

MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP on *Transport* for the period 2021-2022 until the XVII Alpine Conference

1. Introductory remarks

The rapidly changing behaviors in transportation and mobility, together with the possibilities arising from new transport technologies, increase the need to analyse and forecast the future challenges in this field as well as to conceive and promote appropriate responses. At the same time, finding ways to reduce the impacts on the environment caused by different transportation choices is becoming more and more urgent.

The Transport Working Group shall work out political recommendations based on its previous work in promoting more sustainable transport means to support decarbonisation in transport and acknowledging the changing social and economic needs of the Alpine area.

2. Objectives

Description of objectives

1. Continue the work on the external costs of transport in the Alpine area (Transport Protocol, Art. 14) with a report on the progress since the last status report and a report on the status of the Alpine infrastructure in cooperation with the transport observatory of the CH-EU Land transport agreement regarding monitoring data (Art. 15).
2. Contribute to the topic relating to policies and measures/instruments for sustainable mobility in the Alpine Area.
3. Finish assessing the potential of technologies for the promotion of sustainable passenger transport in the Alpine region (under German leadership), develop recommendations for implementation.
4. Give advice for improving the accessibility of remote mountain destinations with integrated transport systems or multimodal mobility, including passenger transport by rail, road (e.g. by low emission buses, minibuses and taxis), cable cars and shipping as well as active mobility like walking and cycling, and combining individual private mobility means, by identifying best practices, contributing to the development of new concepts and connecting the last mile.
5. Analyse the effects of the evolution of commuters' behaviours in the Alpine area concerning home-office mobility as well as everyday activities triggered by the recent sanitary crisis. Based on available reports in the member states of the Alpine Convention and on the results of the 2020 study report on possibilities for the reduction of transport demand through transport-saving spatial structures, new working or coworking solutions, pooling of shipments, regional and local distribution chains, changed mobility and behavioural patterns, recommendations for the implementation of measures in order to enhance quality of remote working life will be elaborated.
6. Contribute to elaborate and complete a digital map on a relevant topic and to be published on the Alpine Convention WebGIS/Atlas, either by collecting the necessary data provided

by other bodies and organizations or by relying on existing international sources. The specific content of such map will be agreed upon by the Group based on relevance and data availability. The map will be elaborated in cooperation with the PSAC.

3. Tasks

Description of outputs

Each of the topics addressed by the Working Group will be concluded by a document with recommendations to the authorities.

In order to process them, the authors will ask relevant authorities, socioeconomic actors, experts and academics. Moreover, they could organize workshops, round tables or seminars in order to get a more precise view of the challenges and of actors' respective positions.

The reports might highlight good practice examples.

Work plan

The Working Group foresees up to five meetings (two in 2021, three in 2022).

All of them can be conducted by audio or videoconference, in order to limit travels, except once a year a decentralized two-day meeting in the French Alps or in one of the other member countries for team building purposes.

The Chairman, with the help of his colleagues involved as authors, might report to the Permanent Committee, first at the end of 2021 on the basis of the first drafts, then in Summer 2022, finally at the end of 2022 at the last PC under Swiss presidency for reports approval.

All documents should be finalized by the Working Group in good time for the XVII AC, at the latest at its last 2022 meeting.

4. Cooperation

Cooperation with other Working Groups/Boards and partners

The Working Group will work in close cooperation with:

- EUSALP AG4 (Mobility) whose leader is one of its observers;
- the Alpine Climate Board (ACB);
- iMONITRAF!;
- Arge Alp;
- Interreg Alpine Space programme;
- follow up Zurich process;
- relevant stakeholders depending on each of the objectives: local authorities, employer associations, academics, environmental associations.

It should strive to build an Alpine expertise institutions network that could be easily mobilized for benchmarking if necessary, connecting public, academic and professional expertise resource centers in member states.

5. Communication

Communication activities of the Working Group

In order to facilitate communication on behalf of the Permanent Committee and taking into account the European and national administrations, the documents will contain executive summaries.

Following consultation of stakeholders, their names and how they have been involved in the process will be mentioned.

6. Link to the Multiannual Work Programme of the Alpine Conference

Contribution to and coherence with the Multiannual Work Programme 2017-2022 of the Alpine Conference as well as the Convention and its Protocols

The Transport Working Group will contribute to:

- Priority 5 “Promoting sustainable transport”;
- Priority 2 “Taking action on climate change”.

It will focus on the implementation of articles 2 (2) c and j of the Framework Convention and the Transport Protocol.

Additionally, it will contribute to the implementation of different pathways of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050, especially IP_Tr1: Strategies for decarbonisation of Alpine freight transport

7. Chair

The chair will be held by France.