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PRESS RELEASE

SuperAlp!³ 19th – 28th June 2009

The sustainable crossing of the Alpine arc in discovery of water in the Alps

The Permanent Secretariat to the Alpine Convention organises from 19th – 28th June 2009 the third SuperAlp!, the sustainable crossing of the Alps. This time seeking water, the white gold of the Alps!

A group of journalists belonging to world's top publications will cross the Alpine arc for ten days utilising sustainable means of transport and trying out the various links that make up the chain of alternative mobility to private cars. The group will travel more than 1600 km between Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Italy by train, bicycle, electric bicycle, bus and on foot.

The objective is to show that it is possible to move in and over the Alps utilising normally available sustainable means. A particularly significant message today, faced with climate change. **The intention of the project is also to disseminate the Alpine Convention**, a set of tools for the sustainable development of a single area divided among eight countries, marked by cultural specificities, common characteristics, opportunities and issues. Even more than a trip in the Alpine area, the 2009 crossing aims to be a **journey in discovery of water** in its different forms: glaciers, lakes, rivers, wells, canals; and with respect to its various uses: water for energy, agricultural, recreational, transportation purposes, etc.

The group will leave from Bovez, at the sources of the Soča/Isonzo, and will move along the Alpine arc, touching the most important watercourses, such as the Drava, the Piave, the Adige, the Rhine, the Adda, the Ticino, the Sesia, as well as the lakes of ~~Constance~~ Constance, Como, Maggiore, Orta. During the various tracts, the group will have the chance to get to know the experiences that make the Alpine Convention “flourish” regionally and locally. Superalp! thus becomes part of the “making the Convention local” project, a priority of Marco Onida, Secretary General of the Convention, who will take part personally in the crossing.

This project is organised in partnership with the Ministry for Environment and Health of Bavaria, the Slovenian Ministry for the environment and land planning, the Valle d'Aosta Autonomous Region and the Belluno Province, and is supported by the Federal Swiss Office for Land Development, the Trento Autonomous Province, the Carinthia Region and the Office for Forests, Nature and Landscape of the Principality of Liechtenstein.

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The Alpine Convention is an international treaty signed by and between the eight countries of the Alpine arc (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Principality of Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland) and the European Community and its objective is the sustainable development of the Alps as well as the protection of the interests of the Alpine populations.

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