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:

- EU
- Austria
- Germany
- Switzerland
- Slovenia
- Monaco
- France
- Italy
- Liechtenstein

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

- 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

- 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 3 on “Sustainable rural development and innovation”, 2011
- Publication on „The real costs of transport in transalpine corridors“ (2007)
- 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.
Thank you for your attention.

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