



Climate change and Natural disasters

The role of the Alpine Convention

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Aims of the Alpine Convention

- Promoting sustainable development in the Alpine area;
- Protecting the interests of the people living in the Alps;
- Embracing the environmental, social, economic and cultural dimensions of the Alps.

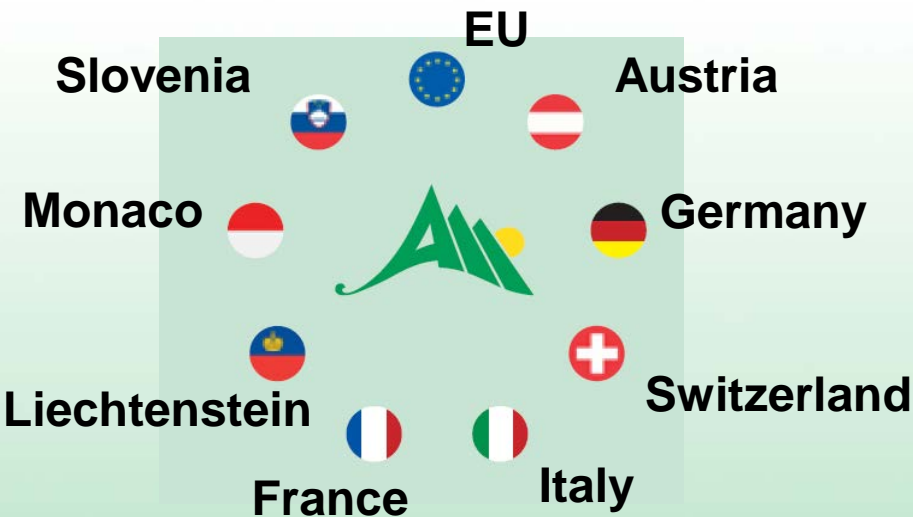


Short history:



- 1991: signing of the Framework Convention;
- 1995: Convention enters into force in all the countries;
- 2002: 8 Protocols enter into force;
- 2003: establishment of the Permanent Secretariat.

Contracting Parties:



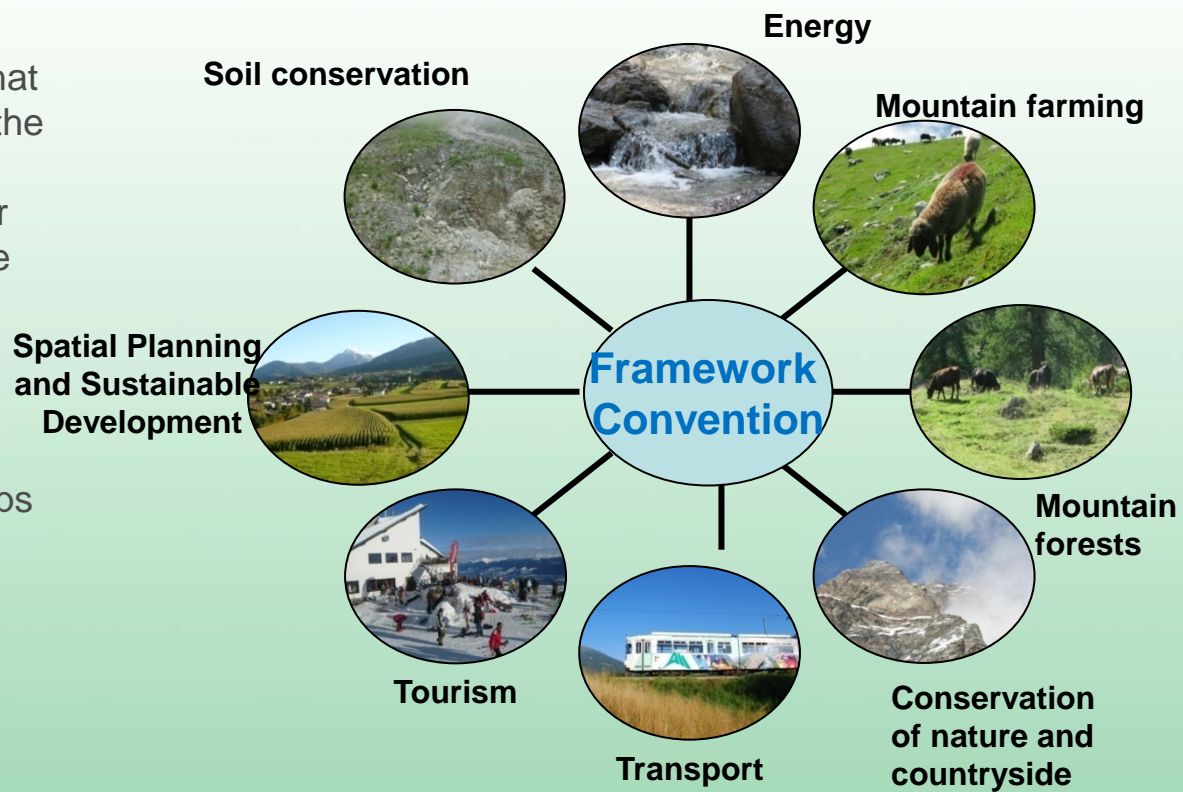
- Inhabitants: 14 million
- Territory: 190 600 km²
- 120 million tourists/year

Framework Convention and its Protocols

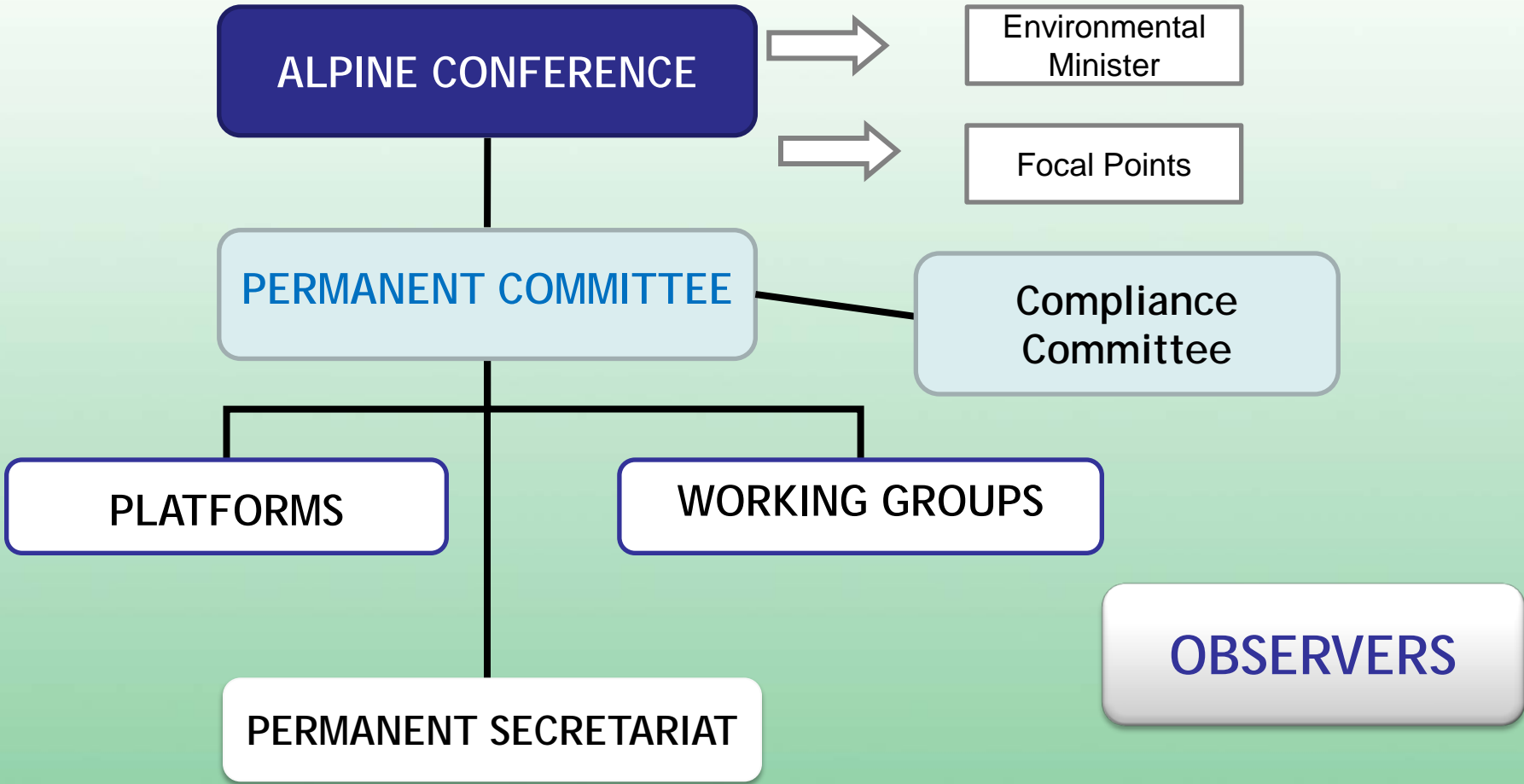
The Convention is a **framework** that sets out the basic principles of all the activities of the Alpine Convention and contains general measures for the sustainable development in the Alpine region.

In the Protocols, **concrete steps** to be taken for the protection and sustainable development of the Alps are set out.

Signed and ratified Protocols are legally binding in the Contracting party.



Alpine Convention Organigram



Platform Natural Hazards PLANALP

Objective:

- ✓ Develop common strategies dealing with natural hazards in the Alps

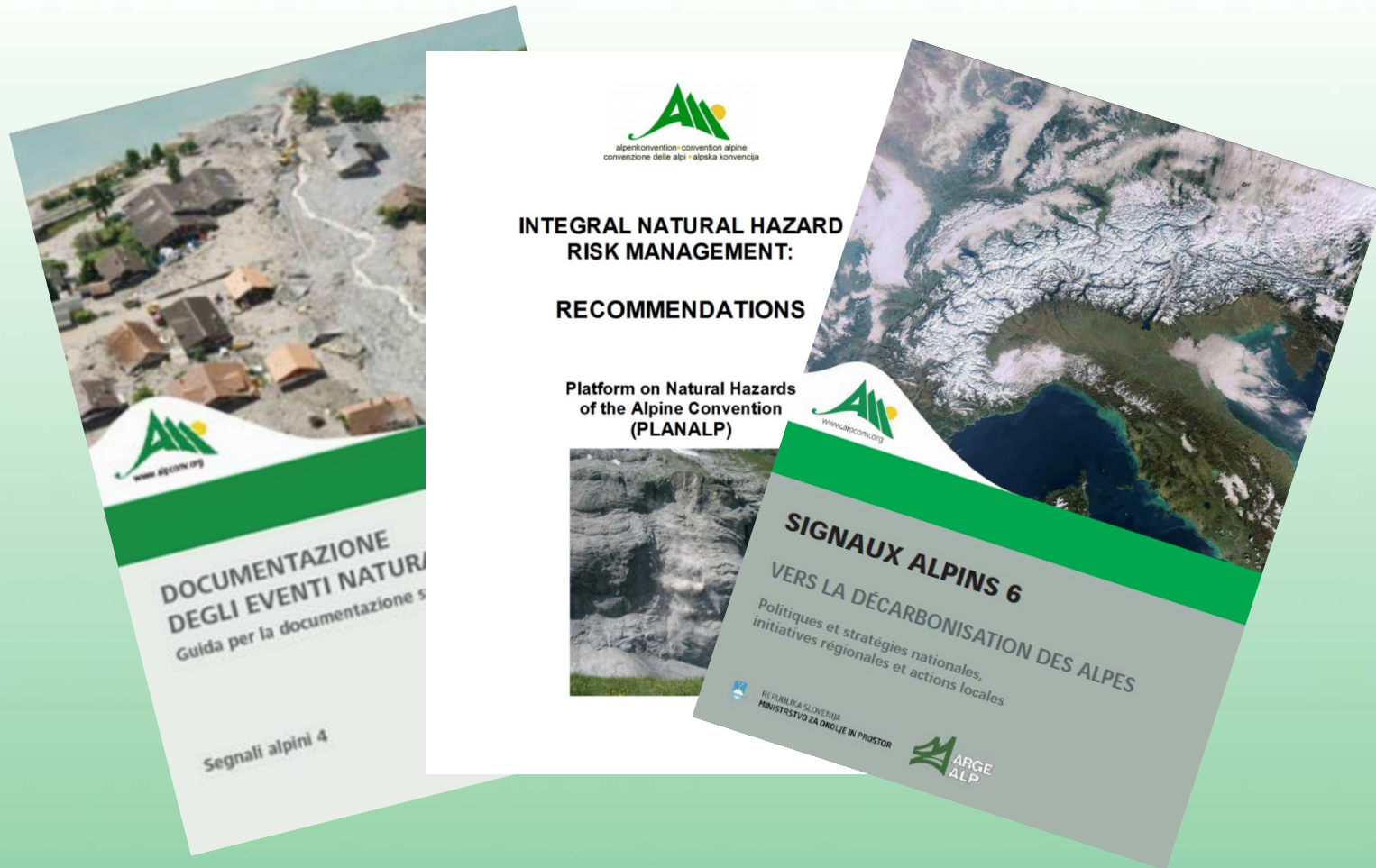
Activities:

- ✓ Discuss concepts for integrated reduction of natural hazards, identify and share „good practices“ in the alpine countries, intensify transboundary experience exchange

Main topics:

- ✓ Integrated risk management, early warning systems, sustainable protection concepts and measures, event documentation, reconstruction strategies, risk dialogue
- ✓ 4 Hotspots for priority action:
 - ✓ Climate change and natural hazards in the Alps, unstable system
 - ✓ Risk dialogue and information
 - ✓ Residual risk
 - ✓ Land use

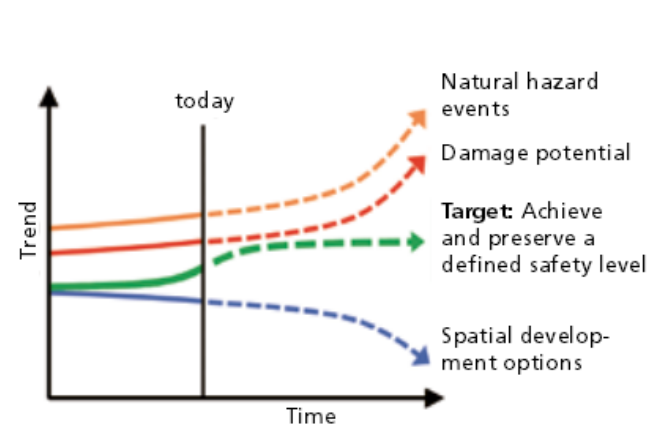
Results and publications of PLANALP



Alpine strategy for adaptation to climate change in the field of natural hazards

The first alpine-wide framework for climate change adaptation in the field of natural hazards.

Figure 4 – Adaptation goal for the alpine space. (PLANAT)



Alpine strategy for adaptation to climate change in the field of natural hazards

Developed by the Platform on Natural Hazards of the Alpine Convention PLANATP

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN - Evian, 2009

Not a list of new rules but a strategic framework of action



9 areas of action
24 main objectives
81 measures



ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- ✓ **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT** - Prevention of natural hazards, reinforce adaptation capacities
- ✓ **BIODIVERSITY** - Ecological continuity, typically alpine species, eco-certification
- ✓ **TOURISM** - Ban new tourist infrastructures in glacier, restrict artificial snow, inter-season tourism
- ✓ **WATER & HYDRIC RESOURCES** - Reduction, impact of hydroelectric power plants on nature
- ✓ **TRANSPORT SECTOR** - anticipate deterioration of transport infrastructures
- ✓ **ENERGY SECTOR** - Reduction, Buildings, Renewable energies
- ✓ **TRANSPORT SECTOR** - Shift to sustainable transports, reduce CO2 emissions
- ✓ **TOURISM SECTOR** - Climate neutral holidays, diversification

Climate Change integrated in other Working Groups and Platforms

Energy:

- ✓ New Working Group.
Energy plays an essential role and will be a strategic topic in regard to climate change. Production, energy networks, use and saving

Transports:

- ✓ Modal transfer, polluter pays principle, sustainable mobility

Water Management:

- ✓ Integrated and sustainable water management, prevention of natural hazards

Transport Protocol

Transport Protocol (TP) signed in 2000.

TP places **sustainable traffic development** in the Alps
in its very center

One of the most **important and most discussed**
elements of the Alpine Convention

EC/EU has signed the TP in 2006, and **ratified it in 2013**
entry into force on September 25, 2013

Transport Protocol

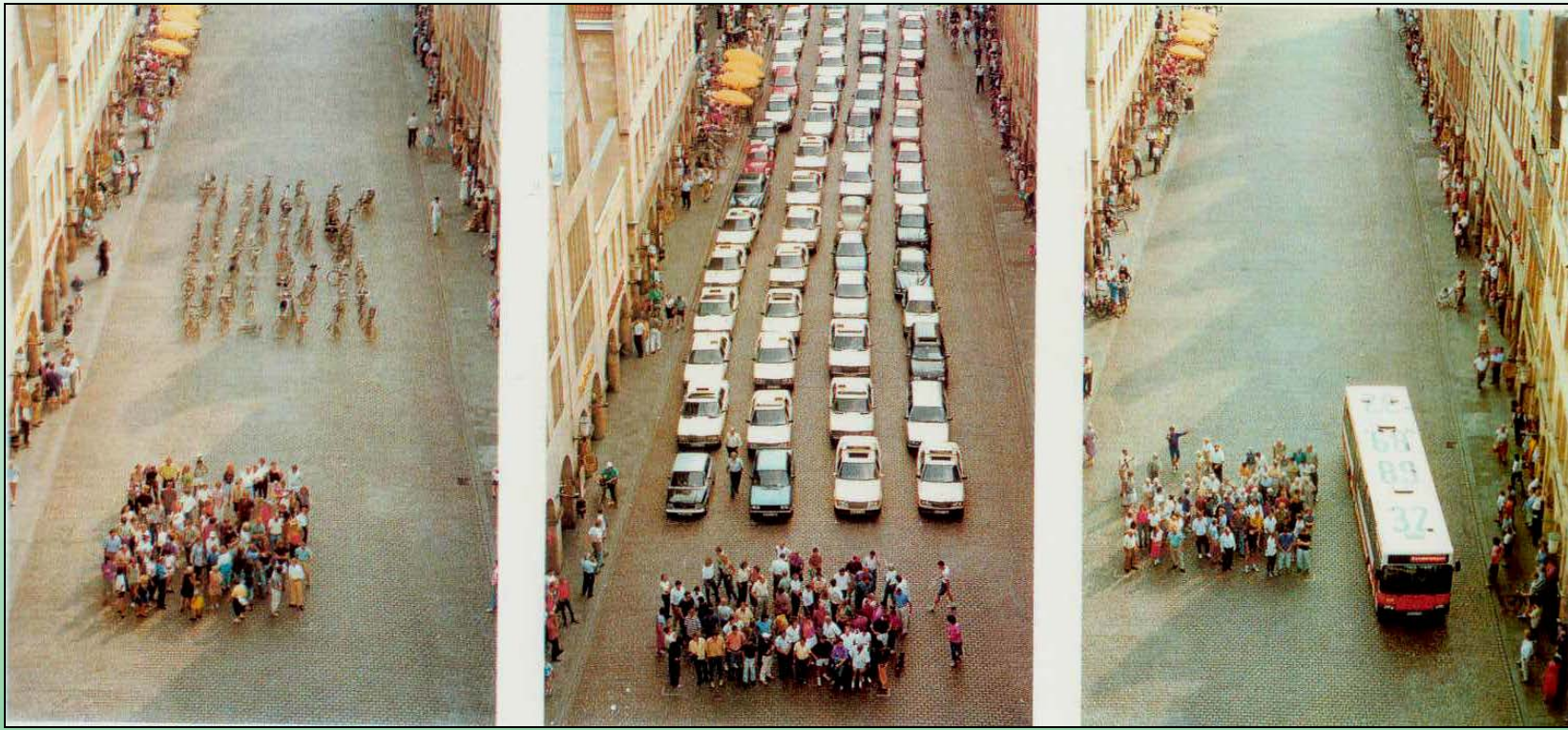
The TP contains norms of different nature:

- **Basic principles** such as the “polluter-pays” principle (Art. 14)
- **Specific legal obligations** such as the ban on constructing new large-capacity roads for transalpine transport (Art. 11)
- **General objectives** such as encouragement of public transport systems (Art. 9)



Encouraging the use of more sustainable transport means **FOR PASSENGERS**

Supporting the creation and maintenance of
low traffic and traffic-free areas



WG Transport

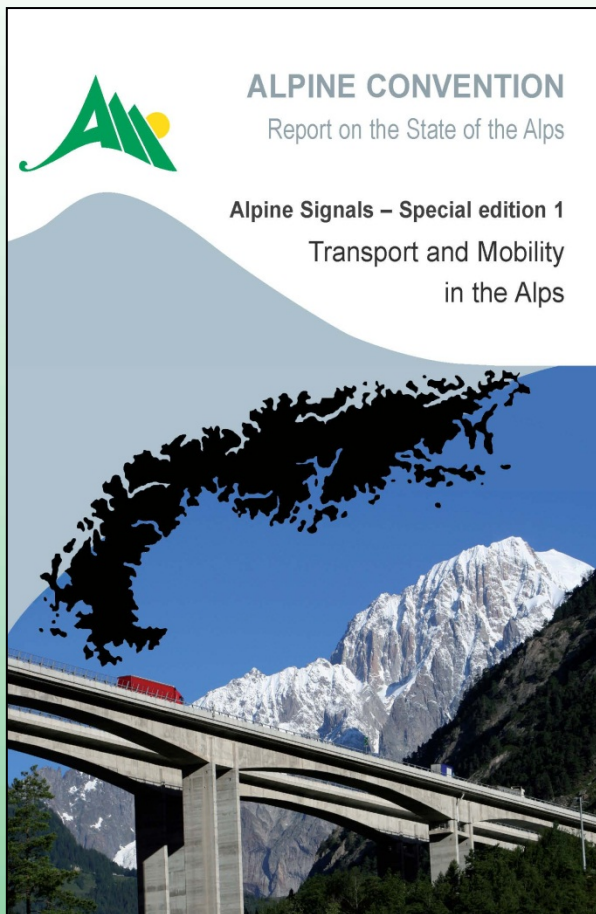
Present mandate of the WG:

- Develop coordinated information in the spheres of transport and tourism;
- large-capacity transport infrastructure and the reduction in environmental damage;
- reducing the negative impact of transport on health and environment;
- good practices especially for sustainable mobility in urban areas and their surroundings.

Existing Challenges:

- Develop a coherent intermodal policy aiming to reduce the transport of goods on road
- Develop integrated spatial planning policies to reduce the structural needs in transports and space
- Improve the public transports inside the alpine region and the availability of related information (e.g. Alpinfonet)

The first report on the State of the Alps: Transport and Mobility (RSA 1) (2007)



- Provide the public with information and appraisals on the main developments taking place in the Alps
- Basis for strategy development for politics and administration
- Data collection from all Alpine Countries
- Authors: national group of experts appointed by the Contracting Parties
- Approved by the IX Alpine Conference in Alpbach, 2006
- Publication in the four Alpine languages: Dec 2007

Main topics of the first report on the State of the Alps: Transport and Mobility (RSA 1) (2007)

- Freight transit
- Passenger transit
- Access to services, goods and jobs for the Alpine population
- Access to services and goods for the Alpine economy
- Long-range accessibility and local mobility for Alpine tourism



Results of the working group transport

- Report on the State of the Alps RSA 1 „Transport and mobility in the Alps“, 2007
- Report on the State of the Alps RSA 3 on “Sustainable rural development and innovation”, 2011
- Report on „Cooperation on Alpine Railway Corridors“ (2006)
- Publication on „The real costs of transport in transalpine corridors“ (2007)
- Report on „Tourist sustainable mobility in the Alps“ (2009)
- Synthesis report „Public transport accessibility of Alpine tourist resorts from major European origin regions and cities“ (2009)
- Examples of good practices and analysis of the mobility system „Sustainable mobility in the Alps“ (2009)
- Report Alpine Urban Mobility (2011)

Link with the Zurich Group

- Declaration of the **Ministers of Transport (D, A, I, CH, F)** concerning the Improvement of Road Safety Particularly in Tunnels in the Alpine Region (2001)
- Mandate of the WG Transports of the Alpine Convention:
« Be in contact with the Zurich Group and exchange informations on the activities related to transports, as e.g. road safety.»
- The Alpine Convention is observer in the Zurich Group and actively participates to the work of the WG Environmental Indicators.

WG Environmental
Indicators

WG
Incident Management

WG Data Collection
and Recording

Ad hoc WG Road
Tunnel Safety

WG Heavy Traffic
Management Systems



Thank you for your attention.

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www.alpconv.org