

**Minutes of Decisions  
of the IX Meeting of the Alpine Conference  
Alpbach, 9 November 2006**

**Item 1      Approval of the agenda**

The Alpine Conference approved the agenda.

**Item 2      Decision as to authorities**

The Alpine Conference stated that the representatives of the Contracting Parties possessed the required authorities.

**Item 3      Admission of Observers**

The Alpine Conference stated that the present organisations had already been admitted as Observers.

**Item 4      Reports by the Delegations on implementation**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Acknowledged the reports by the Delegations on the current state of the implementation of the Alpine Convention, and
- 2) Acknowledged that besides Austria, Liechtenstein, Germany, and Slovenia, France too had ratified all protocols and the European Community the Mountain Farming, Soil Conservation, Tourism, and Energy Protocols, and asked the signatories of the Protocols to advance ratification.

## **Item 5      Reviewing Procedure**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Acknowledged the interim report by the Compliance Committee<sup>1</sup>,
  
- 2) Thanked the Compliance Committee for their work and stated that the work performed so far was helpful for the implementation of the Alpine Convention,
  
- 3) Instructed the Compliance Committee to do the following without prejudice to Decision VII/4 and conscious of the decision of the 28<sup>th</sup> Permanent Committee as to Item 14:
  - on the basis of previous experience, draft a work and time schedule for their further activities, giving special attention to the deadlines of the upcoming Reviewing Procedure,
  
  - continue their work on the basis of the presented interim report,
  
  - report on their work progress to the Permanent Committee on the occasion of their last meeting in the year 2007.

## **Item 6      Report on the work of the Permanent Committee between the VIII and IX Alpine Conferences**

The Alpine Conference approvingly acknowledged the progress report by the Permanent Committee<sup>2</sup> and thanked those involved for their work.

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<sup>1</sup> See Enclosure 1: Document IX/5

<sup>2</sup> See Enclosure 2: Document IX/6

## **Item 7      Climate change**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Adopted the declaration of the Ministers on climate change<sup>3</sup> and
- 2) Instructed the Permanent Committee to draw up in an appropriate manner until the X meeting of the Alpine Conference an action plan for the implementation of the climate declaration, containing Alp-specific recommendations of action and long term initiatives, and a time schedule.

## **Item 8      Natural Hazards**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Acknowledged the 2005/2006 progress report presented by the “Natural Hazards” Platform (PLANALP) in the Enclosure<sup>4</sup>,
- 2) Confirmed the long-term working programme of the “Natural Hazards” Platform (PLANALP) for the period from 2007 to 2010 in the Enclosure<sup>5</sup>,
- 3) Extended the mandate of the “Natural Hazards” Platform (PLANALP) adopted by the VII Alpine Conference in 2004, with the following working priorities:
  - strategic concepts for dealing with natural hazards
  - evaluation of concepts for integrated risk management in the protection against natural hazards (outlining of “best practice solutions”)
  - devising recommendations related to pertinent topics
- 4) Entrusted Switzerland with the presidency of the “Natural Hazards” Platform (PALNALP) until the X Alpine Conference.

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<sup>3</sup> See Enclosure 3: Document IX/7/1

<sup>4</sup> See Enclosure 4: Document IX/8/1

<sup>5</sup> See Enclosure 5: Document IX/8/2

## **Item 9      Water**

### The Alpine Conference

1) Welcomed Austria's report on the results of the international conference named "The Water Balance of the Alps"<sup>6</sup>, which had been organised in cooperation with the University of Innsbruck and ISCAR and taken place in Innsbruck on 28 and 29 September 2006,

2) Asked the Permanent Secretariat to coordinate the elaboration of the next contribution to the Report on the State of the Alps, on the subject of water, in consultation with the Presidency of the Alpine Conference, accompanied by an Ad-hoc Expert Group presided over by Austria and Germany, and with the involvement of the Focal Points of the Contracting Parties on the one hand and the main groups of reference of science, of the Observers, and of interested nongovernmental organisations on the other hand, and to present it to the Alpine Conference via the Permanent Committee by 31 May 2008; this report should contain especially the most important issues of water management ascertained, and analysis of already existing legal structures in the water sector and, on the basis of this, a recommendation as to measures to be taken in order to find concrete solutions for the demonstrated water management issues,

3) Considered it necessary to continue the dialogue on the subject of water begun with the conference named "The Water Balance of the Alps" within the framework of a follow-up conference in Germany in the year 2008, with the involvement of the Contracting Parties and especially the European Community, the main groups of reference of science, of the Observers, and of interested nongovernmental organisations.

## **Item 10      Research agenda**

### The Alpine Conference

1) Welcomed the initiative for the compilation of a research agenda related to the Multi-Annual Working Programme and thanked ISCAR for their work,

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<sup>6</sup> See Enclosure 6: Document IX/9/1

2) Acknowledged the report<sup>7</sup> and asked the Permanent Secretariat to disseminate the final version of the research agenda in an appropriate manner.

## **Item 11      Population and Culture**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Decided the approval of the declaration named "Population and Culture"<sup>8</sup>, in the opinion that it represents a first important contribution to the implementation of the social and cultural sustainability goals of the Alpine Convention,
- 2) Made a case for identifying and supporting useful initiatives in order for the population, nongovernmental organisations, municipalities, and regions to actively participate in the implementation of the "Population and Culture" declaration in favour of a sustainable development of the Alpine Space,
- 3) Thanked the Italian presidency and the "Population and Culture" Working Group for their work throughout the previous years.

## **Item 12      First Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention**

The Alpine Conference acknowledged the report on the First Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention<sup>9</sup> and asked those involved to continue this initiative within the framework of further similar events.

## **Item 13      Transport**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Acknowledged the progress report by the "Traffic"<sup>10</sup> Working Group and thanked the president and the Working Group for their work,
- 2) Instructed the Permanent Committee and the "Traffic" Working Group to continue their work in accordance with the adopted mandate in the Enclosure<sup>11</sup>, and to report on it to the X Alpine Conference,

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<sup>7</sup> See Enclosure 7: Document IX/10

<sup>8</sup> See Enclosure 8: Document IX/11/1

<sup>9</sup> See Enclosure 9: Document IX/12

<sup>10</sup> See Enclosure 10: Document IX/13

<sup>11</sup> See Enclosure 11: Document IX/13/3

3) Acknowledged the report on the European Expert Conference named "Environmentally Friendly Travelling in Europe. Challenges and Innovations Facing Environment, Transport and Tourism"<sup>12</sup> and requested considering the contents and measure recommendations adopted in the final document within the framework of the Working Groups of the Alpine Convention.

**Item 14      Report on the State of the Alps/System for the Observation of and Information on the Alps (SOIA)**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Acknowledged the progress report by the Permanent Secretariat including its Enclosure as the first contribution to the Report on the State of the Alps on the subject of Transport and Mobility<sup>13</sup>,
- 2) Thanked the Contracting Parties for their generous support of the work related to the Report on the State of the Alps,
- 3) Entrusted an editing group under the coordination of the Permanent Secretariat with presenting an edited and linguistically harmonised version of this report until the next session of the Permanent Committee,
- 4) Authorised the Permanent Committee to conclusively approve within the framework of their 35<sup>th</sup> session the first contribution to the Report on the State of the Alps on the subject of Transport and Mobility,
- 5) Requested the publication of this first contribution to a Report on the State of the Alps on the subject of Transport and Mobility by 30 June 2007 at the latest,
- 6) Laid down that the next subject to be worked on would be "Water in the Alpine Space" and that in this context the results of the Water Conference should be given consideration, and asked the Permanent Committee to ensure that related work would be taken up in due time,
- 7) Requested the Permanent Committee to ensure the elaboration of a long term strategy for the System for the Observation of and Information on the Alps (SOIA).

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<sup>12</sup> See Enclosure 12: Document IX/13/4

<sup>13</sup> See Enclosure 12: Document IX/14

## **Item 15      International Mountain Partnerships**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Approvingly acknowledged the report by the Permanent Secretariat<sup>14</sup>,
- 2) Extended the main regions cooperating with the Alpine Convention by the Balkan Region,
- 3) Congratulated the states involved on the coming into force of the Carpathian Convention on 4 January 2006,
- 4) Approved the memorandum of understanding on the cooperation between the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions<sup>15</sup> presented to it, and
- 5) Authorised the future Presidency of the Alpine Convention and the Permanent Secretariat to sign the memorandum of understanding.

## **Item 16      Ski-Audit**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Acknowledged the progress report by the Permanent Committee on auditing in skiing areas<sup>16</sup>,
- 2) Welcomed further voluntary dissemination of the auditing procedure in skiing areas and asked the Contracting States to support this process,
- 3) Decided to periodically award at the Alpine Conferences the prize remunerated by the “pro natura – pro ski” foundation.

## **Item 17      Establishment of an ecological network**

The Alpine Conference established a Platform named “Ecological Network” with constitution<sup>17</sup> and mandate<sup>18</sup> as per enclosure.

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<sup>14</sup> See Enclosure 14: Document IX/15

<sup>15</sup> See Enclosure 15: Document IX/15/2

<sup>16</sup> See Enclosure 16: Document IX/16

<sup>17</sup> See Enclosure 17: Document IX/17/2

<sup>18</sup> See Enclosure 18: Document IX/17/3

**Item 18      2005/2006 progress report of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas**

The Alpine Conference acknowledged the 2005 and 2006 progress report of the Alpine Network of Protected Areas<sup>19</sup>.

**Item 19      Affiliation of the Protected Areas Task Force to the Permanent Secretariat**

The Alpine Conference welcomed the accomplishment of the affiliation of the Protected Areas Taskforce to the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and thanked France for its generous contributions for the maintenance of this Protected Areas Task Force.

**Item 20      Progress report of the Permanent Secretariat**

The Alpine Conference acknowledged the report by the Permanent Secretariat<sup>20 21</sup> and thanked them for their work.

**Item 21      Biennial budget of the Permanent Secretariat for the years 2007 and 2008, and outlook on the years 2009 and 2010**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Acknowledged the report by the Permanent Secretariat<sup>22</sup>,
- 2) Adopted the 2007/2008 budget of the Permanent Secretariat as per proposal, in which context the total sum of the contributions to be made by the Contracting Parties in the year 2007 amount to 836,542.70 Euros, and 849,090.84 Euros in 2008,
- 3) Approved bringing forward surpluses from the 2005/2006 period into the 2007/2008 period<sup>23</sup>,
- 4) Decided to raise the contributions by the Contracting Parties by 1.5 percent relative to the previous year and to leave the distribution basis unaltered.

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<sup>19</sup> See Enclosure 19: Document IX/18

<sup>20</sup> See Enclosure 20: Document IX/20

<sup>21</sup> Italy with regard to p.6 Para.2 of the report in question states for the record that it has fulfilled the provisions of Enclosure 4 of Decision VII/2 on the funding of a staff member working in Bolzano, to be appointed by Slovenia.

<sup>22</sup> See Enclosure 21: Document IX/21

<sup>23</sup> Germany cannot due to budgetary provisions agree to the bringing forward.

## **Item 22 Appointment of the Secretary General of the Alpine Convention**

The Alpine Conference

- 1) Appointed Mr Marco Onida Secretary General of the Alpine Convention,
- 2) Decided to entrust Ms Regula Imhof with the function of Vice-Secretary General of the Alpine Convention as soon as the pertinent post would become vacant, and
- 3) Instructed the Permanent Committee to provide for the necessary modalities and make the necessary arrangements for the employment of Ms Imhof.

## **Item 23 Presidency of the Alpine Conference for the years 2007 and 2008**

The Alpine Conference entrusted France with the Presidency of the Alpine Conference for the years 2007 and 2008.

## **Item 23 bis Other business**

Italy makes a case for a commitment of the Contracting Parties of the Alpine Convention to a joint programme for the protection of large carnivores<sup>24</sup>.

## **Item 24 Approval of the Minutes of Decisions**

The Alpine Conference approves the preliminary Minutes of Decisions and forwards them to the Permanent Committee for the approval of the final version.

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<sup>24</sup> See Enclosure 22: Document IX/23 bis

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