

**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE
TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP
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 AC XV / A6 of the XV Alpine Conference (for Boards)

Based on its previous work, the Transport Working Group shall contribute to the achievement of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050, which sets out the following targets for 2050 in the field of transport:

- Tr1/ Modal shift of Alpine freight transit;
- Tr2/ Reduced car dependency (inner-Alpine and transalpine passenger transport);
- Tr3/ Reduced transport demand (passenger & freight);
- Tr4/ Decarbonised transport fleet.

The Transport Working Group shall also contribute to the proposed 8th Report on the State of the Alps (RSA 8) on Air Quality.

This encompasses following tasks:

1. Based on previous work by the Alpine Convention and other organisations, including studies on the internalisation of real costs and on innovative logistics solutions, draft a position paper to be considered at the XVI Alpine Conference on the **modal shift of Alpine freight transit** by 2050 (Transport Protocol art. 10 & 14, Climate Target Tr 1).
2. Collect and analyze good practices in **reducing transport demand** through transport saving spatial structures, new working solutions, pooling of shipments, regional distribution chains and changed mobility and behavioral patterns (Framework Convention art. 2 (2) j, Climate Target Tr 3).
3. Study the potential of existing and new **technologies for sustainable passenger transport** in the Alps, such as hydrogen-powered trains (Transport Protocol art. 9, Climate Target Tr 2).

4. Provide an alpine-wide overview of the **impacts of transport in the Alps on air quality** and the effectiveness of **impact mitigation measures** (Framework Convention art. 2 (2) c).

2. Meetings

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

Grenoble, 12-13 June 2019. During this meeting, the first steps to start the work on the mandate were taken. The tasks were divided amongst the members: task 1 "*modal shift of Alpine freight transit by 2050*" was assigned to Chair; task 2 "*reducing transport demand*" to CH and AT, task 3 "*technologies for sustainable passenger transport*" to DE and task 4 "*impacts of transport in the Alps on air quality*" to IT. The countries responsible for each task provided an overview of their approach, methodology and objectives. Each item was discussed commonly by the Group, providing guidance and inputs.

Paris, 22-23 November 2019. This meeting was the opportunity for each country to update the Group on the developments on their respective tasks, as well as to renew the requests for contributions and for inputs. The Chairman presented already the draft recommendations on the topic of modal shift of Alpine freight transit. AT and CH presented their report, which focuses on passenger traffic and reduction of every-day mobility demand by teleworking and clever spatial development. Their report is based on examples and good practices and will include recommendations and policy measures. DE explained the concept and the aim of its study, i.e. to draft concrete policy recommendations for regional political actors as well as regional transport associations on the implementation of sustainable passenger transport in the Alpine region. IT underlined that it will take into account traffic regulations, sustainable urban logistic strategies and alternative fuels (in particular biomethane) in its contribution on air quality. A possible contribution of the WG to the RSA 8 was discussed.

Audioconference, 12 March 2020. This meeting was supposed to take place in Munich together with the workshop on environmentally friendly technologies for transport organized by Germany and key to complete Task 3. However, due to the Corona crisis, it was changed at the last minute into an audioconference. The first drafts of the reports for Task 1 and Task 3 had been circulated in the previous days: the Group had therefore the possibility to provide its inputs to those reports. Concerning task 1, FR stressed that transport policy needs to focus not only on road vehicles, but should rather be holistic, encompass all kind of

transport means, as well as realistic in meeting the market expectations. On behalf of the RSA 8 WG, Michel Pinet presented a report of its activities and proposed to the Group some possible topics for the WG's contribution to the Report.

Audioconference, 18 June 2020. During this meeting, a more in-depth discussion on the two reports on freight transit modal shift and reducing need for mobility was carried out. Additionally and concerning the topic of air quality, Michel Pinet, co-chair of the RSA 8 WG, presented the current status of the Report, for which the Transport WG was supposed to prepare a contribution, with the draft report on modal shift providing some accurate input on this topic.

Munich / videoconference, 11 September 2020: the postponed seminar on technologies organized by Germany took place the day before (10 September). It brought together, physically or by means of videoconference, experts from all countries and good practice examples in sustainable passenger transportation. All these contributions will serve as a basis to define the content and the recommendations of the study. Moreover, the Group held a traditional meeting too where it discussed and approved the reports to be submitted to the Alpine Conference as well as the draft mandate for the period 2021-2022

3. Activities carried out

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

Most of the work of the WG was dedicated to drafting, discussing and amending the reports and studies foreseen in the mandate. Each meeting was the opportunity to present the status quo and the content of each study, as well as for carrying out a collegial discussion and for collecting opinions and remarks. The different reports therefore include contributions from all the members of the Group.

Additionally, during all meetings, a specific point on the agenda was dedicated to an update about parallel international process, especially EUSALP and Alpine Space Programme, thanks to representatives of these organizations taking part as observers in the Transport WG meetings.

Moreover, the Group and its members conducted the following activities over these last two years:

- Grenoble, 12 June 2019: visit to the active mobility services provided at Grenoble,

meetings with the prefect of Isère and the president of the Chartreuse Regional Natural Park.

- Bolzano / Bozen, 3 and 4 July 2019: WG chairman's participation in the workshop of the chairs of thematic working bodies organised by the French presidency and the Permanent Committee.
- Paris, 22 November 2019: brief workshop on Alpine climate board implementation pathways.
- Videoconference, 7 July 2020: status report of the WG activities for the Permanent Committee.
- Munich / videoconference, 10 September 2020: workshop on *Assessing the potential of technologies for the promotion of sustainable passenger transport in the Alpine region* organized by the German federal ministry of transport and digital infrastructure and by the Bavarian ministry of housing, building and transport in the framework of the WG agenda.

4. Results and outputs

Description of main results and outputs achieved

Four reports are being submitted to the XVI Alpine Conference:

1. *Towards a modal shift of transalpine freight transit* (Author: Chairman);
2. *Reduction of mobility demand and shift to environmentally sustainable modes, Strategies and measures in the Alps* (Authors: AT + CH);
3. Interim report on *Analysis of the potential of existing and new technologies for the promotion of sustainable passenger transport in the Alpine region* (Author: DE);
4. Study *Air Quality – Measures on sustainable mobility in the Alpine towns & cities –* as contribution to the topic of the RSA8 (Author: IT).

Furthermore, the work on sustainable technologies undertaken by DE will be concluded in 2021 under Swiss presidency. An excerpt of the report on modal shift has been included in the good practices listed in the RSA8.

5. Cooperation

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

Constant exchanges with the RSA 8 WG in order to define a contribution by the Transport WG on the theme of air quality in the Alps.

Participation of WG members to the EUSALP AG 4 Workshops and participation of EUSALP AG 4 representative as WG observer.

Regular exchanges and updates with the Alpine Space Programme.

Workshop on Alpine climate board implementation pathways held in Paris on 22 November 2019.

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.).

1. *Towards a modal shift of transalpine freight transit*
2. *Reduction of mobility demand and shift to environmentally sustainable modes, Strategies and measures in the Alps*
3. Interim report on *Analysis of the potential of existing and new technologies for the promotion of sustainable passenger transport in the Alpine region*
4. Study *Air Quality – Measures on sustainable mobility in the Alpine towns & cities*