

**MANDATE OF THE
Transport Working Group
FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2024
(BETWEEN THE XVII AND XVIII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE
CONFERENCE)**

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them

Transport is an important contributor to emissions, pollution and environmental impacts in the Alps. Furthermore, the economic and social developments expected in the future could strengthen these impacts on the Alpine environment. Conversely, the expected technological developments such as electrification and other alternative fuels as well as in the field of remote working could help mitigate them.

Alpine transport is composed of three main factors, crossing flows, touristic and local mobility: to different extents and in different ways, all of them impact the Alps. These three factors need to be properly organised and regulated in order for the Alpine arc to remain liveable.

The topic of transport is accordingly high on the Alpine political agenda and was addressed by the Swiss Presidency in 2021-2022 through the Simplon Alliance initiative. The Transport WG aims to contribute to the implementation of the resulting Action Plan.

The Transport WG will also strive to pursue activities in some of the fields previously tackled by the EnvALP Working Group of the Zurich Process, especially regarding the reduction of the environmental impacts of HGV traffic, the development of alternative fuelled transports and the further promotion of combined transport.

2. Objectives

Description of the objectives to be achieved until the XVIII Alpine Conference

The Group will carry out the following operational tasks:

1. Carry out an in-depth study of the connections between transport and regional development, as endorsed by the 2023-2030 Alpine Convention MAP. For instance, assess socialised remote working modes such as coworking and promote mobility as a service (MaaS) solutions. Assess solutions for the improvement of remote mountain destinations accessibility using integrated transport systems or multimodal mobility.

2. Assess the necessary framework conditions for the creation of emission-free pilot routes for LGVs, HGVs and buses, together with their relevant charging infrastructures, especially relating to ongoing work related to the draft EU-AFIR (alternative fuels infrastructure regulation) regulation and to the Simplon Alliance.
3. Assess the implementation of the energy transition in transalpine logistics, measures and regulations.
4. Assess the potential of combined transport for the modal shift in alpine crossing freight transport. This objective contributes to the implementation of Pathway 1, step 1 of the Alpine Climate Target System.

3. Planned outputs

Description of the planned outputs, with reference to the objectives

The Group will release written reports on each of the objectives with recommendations for stakeholders and policymakers in order to help public authorities improve transport related public policies. Additionally, on some selected topics, executive summaries or infographics can be considered to ensure dissemination towards the wider public.

4. Work plan

Outline of the foreseen timetable (meetings and other activities, main milestones scheduled)

Similarly to what has been done in the past, the Group plans to meet three times per year until the next Alpine Conference.

The meetings will be held physically once a year, either in the Group chairing country, or in the Alpine Conference chairing country (Slovenia).

The link with parallel processes and bodies will be ensured by reciprocal information, consultation and participation in the respective meetings.

5. Cooperation

Description of the planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits

The Chair will, as far as necessary, represent the Group at the high-level meetings (Alpine Conference, Permanent Committee, TWB Chairs meetings, Alpine Climate Board, MAP follow-up etc.). The Group's activities are compliant with the orientations drawn by the Alpine Climate Board. Synergies with the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development WG will be explored. The Group is willing to participate in the dynamics arisen by Switzerland under the "Simplon Alliance".

It will work in close cooperation with:

- EUSALP AG4 (Mobility) whose leader is one of its observers;
- iMONITRAF!;

- Arge Alp;
- Interreg Alpine Space programme;
- Zurich Process;
- relevant stakeholders depending on each of the objectives: local authorities, employers' associations, academics, environmental associations etc.

Besides, the Transport Working Group will strive to build an Alpine network of experts that could be easily mobilised for benchmarking and advising, connecting public, academic and professional expertise resource centres in the Alpine countries.

6. Communication

Description of the communication goals, targets and respective planned measures

The communication tools issued by the Group will essentially be written reports to be discussed and adopted by the leading institutions of the Alpine Convention. Short executive summaries and infographics targeting a broader audience may furthermore be issued.

7. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Description of how the proposed objectives and activities shall contribute to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (biodiversity and ecosystems / climate action / quality of life / interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs of the aforementioned areas)

The MAP 2023-2030 encompasses two approaches linked to transport:

- Within its second priority (“Taking ambitious climate action”), “the decarbonisation of transalpine freight transport through modal shift and the development of sustainable mobility solutions”;
- Within its third priority (“Enabling a good quality of life for the people in the Alps”), “an efficient organisation of life in municipalities, towns and cities, [...] spatial development and good mobility and public transport”.

Holding the two ends of the chain, the local and the international ones, the Group will try to fulfil its ambition of helping improve the Alpine environment, acting both on the crossing flows and on the local mobility side.

8. Chair

The Chair will be held by France.