

## Minutes EUSALP AG9 Second Annual Meeting

10 October 2016, 13-18 hrs, Bolzano

### Participants

Johann Binder (Burgenland), Florian Mast (European Commission, DG Regio), Ulrich Santa (AGL, South Tyrol), Adriano Bisello (Italian Ministry for the Environment, in behalf of Wolfram Sparber), Maria Fabianelli (Liguria), Philipp Egger (St. Gallen), Hannes Obereder (Kärnten on behalf of Jan Lücke), Sara Verones (Trentino, on behalf of Fabio Berlanda), Uwe Staffler (collaborator, South Tyrol), Andreas Pichler (CIPRA International), Nathalie Morelle (Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention), Karl Schellmann (WWF Austria), Peter Obricht (Lower Austria), Peter Jamer (Vorarlberg), Rupert Pritzl (Bavaria), Patrick Biard (Auvergne Rhône-Alpes), Franziska Riedel (collaborator South Tyrol)

### Meeting overview

The main scope of the second meeting was to define concrete activities and projects of AG9 until the year 2018. The meeting was divided in two parts. During the first session, the stakeholders WWF and CIPRA International were given the opportunity to give their inputs for the work of AG9. The Alpine Convention, official observer of the EUSALP and co-lead of EUSALP AG6 “to preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources”, presented the organisation of AG6 and possible topics with relevance for Alpine energy sector in order to strengthen the horizontal coherence and coordination amongst the two action groups, and also informed about relevant activities within the Alpine Convention. APRE, the national contact point in Italy for Horizon 2020 presented upcoming calls in 2017/2018 relevant for the field of energy efficiency and renewable energies (online presentation). Sandra Di Biaggio, EPSON, presented the ESPON system (online presentation). The second part of the meeting focused on concrete activities and projects until 2018, presented by the focus group leaders.

Detailed contents can be taken from below and as well as from the presentations stored on the EUSALP AG9 sharepoint website.

### Session 1: Input presentations

- Ulrich Santa briefly introduced the scope of the meeting. He underlined that it was important to focus on contents, operations and concrete projects with relevance for energy efficiency and renewable energy resources in order to speed up the integration process of EUSALP and to define the work plan for AG9 by the end of 2016.
- Florian Mast, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission: Gave a brief overview of the state of the art of EU macroregional strategy. He underlined that it was important to focus on the active participation of all EUSALP actors: national, regional and local policymakers, civil

society, stakeholders. The overarching goal of EUSALP AGs is to influence policymakers. Florian Mast reported that the EC is currently working on the Corporate Identity of EUSALP. The Region of Lombardy and the Euregio are working on a common communication strategy for the EUSALP. A new website is expected for the beginning of 2017.

- Andreas Pichler, CIPRA international: Gave an overview of CIPRA projects overlapping with AG9 related issues.
  - Regional Energy Strategies: cc.alps, Alpstar
  - Energy Efficiency in the building sector: Horizon 2020, MountEE, constructive Alps
  - RES in the Alpine Area: recharge green, Best-Practice Examples on land use and nature protection-compatible renewable energy projects in the Alpine region
  - Special emphasis on raising awareness of low carbon lifestyles and the concept of energy sufficiency: project 100max
- Nathalie Morelle, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention (AC) gave an overview of AC and EUSALP AG6 activities overlapping with AG9 issues.
  - Regional Energy Strategies: Energy Protocol of the AC, Vision Renewable Alps
  - Energy Efficiency in the building sector: AG6 sub-group on spatial development and soil conservation, AC alpine building conference, hotel and gastronomy sector activities
  - RES in the Alpine area: AG6 sub-group on water management, AC water management platform (and biannual conference Water in the Alps), AG6 sub-group on farming and forestry and AC Mountain agriculture platform (biomass and other sources for renewable energies), Best-Practice Examples on land use and nature protection-compatible renewable energy projects in the Alpine region
- Chiara Pocaterra, APRE: Overview of Horizon 2020 Calls and funding opportunities in the fields of research, energy efficiency, low carbon energy and smart and sustainable cities for the period of 2017/2018.
- Karl Schellmann, WWF Austria: Overview of WWF Austria actions concerning Climate Change and Energy: Global 2000, Eco Master River Plan, Wind Energy Burgenland, Energy Transition and River Protection. Emphasized the importance of the agricultural sector and the linkage of Climate Change/ Energy strategies to Social Issues.
- Sandra di Biaggio, ESPON: overview of experiences from the Baltic Sea Region and the implementation of the monitoring system ESPON for the process and evaluation of the success of the strategy.

## **Session 2: Presentation of proposals for activities and projects**

### **Focus Group 1: Regional Energy Strategies**

#### 1) Ongoing activity: Questionnaire on regional energy strategies (Ulrich Santa)

A questionnaire elaborated by focus group 1 was sent out to the Regions and States of the EUSALP territory, but was not yet answered by all. The questionnaire will be resend and evaluated by the end of the year by an external expert. The outcome of the study will help to get an overview of the current



state of regional energy data collection, energy policies and instruments in the various Regions and States and will serve as a well-founded source of information for AG9.

Ulrich Santa and Patrick Biard underlined the importance that all Regions shall participate by filling out the survey by their respective administrations. For further information, see below.

## 2) Planned activity: bi-annual EUSALP conference (Ulrich Santa)

AGL proposed to organize a EUSALP energy conference on a bi-annual basis. The conference shall give experts, stakeholders and civil society the opportunity to give input to AG9. The conference is also a strategy meeting of AG9 members to work on activities and projects within workshop and panel sessions. The first conference is scheduled for the first half of 2017, exact date and place of the venue will be defined by the end of 2016. Members of AG9 are asked to send information about any other conference concerned with energy issues in the EUSALP territory in order to avoid topical and temporal overlapping.

## 3) Network for the promotion of EMS (Patrick Biard)

Local governments have become important players in energy and climate policies. Many municipalities and cities within EUSALP have developed isolated energy plans and good practices. They have joined compulsory energy planning schemes as well as regional, national and European energy planning schemes ranging from the EEA network (Austrian E5 programme, Italian ComuneClima, Energie Stadt Schweiz), to ICLEI and the Covenant of Mayors and several EU level smart city initiatives as well as regional schemes. EUSALP AG9 shall promote the integration of EMS and become a competence and promotion platform for local energy planning and pool existing initiatives in the EUSALP thereby contributing to the sharing of knowledge and expertise. The creation of a network with already existing cooperation structures will at the same time raise the visibility of EUSALP.

For further information, see attachment on activity proposal “Network for EMS”

## 4) Energy observatory (Patrick Biard)

Macro regional policies shall be based on reliable energy data. The creation of a EUSALP wide energy observatory is proposed. The observatory shall connect with existing regional data centres for energy and climate such as in Liguria, Piedmont and Rhone-Alpes, create strong linkages with EU wide data basis.

For further information, see attachment on activity proposal “EUSALP energy observatory”

## **Focus Group 2: Energy Efficiency in the building sector (Patrick Biard for Giovanni Nuvoli)**

### 1) Greening the Alpine Infrastructure

Alpine Sustainable Building Assessment Tool: This tool is to be used by public authorities to boost sustainable and low carbon buildings → Work with the already existing CESBA initiative, establish key performance indicators by the end of 2016.

Furthermore, the Focus Group may define good practice projects on retrofitting as well as small interventions, as already defined during the AG9 kick-off meeting, said Ulrich Santa. Rupert Pritzl

informed that Bavaria commissioned a study on the life-cycle assessment of Alpine building materials that may serve as an input for AG9. The results of the study are expected for the end of 2016.

For further information, see attachment on activity proposal “Sustainable building assessment tool”

## 2) Energy Efficiency in SMEs (Ulrich Santa)

European energy directives underline the importance of fostering energy efficiency measures in small and medium-size enterprises. Several Regions and states in the EUSALP have adopted programmes for SMEs or are in the phase of developing them in order to promote energy saving measures in the small and medium enterprises. Since the economic sector in the EUSALP is dominated by local SME's, energy saving potentials in this sector are assumed to be high. AG9 will develop a project that guide policy makers and regional/national administrations to boost energy savings in SMEs.

South Tyrol, in collaboration with Bavaria and St. Gallen will develop a project proposal.

## Focus Group 3: RES in the Alpine Region (Peter Jamer)

This focus, as already determined during the Kick-Off Meeting, will concentrate on three points:

- 1) Mapping of implementation and remaining potentials for RES in the Alpine Area in accordance with environmental compatibility as well as nature and landscape conservation

Peter Jamer underlined that there are currently possible potentials for water, wind, solar (PV), heat (even with very low levels), waste, second crop, waste water (sewage), ambient heat, biogenic waste, unused wasteland, etc.

He elaborated on and stressed the diverse functions that rural and urban territories play in the production of renewable energies. On the one hand, urban places are net users of electric energy with little potential of RES roll-out. On the other hand, rural areas, esp. in mountain regions, are net producers of electric energy. At the same time these areas are characterized by urban sprawls as well as rural flight. These contrary situations shall be focused within the work of AG9. Also, RES in rural and urban areas are tightly connected to grids as well as storage possibilities.

- 2) Financing Models of RES

Peter Jamer stated that the financial and funding situation of the public sector is very different in the regions and that standardized models will be difficult to develop. Also, economically based (without subsidies) models depend on the market price of energy and are usually short-lived. He pointed out that good practices may be collected.

- 3) Condition of acceptance of RES → foster acceptance through Best Practice examples

Good practice examples are to be collected from the EUSALP regions and evaluated. From this base, measures to increase acceptance of RES may be developed and implemented in the Regions.

## Focus Group 4: Smart Grids (Peter Obricht)

Following the elaboration made during the kick-off meeting of AG9, Peter Obricht briefly presented the four topics to be tackled:

- 1) Smart trans-regional energy solutions
- 2) Promotion of E-Mobility
- 3) Cogeneration/ District heating and Cooling
- 4) Security of Supply

→ Integrated Energy Sources depending on the situation, e.g. thermal energy

→ Theoretical Study on a large scale? 1-2 pilot projects

Peter Obricht further elaborated on the nexus of RES and the challenge of stability of supply, storage and, accordingly, the stability of electric grids. He underlined that it was important to further elaborate on the possibilities of energy transformation and storage. Johann Binder emphasised that the focus group and its activities are especially concerned with the whole grid system (load balancing, power-heat coupling etc.) that necessarily puts smart grids and RES together. Obricht stressed the challenge of small electricity nets in rural mountainous areas where grids are volatile due to electricity feed-in from RES. Peter Obricht proposed to concentrate on small rural grids in the future and accordingly proposed a project on smart grids in rural areas.

Project: Smart Grids as a driver for an increase in RES, Four Work Packages:

WP 1: Analytical Part (Best Practices, potential bottle neck: grid operators have to collaborate)

WP 2: Develop Cross-border strategies and measures (model regions)

WP 3: Pilot Applications (smart meters, smart grids, including studies)

WP 4: Dissemination (Raising awareness, effective communication)

WP 5: Coordination and Management (Reporting and financing)

Ulrich Santa stressed the fact that any concrete project proposal concerned with grids would stand and fall with the participation of key players such as big grid operators (Terna, E-Control etc.). He raised doubts on the practical implementation of this scale. He assumed that it might be more realistic to develop a project on grids on a “lower level” e.g. in small counties, valleys or municipalities. Sara Verones mentioned a good practice example in the valley of Primerio in Trentino where a historically grown territorial public company is in charge of energy production and distribution. Ulrich Santa, pointed out that focus group 3 and 4, due to overlappings of content, shall coordinate their activities in the future in order to prevent duplication of work.

## **Important deadlines, organizational issues and take home notes**

### 1. Members of the focus groups according to the meeting

#### **Focus group 1: Regional Energy Strategies**

Rhone-Alpes (LEAD), South Tyrol (CO-LEAD), Trentino, Liguria, Salzburg, St. Gallen

#### **Focus group 2: Energy Efficiency**

Piemonte (LEAD), South Tyrol, Bavaria, Trentino, Liguria, St. Gallen

#### **Focus group 3: RES**

LEAD for focus group requested to Wolfram Sparber, Vorarlberg, Lower Austria, Burgenland

#### **Focus group 4: Smart grids**

Lower Austria, Burgenland, St. Gallen, Liguria

### 2. EUSALP Energy Survey

All Regions and States are asked to answer the questionnaire **until the end of October 2016 latest**. The questionnaire can be accessed online through this link: <https://de.surveymonkey.com/r/TK8Q9W6>

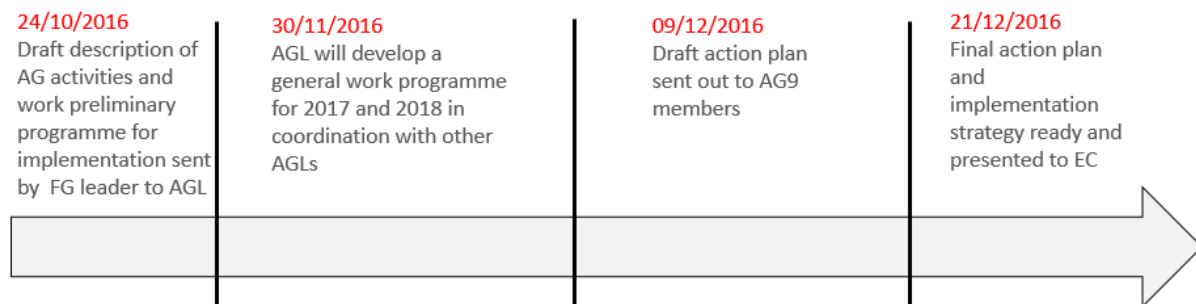
### 3. Next AG9 meeting

Next EUSALP AG9 meeting will take place in Garmisch-Partenkirchen during the Action Group Forum from 14.-16.02.2017 organised by the Bavarian EUSALP presidency. During the meeting, all EUSALP AGs will meet to discuss common activities and horizontal/overlapping issues of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region.

**AG9 members: Please block 15.-16.02.2017 for the meeting.**

### 4. Work programme 2016

The goal of AG9 is to develop a comprehensive work programme for 2017 and 2018 with actions and projects until the end of 2016. The following timeline allows a smooth flow of the work:



Focus groups are asked to send their draft description of activities and a preliminary programme for implementation to AGL by 24.10.2016. AGL ei9ll