

# Climate pact

## The Alps as a model region for climate protection

Because of their natural physical conditions the Alps are affected particularly severely by the consequences of climate change. However, they are still a long way from a policy compatible with the climate although a change in trends is possible. The key to reducing global warming is in how we use energy. There are particular opportunities in the Alps for counteracting the causes and consequences of climate change using sustainable development strategies. Thus the Alps have a great opportunity for becoming a model region for climate protection.

**We, the undersigned organisations, institutions and networks whose headquarters are in the Alps or deal intensively with the Alps in the course of our work invite the contracting parties of the Alpine Convention to turn the Alps into a model region for climate protection. The climate action plan to be passed by the X Alpine Conference (Conference of Ministers) in France in 2009 provides an excellent opportunity to do so.**

In particular, we call for strategies to reduce climate change in the areas of energy, traffic and tourism. These include:

- + Adaptation of the planning regulations for extensive translation of the passive building standard for new structures, strict energy guidelines for building renovation and financial promotion of building renovation.
- + Increase in efficiency in energy generation by extending or modernising hydroelectric power stations while simultaneously taking appropriate ecological measures into consideration.
- + Involvement in working out a vision of energy for the Alps to elaborate a consensus on how to deal sustainably in the future with energy in the Alps.
- + Traffic associations in agglomerations and commuter catchment areas in the Alps.
- + The introduction of a traffic management system throughout the Alps, e.g. in the shape of an “Alpine Crossing Exchange” to transfer transit goods traffic from road to rail.
- + Taking the Alps appropriately into consideration in the amendment to the EU Toll Charge Directive for HGVs. The intention is to neutralise the current distortion of competition, to reduce the quantity of goods transported and to transfer goods to the railways by increasing the toll charges as a result of calculating all the costs caused by heavy goods traffic.
- + The introduction throughout the Alps of an 100 km/h speed limit for cars on motorways and of an 80 km/h one outside built-up areas.
- + Promoting the creation of 100 attractive tourist packages involving both the tourists’ arrival and stay without private vehicles.
- + Jointly working out criteria for tourist activities which protect the climate and examination of the existing development laws, i.e. no tourist promotion without climate protection.

In addition, we also call for adaptation strategies to cope with climate change, in particular:

- + The extensive identification of danger zones along with examination and adaptation of building zones based on this to prevent construction in danger zones in the future.
- + The creation in the Alps of an ecological association to permit the migration of animals and plants which would die out without migration opportunities as a consequence of climate change.
- + The inclusion of a selection of tree species suitable to location in the national forestry programmes and the promotion of the conversion of spruce monocultures into semi-natural forests.
- + Certification of all forests in the Alpine region in accordance with the provisions of a recognised certification system and the joint setting of strict criteria for certification recognised throughout the Alps.
- + Drawing up of snow cannon inventories for regions and municipalities giving information about water and energy use as the basis for additional artificial snow blowers and abandonment of subventions for snow cannons.
- + No new installation on glaciers and no further exploitation of undeveloped landscapes;
- + The working out of a strategy throughout the Alps to deal sustainably with inshore waters and their environment to prevent nature and the landscape being affected by uncoordinated increased use of water power.

Furthermore, we call for activities in the fields of information, education and research, in particular:

- + An information and sensitisation campaign throughout the Alps by the Alpine Convention permanent secretariat in close co-operation with the contracting parties and observer organisations involving existing knowledge about the effects of climate change and possible necessary reduction and adaptation measures.
- + A competition with good prize money on how to deal with the climate in an exemplary manner.
- + Increased Alpine Convention AOIS (Alpine Observation and Information System) activity in harmonising and working out an overall view of existing research in the climate field.

To ensure the implementation of the Alpine Convention's Climate action plan we call for the setting up of an Alpine climate protection fund.

**In this way, we the undersigned organisations, institutions and networks, call upon the contracting parties of the Alpine Convention to pass a concise action plan on the occasion of the X Alpine conference to reduce climate change in the Alps and to adapt to it and to create a model region for climate protection.**