EUSALP
11ᵗʰ Meeting

Action Group 4 Mobility

04 June 2019, Innsbruck
Minutes

Agenda Topic 1 – AG4 State of Play

The AGL **Patrick Skoniezki** opened the meeting and welcomed the members.

Tour de table

- **Olivier Margouet** (Region Sud-PACA) introduced himself and **Xavier Garcia** (Region Sud-PACA) referred to their attendance at the [Smart Villages event in Courmayeur](#) and to a [sub-group proposal](#) from their side following later on.
- **Stafan Duelli** (Vorarlberg) reported that his region was currently finishing their mobility concept for the period until 2030; waiting for recently ordered trains in regional traffic, which offer more capacity and space for bicycles; and mentioned plans for infrastructure upgrades connecting to Switzerland and Liechtenstein.
- **Ralf Kühn** (Salzburg) mentioned the project "Magistrale" running along Paris–Nancy–Karlsruhe–Strasbourg–Munich–Vienna; announced plans to eliminate bottlenecks until 2040; and stressed the importance as potential node for inner alpine transport.
- **Alfred Nagelschmied** (Styria) reported his participation, together with Alberto Cozzi ([Port of Trieste](#)), in [the Interreg Central Europe project REIF](#) (Regional infrastructure for railway freight transport – revitalized), which had started in April.
- **Nathalie Morelle** (Alpine Convention) referred to her later [presentation](#).
- **Aurelio Vigani** (Switzerland) excused his absence at the [last AG4 meeting in Bolzano](#); reported the recent appointment of [Simonetta Sommaruga](#) as Federal Councillor for Transport; and described her as left-leaning politician committed to sustainability and modal shift.
- **Alberto Pellissone** (Liguria) referred to the [Smart Villages event in Courmayeur](#), and stressed that the AG4 could learn from the event's good organization and concrete contents.
- **Anne-Séverine Lay** (JS – Interreg Alpine Space) referred to her later [presentation](#).
- **Andrea Rosa** ([LINKS Foundation](#)) introduced himself.
- **Gabriel Klammer** ([EUROCHAMBRES](#)) reported on plans of the Tyrolean government for driving bans to petrol stations in the secondary network connecting to the motorways A12 and A13.
- **Franc Zepic** (Slovenia) briefly mentioned several ongoing projects with added value for the Alpine macro-region. Firstly, he reported that the second tube of the Karawanks Road Tunnel, a crucial link to Western Europe, was currently under construction on the Austrian

side, while issues with very strict procurement rules were slowing down progress on the Slovenian side; he stressed the second tube's importance regarding environmental and safety aspects. Also, he reported that currently preparatory works on the construction of the second railway track that will enhance the connection between the Port of Koper and Divača and further to Ljubljana were progressing well after many previous years of obstacles; and that financial issues were solved since Slovenia had recently received a considerable loan offered by the EIB. Finally, he referred to the Alpine Space Programme's focus on green mobility and macro-regional issues explaining the problematic situation of public transport in Slovenia regarding high investments but low passengers counts. In fact, the Slovenian railway company had bought 26 new passenger trains to be delivered within the next five years, which should be more comfortable but cannot expedite travel time because the infrastructure lagging behind.

- **Matteo Brumati** (Piedmont) reported a shift in the government following regional elections on 26 May (together with the European Parliament elections) but that no minister for mobility and transport was appointed yet. He stressed the election's relevance as a virtual referendum in favor of the Turin-Lyon link since almost 90 percent of votes went to parties campaigning for closing this missing link in the TEN-T.

- **Andrea Rossetto** (Veneto) mentioned his region was currently working on a regional transport plan.

- **Paolo Dileno** (Central European Initiative) mentioned that on 11 and 12 June CEI is hosting in Trieste the Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 17 CEI Member states. Among all topics to be discussed, a focus will be how to strengthen cooperation among local authorities. Regarding CONNECT2CE he reported good project performance and completion of all the pilot activities within July as planned. Finally, he mentioned an application as Lead partner for a project in the Interreg Italy-Slovenia CBC Programme called Fortis, which aims at improving public transport connections across borders.

- **Laura Pretto** (Trentino) about the recent reactivation of the Observatory for the Brenner Corridor development, a local committee that involves the Province, stakeholders and municipalities to discuss the southern access to the Brenner Base Tunnel.

- **Ovidio Martini** (South Tyrol) reported on the acquisistion of new rolling stock (multivoltage trains) for cross-border connections from Venosta Valley to North and East Tyrol without interchanging. Also, he mentioned a green mobility policy subsidizing electric cars with up to 10,000 € (6,000 € from the national plus 4,000 € regional funds) and hybrids with approx. 4,000 €.

- **Simone Messner** (South Tyrol) emphasized the importance of the European Commission as AG4 Observer and noted their absence.

- **Kaspar Schuler** (CIPRA International) arrived after the introduction round. He is member in advisory role of the AG4 and participates in the Task Force for the assessment of individual projects in this function.

The AGL mentioned that Cesare Bernabei had excused himself, mentioned Astrid Aulnette as the new **European Commission** contact in charge of the AG4, and added that she would hopefully attend the next AG4 meeting. Furthermore, the AGL excused Federico Cavallaro (Italy), Jörg Putzl and Karsten Schröder (Carinthia), Harry Seybert (Bavaria) and Helen Lückge, who attended vie Skype. Upon enquiry by Ovidio Martini, the AGL reported that **Lombardy** had joined the AG4 and nominated Massimiliano Nanti, who had not become active yet but was a very important new addition. Subsequently, the AG4 approved the agenda for the day.

Feedback on events attended by AGL & upcoming events

The AGL provided an overview of events with involvement of the EUSALP AG4. Past events included the **Smart Villages** conference, which received large attendance; breadth of topics surrounding innovative technology to improve service provision in remote areas to prevent depopulation; and topical relevance for the New AG4 Work Plan. While online documentation is generally available, Stefan Duelli asked for the presentations shown at the event. Upon Matteo Brumati's related comment, the AGL emphasized topical overlap between AG4, AG5, AG9, and AG3 within the Smart Villages concept. Upcoming events include an **iMONITRAF!** partner meeting on 21 June in Zurich. In this regard, the AGL happily announced that the Co-Leader, Region Sud-PACA, was going to join the consortium.

Update AlpGov II

The AGL reported that the ASP Programme Committee had extended the submission deadline until 08 July 2019. He added that the problems regarding Lead Partner and Work Package Communication Leader were still being discussed at EB level and remained open questions. Franc Zepic commented that the structure of AlpGov II should be aligned with the actual AG4 work and drew comparisons to issues within the EUSDR. **In order to support the activities of AG4, the AGL explained that both co-leaders Tyrol and PACA would join as project partners.**

Update ARPAF CrossBorder project

The AGL reported on recent local workshops concerning cross border commuting in the regions Kufstein-Rosenheim and Terra Raetica dealing with very different challenges. He explained that the project was going to be finished shortly and a review would follow at the next AG4 Meeting and/or at the Annual Forum.

EUSALP Presidency 2019 Italy

For the technical workshop on Connectivity in the Alpine Region ("Intermodality of Transport Systems and Maritime dimension") on **26 September in Trieste,** Alberto Cozzi asked the AG4 for input on potential participants and roundtable speakers (e. g. transport authorities, relevant companies, regional administrations and passenger transport providers), referring to the mail sent by FVG region on 3 June; AG4 participation is taken for granted.

Regarding the workshop on transport (state-ministries level), corridors and EGTC Rhine-Alpine on **22 October in Genoa,** Alberto Pellissone reported that the agenda was currently being drafted internally aiming at concrete representations of projects. This political event will build on the technical conference held in Trieste. The topic is tilted towards freight transport and intermodal logistics including ports and corridors. Since not only the regional but also the state ministry level are targeted, Franc Zepic stressed that the preparation must proceed in a timely manner.

Finally, the AGL announced that the 12th AG4 Meeting would take place back to back, thus on 21 October in Genoa.

The **Annual Forum** on 27 and 28 November in Milan as final event for AlpGov and closure of the Italian presidency was also mentioned to which AG4 will be asked to contribute in the coming months. **The outputs of the ARPAF CrossBorder project will be presented at this occasion while other inputs are to be discussed within the AG4.**

EUSALP Communication activity

Karoline Hurnaus (AGL) reported that the AG1 Lead, who also act as AlpGov WP communication leader, was currently working on preparing **image videos** for each AG in a "storytelling" format. She related their request for inputs including a list of relevant stakeholders, performance indicators/results, and shooting locations to the AG4. She emphasized that it was important to include existing material in order to be able to accurately depict the whole AG4 beyond the material to be shot in Innsbruck on 18 and 19 June. Immediate feedback by the members showed that requirements regarding quality, content, and language have to be specified. **The AGL will circulate a proposal expecting important contributions by the members. The video is expected to be finished in autumn.**

EU consultation on TEN-T

Xavier Garcia referred to Regulation 1315/2013 as basis for this revision of the TEN-T guidelines. He added that each region could contribute to this evaluation individually, which PACA was going to do, maybe together with Piedmont. Additionally, he emphasized the value of a **coordinated feedback by the entire EUSALP AG4** to communicate to the EU the importance of the TEN-T network for the Alpine Region. Since the consultation focuses on general issues rather than individual projects, a common position should be reachable. **The deadline is 17 July and the AGL will share a proposal on a common position and will coordinate receiving the timely feedback by AG4 members.**

Agenda Topic 2 – Update on Interreg Alpine Space programme

Anne-Séverine Lay (Alpine Space JS) informed the AG4 about several project proposals in the fourth call under the low carbon priority, which will be evaluated over the summer; approval date is 2 October and a 5th call is not foreseen. The AGL added that FutureTrans (ASP823), which was initiated by iMONITRAF!, had already been submitted and thanked those AG4 members supporting the project as observers; LinkingAlps (ASP740), which was initiated by the AG4 was going to be submitted the same week. The call is very competitive with only 2 to 3 projects under the low carbon priority to be financed. AlpGov II is under development and the submission deadline 8 July 2019. The AGL reiterated the urgency of finding a Lead Partner for Alp Gov II from the midst of EUSALP Action Group Leaders.

Agenda Topic 3 – C2 Infrastructure for combined transport (terminals)

Andrea Rosa (LINKS Foundation) gave the AG4 an update on the progress with the preparatory study to investigate and optimise multi-modal logistic chains and informed about the first local dialogue workshop which was held in Innsbruck on 3 June. Three further workshops are planned for June in other Alpine regions. **The study will be finalized this summer**; thus, the final report and WebGIS (available for the duration of one year) will be presented at the 12th AG4 meeting in Genoa.

Agenda Topic 4 – New EUSALP AG4 Work Plan 2019 to 2022

Patrick Skoniezki (AGL) referred to the recent feedback round with an admittedly tight time frame and began the presentation with a very short recap of Part 1 since hardly anything had changed since

the last AG4 meeting concerning these horizontal activities, which he classified as typical transversal activities to be covered under AlpGov. Together with Helmut Adelsberger, he continued with Part 2 (**Sub-groups and thematic areas**), where there was considerably more need for discussion, offering thematic area explanations, potential topics, and sub-group proposals. Additionally, Xavier Garcia (AGL) presented a [proposal for a **sub-group** on innovative propulsion systems and fuels.](#) The AGL added that Veneto proposed to lead a sub-group on "Masterplan ports and inland terminals" and invited Veneto to give a short input presentation at the next AG4 meeting. Any other region interested in leading a sub-group is asked to propose itself and to prepare a short presentation at the next AG4 meeting. Wrapping up, **the AGL specified the timeline for the New Work Plan until the end of the year. Open questions regarding leadership, management, organization, mandate, and compositional balance for the sub-groups will be discussed and clarified in the coming months**. Upon Andrea Rossetto's request on changing activity titles, the AGL referred to the thematic areas in the new work plan, which should come close to finalization with the [12th AG4 meeting.](#) **Members will be given the opportunity to give their feedback to the survey in the coming weeks.**

Lunch Break

Welcome Speech

After a joint lunch, **[Ingrid Felipe,](#) Vice-President and Councilor for Mobility of Tyrol** extended a warm welcome to the AG4. Alluding to the recent crisis in Austrian national politics, she stressed the continued stability in the Tyrolean government. After references to previous AG4 meetings in Innsbruck as well as the Tyrolean EUSALP presidency during the previous year, she welcomed the French colleagues from Région Sud-PACA as addition to the AG4 Lead Team, which also points to the importance of the topic of mobility and transport in order to preserve the quality of life in the Alpine Region. Citing increasing traffic counts on the Brenner corridor as well as transalpine routes, she pointed out how the pressure on the Alpine population was growing as well. Likewise, she explained, politicians were coming under pressure to act and politics had to rely on experts; therefore, she was very happy the experts in the AG4 were currently developing a new work plan, for which she promised her full support. Finally, she prompted the AG4 to take advantage of the current level of awareness as it becomes clear from the attention to the recent international youth movement for climate action.

Agenda Topic 5 – Ausserfern railway feasibility study and "Alpine Cross" project in Terra Raetica

Ekkehard Allinger-Csollich (Tyrol) introduced himself to the new colleagues from Region Sud-PACA and began his [presentation](#) with a telling literal translation of the concerned toponyms, namely "Far Away Pass" and the district "Exceptionally Far Away" to illustrate the remote and mountainous geographical setting. He presented the **results of the feasibility study** and informed the AG4 that an investigation of demand and first discussions with the national ministry were current steps of this project, which was very interesting but needed a very long timeframe. Finally, Ekkehard Allinger-Csollich used Matteo Brumati's enquiry concerning EUSALP-wide relevance of the project to hand

over the floor to Paul Stopper (ETH Zurich, Transport Planner) and his "Alpine Cross" project. The guest expert [presented his study](#) on developing an **inner-Alpine regional railway network** in the wider Rhaetian triangle "Terra Raetica" (Switzerland, Austria, Italy), which had been commissioned by South Tyrol. He mentioned that these plans, which date back to the 19th century, would not only expedite long distance travel but also further regional development. In conclusion, Stopper explained that, while the entire network project was enormous, it became manageable when considered in multiple sections, which had been investigated in depth.

In order to obtain more information on these ambitious Alpine projects, Franc Zepic asked about financing of regional infrastructure sections that are to be constructed predominantly underground (tunnels) and enquired about the forecast on number of passengers. His intervention elicited Ingrid Felipe's reply that the money issue was always raised promptly with railways but never seemed to be a problem with motor- and airway infrastructure projects. In this regard, she recalled her party's (Greens) initially critical stance towards the Brenner Base Tunnel, precisely because it did not seem financeable then. However, she forecasted that funds will be oriented towards rail and away from airway infrastructure, not least because public awareness of the necessity of a new kind of mobility was spreading. Upon request by Franc Zepic to explain how the new planned construction of railway infrastructure is compliant with the [Transport Protocol of the Alpine Convention](#), Nathalie Morelle pointed to articles 9 and 10 of the Transport Protocol, in which the Contracting Parties commit to promote the improvement of public transport and railway systems, including the construction of new infrastructure.

Agenda Topic 6 – B2 Towards an integrated incentive system for modal shift
The AGL [presented a proposal for a political statement](#) "Towards a coordinated policy framework". He emphasized the relevance of such an activity, related it to the horizontal activity of assuming a more active role in policy development, and explained how it is an indicator of the maturity of the EUSALP. Subsequently, AG4 members discussed the following points:

- Potential target signatories depending on subject and competencies: EU-, national, and regional levels; political or administrative/expert levels; some members suggested that signatories must be on corresponding levels in each country/region and that the document should be signed by all AG4 members in order to be able to be considered an EUSALP AG4 document.
- The AGL argued that the targets described above, even if some of the policy fields are beyond their competencies, should sign the declaration/resolution in order to build up political pressure vis-à-vis the next political level (e.g. infrastructure charges which are national competence); Aurelio Vigani (Switzerland) and Franc Zepic (Slovenia) raised doubts about the possibility of adopting such a document in which there are proposals of different competence (regional – national level)
- Content: while various general points might be shared among the members, it is nevertheless difficult to arrive at an internal agreement on some specific contents, this, again, also relates to the level of competence (e.g. the competence to regulate fuel taxation lies at different levels in the different countries); thus, it is vital to engage in a thorough internal coordination of this document; here, very careful phrasing and EB approval are necessary to produce an agreed version

- Examples: AG4 might make use of experiences of AG6, who had prepared a declaration on soil protection
- Next steps: without an immediate timeline, the AGL proposed to prepare a draft to be consolidated among all AG4 members in multiple feedback loops with sufficient time for additional feedback by the members; the target for completion of the document is October/November.

Agenda Topic 7 – C1 – C2 – D1 Methodology for a systematic assessment of individual projects

Helmut Adelsberger (InfraConceptA) updated the AG4 on the latest developments and results from the 5. Task Force meeting including an example self-assessment on a project at the Port of Trieste. Subsequently, the AG4 discussed the following points:

- the importance of having clear rules before collecting projects;
- that there will be no ranking but only a yes/no-decision on the EUSALP label with the final threshold not being fixed yet; as an alternative, Helmut Adelsberger mentioned that a set of projects that have achieved the highest scores, could be adopted for the EUSALP label;
- the strategic relevance of the label indicating an added value for the EUSALP as well as potentially for success in seeking funds;
- remaining open questions that include the threshold (or an alternative selection criterion), a definitive timeline and weighting of criteria;
- immediate next steps will be to start collecting projects based on a common understanding of the procedure of filling out the sheets.
- Kaspar Schuler as an advisor in this Task Force since November 2018 expressed the impression that from CIPRA's point of view and in relation to all 3 documents an adequate data base lacking is lacking all the 3 documents (Factsheet, Performance/Sustainability, Coherence/General Features) which were prepared for the Test Assessment the Task Force executed. This seemed to him a serious deficit. He explained that any label is just as good and trustworthy as of its following components: a sound and verifiable data base as the fundament and the assessment instruments applied by independent persons, not peers. Both of it is missing here from his point of view. It will harm the reputation of the EUSALP in general as well as of the label itself. He suggests to have at least a minimum of qualified data defined to get access to the assessment to make sure that the whole process is applied to mature projects only. He has already provided a detailed reflection regarding these flaws to the Taskforce and would like to have it distributed to the AG4 participants as well (see amendment 11).

Taking into account the AG4 feedback, the Task Force members will discuss the next steps and will get back to the AG4 with further instructions.

Agenda Topic 8 – Update on Alpine Convention WG Transport

In reference to her previous presentation and a recent e-mail update, Nathalie Morelle (PSAC) concisely informed the AG4 that the Alpine Convention Working Group Transport had approved the latest report as well as the new mandate. She encouraged the AG4 to review these documents,

especially in light of potential synergies. Finally, she mentioned that the WG Transport was also aiming at producing a political position paper (on modal shift and traffic reduction) and the AGL noted links to the AG4's New Work Plan.

Agenda Topic 9 – Any other business

Wrapping up, the AGL thanked the members for their patience, wished them safe travels, and closed the meeting.

The 12th meeting of EUSALP AG4 will take place on 21 October 2019 in Genoa.

Additional documents to the Minutes are available for download on the online AG4 Document Sharing Platform:

(File name: AG4 11th Meeting)

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Presentation by AGL: AG4 State of Play
3. Presentation by LINKS: Update on the study on empty container management
4. Presentation by the AGL and Helmut Adelsberger (InfraConceptA): New Work Plan 2019 – 2022
5. Presentation by the AGL: Proposal of a sub-group on innovative propulsion systems and fuels
6. Presentation by Ekkehard Allinger-Csollich: Ausserfern railway feasibility study
7. Presentation by Paul Stopper: "Alpine Cross" project in Terra Rhaetica
8. Presentation by AGL: Proposal for a political statement "Towards a coordinated policy framework"
9. Presentation by Helmut Adelsberger: Report on 5th task force meeting including example project assessment (FVG)
10. Participants List
11. Reflection by Kaspar Schuler on the flaws of the EUSALP-Assessment of individual projects

Ekkehard Allinger-Csollich – Patrick Skoniezki – Karoline Hurnaus
EUSALP AG4 Lead Team
12.07.2019