



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE  
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE



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THE ALPINE CONVENTION IS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL TREATY FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF A CROSS-BORDER MOUNTAINOUS REGION  
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## XIII Alpine Conference

### Turin - Museo Nazionale della Montagna

### 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014

#### Information Note

Ms. Barbara Degani, Italian Under Secretary for the Environment, chaired the *XIII Alpine Conference* that took place in the evocative location of the "National Museum of the Mountain" of Turin. Every two years, the Alpine Conference, as the political body of the Alpine Convention, gathers representatives of the Government of its eight Contracting Parties, in order to evaluate the results and to address the future objectives for implementation of the Treaty.

The summit was opened on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> November at the City Hall of Turin by the official meeting between local Authorities, the Italian Minister for Environment and his Colleagues representatives of the Alpine Countries, Organizations with the status of Observers of the Convention, the Czech Presidency of the Carpathian Convention and the diplomatic representatives of the Andean Countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru), invited in the framework of the international cooperation between mountain areas promoted by the Alpine Convention.

The XIII Conference has been the political synthesis and an occasion to discuss the work done within the Alpine Convention under the coordination of the Italian Ministry of Environment, which is holding the Presidency for the two-year period 2013-2014. The assembly has formally marked the handover between Italy and Germany, who will chair the XIV Conference of the Alps in Herrenchiemsee in October 2016.

According to a common consent, the years of the Italian Presidency were characterized by the achievement of objectives set up in the context of the priorities identified by the Annual Work Programme 2011-2016, such as climate and demographic change, tourism, transport and mobility and biodiversity.

During the session, adequate attention was given to the EU macro-regional strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP), in which the Alpine Convention holds the status of observer, as a landmark for transnational cooperation in support to the territory of the Alps.

The XIII Alpine Conference approved a decision to support the process for defining the strategy EUSALP, reaffirming the hope that the Alpine Convention can continue to play a significant role in the elaboration and implementation of the future strategy and its three pillars, emphasizing that all actions taken in the context of this future strategy should be mutually beneficial between upland and the surrounding areas, taking into account the functional relationships that exist between them.

Of particular interest for the accuracy of the survey, it also proved to be the 5<sup>th</sup> Report on the State of the Alps, realized during the Italian Presidency and approved in Turin. The document outlines an updated and thorough state-of-the-art of population dynamics occurring in the Alpine region, also highlighting a situation not without cause for concern, in particular as regards the progressive, marked by the abandonment of indigenous alpine areas less accessible, only partly offset by "arrival of "new residents" mostly originated by migration.

Taking into account the data and the analysis of contents of the V RSA, as well as the contribution from the two reports titled "A digital agenda for the Alpine region" and "Tourism in the Alps: govern sustainability" and issued during the Italian Presidency, the XIII Conference has recognized the importance to overcome the "digital divide" in the Alpine region and to ensure the necessary digital services to individuals and businesses. It was also decided to set up for 2015-2016 an ad hoc working group dedicated to sustainable tourism, in order to exploit the potential of tourism in the Alps that can ensure the economic, environmental and social sustainability as a decisive factor for the welfare of the local population and the attractiveness of the Alps.

The Conference has been the occasion to reflect on future generations: the Assembly wanted to discuss how to convey to young people the ideals of cooperation and sustainable development of the Alpine Convention, ensuring continuity of the work of



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future administrators. The Italian Presidency created a Task Force dedicated to “New Generations of the Alps” during the two-year period and, thanks to the collaboration of the Permanent Secretariat and other institutional Alpine bodies, has promoted a series of initiatives addressed to young people from the Alps. These initiatives have also found a place in Turin, where a delegation of young people participated to the works of the Conference and then at the final press conference with the Ministers. The XIII Alpine Conference also wanted to give a further “message of support” for the new generations asking the Permanent Secretariat of instituting two scholarships for young students of the Alps who want to deepen the topics related to the works of the Alpine Convention during their studies.

Among the major decisions adopted with regard to the preservation and management of the alpine environment is to be mentioned the approval of the Guidelines for the adaptation to climate change, at the local level in the Alps. They were prepared during the last Mandate, with the aim to provide Italian territorial administrations of all Alpine Countries a pro-active supporting tool for the governance of adaptation strategies at the local level. Again related to “climate change” issues”, the Conference of Turin approved a common joint statement agreed with the “Carpathian Convention”, that will be officially presented on 9<sup>th</sup> December in Lima, Peru, in the framework of the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Moreover, it was also reaffirmed the commitment of the Alpine Convention to the preservation of the alpine ecosystem, thanks to the approval of a Declaration on the value of alpine forests. The XIII Conference invited the Contracting Parties to take into account, in the definition of measures and national policies, some recommendations for improving the knowledge of ecosystem services provided by Alpine forests, in particular for the protection against natural hazards, the water cycle and climate regulation, in order to ensure recognition of their value for the environment and Alpine populations.

The Conference also formalized within the prestigious framework of EXPO 2015, the organization of the “Mountain Week”, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The initiative was conceived by the Alpine Convention to bring in the contribution of the main EXPO topic “Feeding the Planet, energy for Life”, by presenting to the public the best food traditions and cultures of mountain territories. The “Mountain Week” will be an ideal “thematic path”, with an international perspective, that promote events sponsored by the delegations or other bodies and alpine mountain organizations (both public and private) and manufactured inside the Pavilions of the Alpine Countries, in the city of Milan or its surroundings. The Alps are the natural setting of the city of Milan and the EXPO can certainly be an opportunity to show to a global audience the experience and skills in the enhancement of sustainable food production. This will be explained by showing the conservation techniques, the uniqueness and the characteristics of the products of the mountains, which are often an expression of a balanced combination of old traditions, new technologies and sensitive environmental quality and ecosystem.

At the end of the Conference, it took place the handover with the forthcoming German Presidency: the German Minister Barbara Hendricks, who opened the speech with expressions of non-formal appreciation for the work of the last two years, has briefly introduced the relevant topics that the incoming German Presidency defined as priorities to develop during the next 24 months, such as “Green Economy”, biodiversity, sustainable tourism, transport and mobility, as well as the further strengthening of relations with EUSALP. At the end of the works, the delegates representing the Observers met Minister Hendricks and Undersecretary Degani for a confidential discussion.

After more than 20 years, the Alpine Convention is still nowadays a fundamental tool for cross-border cooperation between the Alpine countries. The Conference of Turin certainly has reaffirmed its role as a promoter and interpreter of an updated vision, integrated with other international instruments, for a sustainable future and a smart development of the Alps.



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*The Representatives of the Contracting Parties at the XIII Alpine Conference, from left to right: for the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Minister Ms. Amann-Marxer; for Slovenia the Under-Secretary Ms. Bogataj; for Switzerland, the Federal Councillor Ms. Leuthard; for Italy the Under-Secretary of State Ms. Degani; for Germany the Federal Minister Ms. Hendricks; for France the appointed delegate Deputy Giraud; for the Principality of Monaco the appointed Delegate Ambassador Van Klaveren; for Austria the Minister Rupprechter.*

*The President of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention, Mr Angelini (first from the left) and the Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, Mr Reiterer (fourth from the right) accompany the eight Heads of Delegation.*



*A moment of the meeting between the Authorities from Piemonte region, the Municipality of Turin and the representatives of the Alpine Convention. The President of the Turin City Council, Mr. Giovanni Andrea Porcino, greets and welcomes the guests attending the Council Hall (the "Red Hall") in the Town Hall (Palazzo Civico).*



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*The delegates of the Contracting Parties and the Observers around the table of the XIII Alpine Conference. The Conference took place inside a tensile structure hosted in the Olympic Court of the National Museum of the Mountain of CAI Torino (Club Alpino Italiano).*



*The “handover” between Italy and Germany in view of the Presidency of the Alpine Convention 2015-2016: the Italian Under Secretary Degani gives to the Minister Hendricks a symbolic bronze branch of larch, created by the artist Paolo Albertelli, native of Turin. The Larch, spread in all Alpine woods, , assure as a symbol of unity and cooperation between the Countries of the Alpine Convention.*



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## THEY TALKED ABOUT THE XIII ALPINE CONFERENCE:

- ANSA Piemonte** – 17 novembre 2014 – “A Torino ministri paesi alpini europei per la 33/a Conferenza delle Alpi presso Museo Montagna”
- ADN Kronos** – 18 novembre 2014 – “Torino. Conferenza delle Alpi”; 21 novembre 2014 – “Chiusura della XIII Conferenza delle Alpi a Torino”
- Escursionismo.it** – 17 novembre 2014 – “Presentata a Torino la XIII Conferenza delle Alpi”
- Regione Piemonte** – 18 novembre 2014 – “Torino. Conferenza delle Alpi”
- Regione Lombardia, ERSAF** – 17 novembre 2014 “I contratti di fiume all’Alpine Conference”
- Torino Today** – 18 novembre 2014 – “Da domani a Torino la Conferenza delle Alpi”
- La Stampa** – 19 novembre 2014 – “Conferenza delle Alpi”
- Mountain Partnership** – 19 novembre 2014 – “XIII Alpine Conference”
- Meteo Web.eu** – 20 novembre 2014 – “Torino cerimonia inaugurale della XIII Conferenza delle Alpi”
- SueditiroloNews** – 9 novembre 2014 – “Turin: Alpenkonferenz steht bevor”
- Articolo Tre** – 14 novembre 2014 – “Attorno alle Alpi riuniti a Torino”
- CAI Torino** – 14 novembre 2014 – “La XIII Conferenza delle Alpi a Torino e i 140 anni del Museo della Montagna”
- Dailygreen.it** – 30 ottobre 2014 – “Raccontare le Alpi, bando ancora aperto”



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**Magazine.greenplanner.it** – 19 novembre 2014 – “XIII Conferenza delle Alpi a Torino il 20 novembre”

**ReteSette** – 17 novembre 2014 – “Servizio di Informa7, TG di Rete7, del 17 novembre 2014 - Conferenza delle Alpi del Museo della montagna di Torino presentata a Palazzo Civico. Interviste a: Aldo Audisio, Direttore Museo Nazionale Montagna, a Paolo Angelini, Presidente Comitato Permanente Convenzione Alpi, a Piero Fassino, Sindaco di Torino.

**Torinotoday.it** – 18 novembre 2014 – “Al Monte die Cappuccini al via la settimana della XIII Conferenza delle Alpi”

**Torinoealpi.it** – 14 novembre 2014 – “Novembre-dicembre: gli appuntamenti tra Torino e le Alpi”

**ValtellinaneWS.it** – 6 novembre 2014 – “Torino: il 21 novembre 2014 la Conferenza delle Alpi”

**La Voce** – 20 novembre 2014 – “Torino. Incontro in Piemonte per un’agenda digitale alpina”

**Effettoterra.org** – 20 novembre 2014 – “A Torino la Conferenza delle Alpi”

**Anarf.org** – 21 novembre 2014 – “Barbara Degani alla XIII Conferenza delle Alpi: turismo sostenibile, trasporti, green economy”

**Aostanews24.it** – 21 novembre 2014 – “Chiusa a Torino la XIII Conferenza delle Alpi”

**Dolomitichannel.it** – 21 novembre 2014 – “XIII Conferenza delle Alpi”

**Il NordEst Quotidiano** – 21 novembre 2014 – A Torino la Conferenza delle Alpi: La Presidenza passa da Italia a Germania”

**Improntaunika.it** – 21 novembre 2014 – “XIII Conferenza delle Alpi, per lo sviluppo e la protezione del territorio alpino”

**Repubblica (edizione di Torino)** – 21 novembre 2014 – “Le Alpi come una pentola: si scaldano il doppio del resto del continente”

**Quotidiano.net** – 23 novembre 2014 – Esperti al capezzale delle Alpi, il serbatoio d’acqua d’Europa”

**Riforma.it** – 24 novembre 2014 – “Il futuro delle Alpi è nella green economy. Ma a quali livelli?”

**Associazione Dislivelli** – “Newsmagazine. Primo Piano: XIII Conferenza delle Alpi: cui prodest?”  
[http://issuu.com/dislivelli/docs/53\\_webmagazine\\_dicembre\\_gennaio14/1](http://issuu.com/dislivelli/docs/53_webmagazine_dicembre_gennaio14/1)



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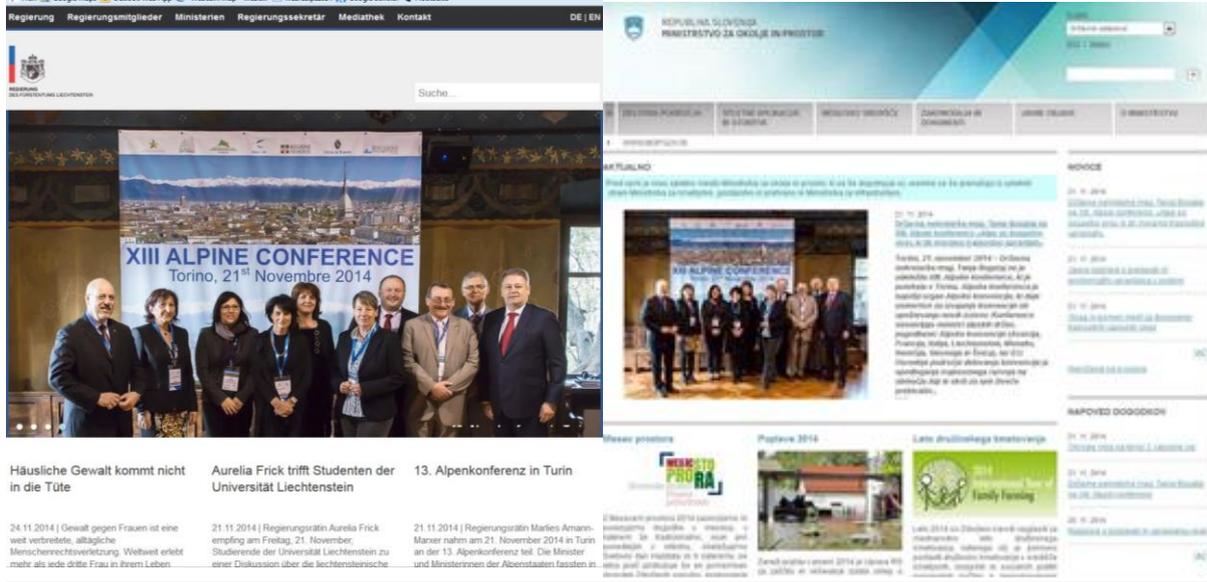


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**Bundesamt für Raumentwicklung** – 21 novembre 2014 – “Bundesrätin Doris Leuthard an der Alpenkonferenz in Turin”

**Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit** – 21 novembre 2014 – “XIII Alpenkonferenz”

**Département fédéral de l’environnement, des transports, de l’énergie et de la communication (DETEC)** – 21 novembre 2014 – “La Conseillère fédérale Doris Leuthard à la Conférence Alpine à Turin”

**Eidgenössisches Departement für Umwelt, Verkehr, Energie und Kommunikation UVEK** – 21 novembre 2014 – “Regierungsrätin Marlies Amann-Marxer and der 13. Alpenkonferenz in Turin”

**Lepetitjournal.com** – 21 novembre 2014 – “Convention Alpine: Turin accueille la XIIIème Conférence Alpine”

**Liechtensteiner Vaterland** – 21 novembre 2014 – “Viel Programm bei Alpenkonferenz”

**Ministrstvo za Okolie in Prostor** – 21 novembre 2014 – “Državna sekretarka mag. Tanja Bogataj na XIII. Alpski konferenci: »Alpe so bogastvo virov, ki jih moramo trajnostno upravljati”

**Mountain Partnership** – 28 novembre 2014 – “Harmonizing protection and development of the Alps”

**Schweizer Newsportal für Hotellerie, Gastronomie und Tourismus** – 21 novembre 2014 - Klimawandel: Alpenländer wollen stärker zusammenarbeiten”

**Romandie.com** – 21 novembre 2014 – “La conseillère fédérale Doris Leuthard à la Conférence Alpine à Turin”

**Schweizer Portal für Natur und Umweltschutz** – 21 novembre 2014 – 13. Alpenkonferenz: Entwicklung und Schutz der Alpen”

**UNEP Europa** – Newsletter – ottobre 2014 – [http://unepineurope.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=213:alpine-conference-17-21-november-turin-italy&catid=66:on-the-calendar](http://unepineurope.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=213:alpine-conference-17-21-november-turin-italy&catid=66:on-the-calendar)

**Volksblatt.li** – 21 novembre 2014 – “Amann-Marxer an der 13. Alpenkonferenz”

