



Mont-Blanc: bad air, adieu

The health burden caused by particulate matter has dominated the political agenda in France for the past weeks. The Mont Blanc region has just presented a ground-breaking project that provides a welcome breathing space. Free buses, driving bans, diversions for heavy vehicles - numerous French municipalities have tried using short-term measures to achieve what the wind could not during periods of fine weather: less particulate matter in the air. Environmental organisations have criticised the sustainability of these actions. The region around Mont Blanc, where the inhabitants have for years been fighting for better air, has now adopted a farsighted approach.

The municipalities have joined together in a project to install 17 large wind machines on Mont Blanc that will simply blow away the fine dust. The structures can be aligned in any direction, so that France can if necessary also supply its Italian neighbour with artificial wind. "Although the Alpine Convention does not have any air protection protocol, with this pilot project France is showing the importance of cross-border co-operation", says Alain Boulogne, head of CIPRA France.

As well as providing a direct and effective solution to one of the most pressing environmental problems of the last decade, this air protection measure also offers an aesthetic aspect: the technical sophistication of the wind machines skilfully blends in with the silhouette of the highest summit of the Alps, Mont Blanc.

Sources and further information: www.cipra.org/de/alpmedia/news-de/4959 (de)

News from the Alps

"Operation EUSALP": investigating working practices in the Alps

A recent study has examined the working practices of politicians in the Alps. The study, commissioned by the US State Department, bears the name "Operation EUSALP".

Hard on the heels of the scandal surrounding the espionage activities of the NSA comes the next shocking revelation. The macro-regional strategy for the Alpine space (EUSALP) is a fictitious test programme, commissioned by the US State Department to examine how decision-makers in the Alps go about their work. It appears that the typical protagonist in the region spends one half of his or her working week in meetings or travelling to meetings, with a further day invested in reading and answering e-mails, with at least five hours for secret agreements between the members of the fictitious steering groups. For actual work there remains barely one standard working day per week. The Harvard Department of Sociology, which carried out the study, refers in its final report to the Alpine two-day week (travel time is counted as working time). Organisations in the Alps even took on new employees to cope with the flood of e-mails and marathon meetings on EUSALP. CIPRA, for example, brought in an expert in European bureaucracy from London. The USA, which is struggling with rising unemployment, is now considering adopting the Alpine two-day week for the purpose of job creation. Planning is already underway for macro-regions around "America's Most Miserable Cities", Detroit in Michigan and Miami in Florida (ed.: according to Forbes Magazine).

Agenda

Lecture: **A wolf in sheep's clothing - an insight into the aggressive potential of French grazing sheep and the dangers they pose to humans.** 15.4.2014 – 15.4.2014. Grenoble. Organisation: CIPRA France, Maison de la Nature et de l'Environnement de l'Isère, Grenoble/FR. [More »](#)

Campaign: **Beaver versus building authority - competitive tree-felling.** 19.4.2014 – 19.4.2014. Ruggell. Language: de, en. Organisation: CIPRA Liechtenstein, c/o LGU, Ruggell/LI. [More »](#)

Campaign: **Barbecuing under the wind turbine: let's help kindle the energy transition!** 29.4.2014 – 29.4.2014.

Haldenstein. Organisation: CIPRA Schweiz, Interlaken/CH. [More »](#)

Workshop / Seminar: **Knit your own macro-region. From rough wool to soft pullover.** 5.5.2014 – 5.5.2014.
Ljubljana. Organisation: CIPRA Slovenija, društvo za varstvo Alp, Ljubljana/SI. [More »](#)

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