in all its parts. Its members first consensually defined the approach to be taken towards the wide topic of air quality, the structure and the form of the report, as well as the pollutants and the indicators that were to be subject to the analysis. The members of the group shared the task of drafting the text: each delegation was responsible for drafting a chapter of the report. The data analysis was conducted by Ineris (the French National Institute for Industrial Environment and Risks) upon indications and supervision by the Group. All members of the Group contributed to the data collection activity, to the overview of national and regional regulations as well as to the selection of good practices on their territories to be showcased in the Report.

Each part of the text was then commonly discussed and amended in order to find consensus amongst all members. Particular attention was dedicated to the definition of the recommendations: based on the results of the analysis carried out and of the good practices selected, they target decision-makers in the Alps providing advise on the priorities, on the approach and on the strategies to tackle the issues related to air pollution in the Alpine region.

4. Results and outputs

Description of main results and outputs achieved

The RSA 8 was formally adopted in the September meeting of the Working Group after having consulted all the national ministries for feedback and additional inputs. The report opens with an executive summary which provides in a few pages an overview of the approach, of the topics covered and of the main conclusions. A second section of the text deals with the legislative framework for air quality at the European, national and regional level. The third section, more technical, covers the description of pollutants and the phenomena that lead to their creation and spread. This part also identifies the main sources

of pollutants in the Alps. The next section deals succinctly with the consequences that air quality can have on the health of people and ecosystems. The fifth chapter contains the data analysis: the Working Group has chosen to focus on the pollutants regulated at European level and to draw on data collected by the European Environment Agency in order to base its research on harmonized and official data. Several maps have been created describing both the status quo and trends in recent years regarding air quality in the Alps. The next part of the text deals with issues of relevance for the future, including high altitude pollution (with a contribution from the Virtual Alpine Observatory), biomass combustion and ultrafine particles. Chapter seven is dedicated to the good practices: they have been selected according to their relevance ensuring a fair geographical representation and they cover six areas: transport and mobility, wood combustion, heating/industry, ozone and Organic Volatile Compounds precursors, spatial planning, and mobility planning. The last part of the RSA 8 contains recommendations addressed to policy makers drafted on the basis of the analysis contained in the previous chapters.

5. Cooperation

Description of cooperation initiatives and activities with other Alpine Convention Thematic Working Bodies and other relevant bodies and processes (e.g. EUSALP)

Consultations with the Transport WG were carried out due to the overlapping topics.

6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to this report, such as papers proposed for approval by the XVI Alpine Conference (thematic reports, guidelines, statements etc.) and supporting documents (workshop proceedings, survey reports etc.).

- Final draft of the RSA 8 as approved by the ad hoc Working Group – *attached to the meeting document specifically dedicated to the RSA 8.*
- RSA 8 Presentation (July 2020)