



**Bovec, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**The energy challenges for the Alps in the  
framework of the Alpine Convention**

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# Topics

1. **The Alpine Convention and energy policy: basic framework, objectives and measures**
2. **A critical assessment of the “Autarchy” objective**
3. **Perspectives**



# **1. The Alpine Convention and energy policy: basic framework, objectives and measures**

- 1. The 1991 Framework Convention**
- 2. The 1998 Protocol on energy**
- 3. The 1999 Action Plan on climate change**
- 4. Activities of WG and PF**



# 1991 Framework Convention

## Art. 2

Comprehensive policy for the preservation and protection of the Alps

K) the objective is to introduce methods for the production, distribution and use of energy which preserve the countryside and are environmentally compatible, and to promote energy saving measures;



# 1998 Protocol on Energy

In force in Austria, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, the EU, Italy (for the part falling under EU competence)



# Protocol on Energy: objectives

- Creating framework conditions and adopting measures for energy saving, production, transport, distribution and utilisation within the territorial scope of the Alpine Convention in order to establish sustainable development in the energy sector which is compatible with the Alpine region's specific tolerance limits.



# THREE MAIN CATEGORIES OF MEASURES

- A. Reduce energy need (e.g saving, efficiency, polluter pays principle)
- B. Reduce environmental impact of energy infrastructures (eg EIA, renewables, protected zones)
- C. Research, observation, training



# CATEGORY A (saving)

- Article 5 (example: building insulation, heating and water costs calculation)



# CATEGORY B “IMPACT”

- Climate: renewables (Article 6)
- Hydropower (Article 7)
- Fossile plants (Article 8)
- Nuclear plants (Article 9)
- Transport and distribution (Article 10)
- Renaturalisation and environmental engineering (article 11)



# CATEGORY B “IMPACT”

- EIA (Article 12)
- Dialogue (Article 13)



# MAIN CHALLENGES

- Implementation gap
- Monitoring and compliance check



# THE ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- 2 strategies (adaptation – mitigation)
- 9 sectors/strategic areas
- 24 main objectives
- 81 measures



# Action Plan on Climate Change

not meant to be a regulatory plan but rather a strategic framework for the setting of more precise objectives



## Mitigation strategies

- Land Planning
- Energy
- Transport
- Tourism



## Adaptation strategies

- Land Planning
- Forests
- Biodiversity
- Tourism
- Water
- Mountain Farming



# Few examples of measures of the Actions Plan

- Maintain natural areas as carbon sinks
- Harmonise school holidays calendars
- Inform the population of natural hazards areas
- Implement coordinated observation methods on CC effects on forests

With for each measures examples of good practices



# Implementation of the AP

**TERRITORIAL ACTORS: BEST  
PRACTICES/EXAMPLES TO SHARE**

**PROJECTS**



# The climate portal of the AC

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Alpine Convention's climate portal. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: HOME | THE CONVENTION | ACTIVITIES | ALPINE KNOWLEDGE | DOCUMENTS | PERMANENT SECRETARIAT | CONTACT US | SEARCH. Below this is a sidebar with categories: HOME CLIMATE PORTAL, THE ACTION PLAN, KNOWLEDGE CENTER (with sub-links for Energy, Certifications, Financing), GOOD PRACTICES, TERRITORIAL EXAMPLES (with sub-links for Wildpoldered, Velenje, Chamonix), PROJECTS (with sub-links for ETC Alpine Space, Other Projects, Non-European Projects), TOURISM & SOFT MOBILITY, YOUNG GENERATIONS, MULTIMEDIA LIBRARY, and NEWS & EVENTS. The main content area features a large photo of a snowy mountain landscape, a section titled 'THE CLIMATE PORTAL' with introductory text, and a grid of buttons for: THE ACTION PLAN, KNOWLEDGE CENTER, GOOD PRACTICES, PROJECTS, TOURISM & SOFT MOBILITY, YOUNG GENERATIONS, LIBRARY, and NEWS & EVENTS. There are also language selection buttons (en, fr, sl, it, de), essential links to EU, IPCC, and UN climate change resources, and a video player for 'LIVING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE'.



# Territorial actors implementing the Action Plan

## Velenje (SI): Climate Plan

### Mitigation

Energy Industry: Photovoltaic power plants supported, energy efficient reconstruction of Public Street Lightening ...

Transport: free public transport system

Waste: 210 waste collection points



## **Chamonix (FR): Climate Energy Plan**

### **Adaptation**

**Natural hazards: monitoring programme on their evolution**

**Biodiversity: creation of a forest charter aimed at the sustainable management of forests**

**Tourism: development of an “exemplary eco-tourism valley” project adapting the tourism sector of the local economy to the challenges of climate change (certification of tourism organisations, development of eco-responsibility events, and creation of new eco-touristic products.)**

**New on our website: Wildpoldsried Energy Plan, Germany**



# ACTIVITY OF RELEVANT WORKING GROUPS

- Platform WATER
- Platform ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS
- Platform NATURAL RISKS



# GUIDELINES FOR SHP IN THE ALPS

Hydro-electrical potential little medium high	low	medium	high	Exclusion
	low	medium	high	
	low	medium	high	
Ecological and landscape value				

Alpine Convention  
Platform water management in the Alps

## ALPINE SIGNALS FOCUS 1

COMMON GUIDELINES  
FOR THE USE OF SMALL HYDROPOWER  
IN THE ALPINE REGION



## 2. Autarchy? A critical assessment

- Geographical delimitation of the Alpine Convention
- The nature of the “electricity” commodity
- Risks for the Alpine territory





# CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AT EU LEVEL

- New legal basis for energy in the EU Treaty
- RES Directive: target 20% renewables will most likely be exceeded (current forecast 20.6%).
- New political target (Feb 2011): 80-95% compared to 1990 level by 2050



- About half of the MS will be able to produce more than needed nationally (and
- Various support schemes exist but are totally uncoordinated: their integration and coordination is one of the main challenges (expected savings: 10 bn/year)
- New push to infrastructures (e.g single permits)



- 29 June 2011 financial package for energy: the objective is to spend more than 1 bn/year in energy. Priority: production and energy efficiency at local level
- Decisions on Energy TEN (interconnection and interoperability) make it very difficult for the local territories to have a say in decisions which concern them!

**CONCLUSION:** strong push to new infrastructures and investments and corresponding impact

# Energy autarchy?



Bei der vorliegenden Montage handelt es sich um eine realitätsnahe Darstellung uns bekannter Maßnahmen, die im Zusammenhang mit den Windparks „Sattelberg“ und „Sandjoch“ geplant sind. Die Montage legt jedoch keinen Anspruch auf eine exakte lage- bzw. größengetreue Abbildung der geplanten Eingriffe. So ist die im linken Bildbereich eingezeichnete Materialseilbahn in einer nachgelagerten Geländekammer vorgesehen. Die grauen Linien stellen die neu zu errichtenden bzw. auszubauenden Zufahrtsstraßen dar. In der Landschaft zu erwartende Erosionsschäden wurden nicht visualisiert.



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**THE “PRICE” OF LANDSCAPE - Who**  
**cares about landscape in the Alps?**  
***JUNE 24th 2011***



## 3. Perspectives

- **Strategy of the Alps as contribution to wider strategies**
- **Energy as a topic for a possible macro-regional strategy for the Alps**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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