



Resume of the 2nd EUSALP AG4 Mobility Conference

on 25 October 2017 in Bolzano

The 2nd EUSALP AG4 Mobility Conference on 25 October 2017 in Bolzano, organized by the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino in its function as leader of the EUSALP Action Group 4 (AG4) gathered economic stakeholders, political representatives, regional and national administrations as well as civil society organisations and the public to discuss the future of the EU Strategy of the Alpine Region in the context of mobility.

In the 2nd year of the EUSALP implementation process, the AG4 puts particular focus on the synergies between economy and mobility, aiming to strengthen the relationship amongst the various stakeholders in the Alpine Region. This year's Mobility Conference provided a platform for exchange and discussion on how to encourage sustainable freight and passenger transport in the Alpine Region. Particular focus was put on modal shift from road to rail to ensure that an increasing share of goods which today are transported on road will be gradually shifted to rail; an objective of the EU greening transport policy enshrined also in the EUSALP Action Plan.

The host of this year's Mobility Conference Arno Kompatscher, President of the Autonomous Region of South Tyrol as well as Günther Platter, President of Tyrol identified the growing traffic as one of the biggest challenges for the ecological and economic development of the Alpine Region and underlined that harmonized measures beyond regional or national borders that support modal shift are necessary to guarantee the sustainable development of the Alps. Regarding concrete measures, the political representatives underlined that investments in the railway and digital infrastructure as well as a reform of the toll system are crucial to support modal shift.



Left to right:

**Günther Platter (President of Tyrol),
Arno Kompatscher (President of South
Tyrol), Mauro Gilmozzi (Councilor of
Trentino).**

Mr Herald Ruijters, Director of DG MOVE.B welcomed in the name of the European Commission the participants and emphasized in his video message the importance that the European Commission attaches to the work of EUSALP AG4. With regard to the conference topic Mr Ruijters reiterated the awareness of the Commission about the particular burden to the citizens caused by transit traffic crossing the Alps and encouraged the AG4 to use the momentum of the macro-regional strategy to connect the regions and local communities throughout Europe. This would bring benefits on social and economic level and foster the sustainable development of transport links within the Alpine Region. The European Commission is complementing this process by proposing two mobility packages in May and November 2017. The first mobility package is of particular interest to the Alpine Region as it focuses on road transport and contains the revision of the European tolling system with the aim of integrating external costs to a wider extent, which would favor the sustainable development of the Alpine Region. In order to provide an updated scientific basis for external costs in the mountain regions, the AG4 commissioned a study to evaluate and update the so-called mountain factors. The study will be published by the end of 2017.

In addition the Alpine regions have already identified the need for a more targeted and harmonised pricing system in the sensitive mountain areas. The regional network iMONITRAF! introduced with the Toll Plus system an additional and differentiated pricing instrument that supports a common modal shift strategy and the financing of relevant infrastructures. A study developed by iMONITRAF! in collaboration with the EUSALP AG4 was presented for the first time in the frame of the Mobility Conference. The scope of this current analysis is to contribute to one of five key elements of the Toll Plus proposal, addressing options for special regulations for regional transport to avoid negative economic impacts for the regional economy. The study will be finished and published by the end of 2017.

High level speakers from the economic sector including Thomas Baumgartner, President of FERCAM AG and Paolo Duiella, President of Interbrennero S.p.A (terminal Trento) outlined the challenges and needs of freight companies and the role of terminals to encourage combined transport and in the Alpine Region. The speakers called for a dialogue with the economic stakeholders when discussing measures to support modal shift in order to avoid economic disadvantages, job losses and further financial and administrative burdens for the (regional) logistics sector. A successful modal shift policy is not based on restrictions but increases the competitiveness of rail transport and guarantees full interoperability of systems along the transport corridors.



Left to right:

Patrick Skonieczki (AG4 Lead Team), Thomas Baumgartner (President of FERCAM AG), Paolo Duiella (President of Interbrennero S.p.A), Karl Fischer (Member of the Transport Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Munich and Upper-Bavaria), Nicola Bassi (Service Design Manager at UIRNet S.p.A.)

The keyword inter-modality was taken up by Nicola Bassi, Service Design Manager at UIRNet S.p.A who provided a glimpse into the supply chain management of the future by presenting the National Logistics Platform, an innovative IT service which facilitates the data exchange and communication between different systems, logistics operators and nodes.

In the frame of a political roundtable discussion the councilors of the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino Ingrid Felipe, Florian Mussner und Mauro Gilmozzi as well as Elisa De Berti, councilor for mobility of the Veneto region and Harald Sonderegger, president of the regional parliament of Vorarlberg shared the main transport challenges in their regions and informed about successful measures to tackle those challenges, exchanging their views with the public and the stakeholders.



Left to right:

Elisa De Berti (Councilor for mobility Veneto), Mauro Gilmozzi (Councilor for mobility Trento), Harald Sonderegger (President of the regional parliament Vorarlberg), Ingrid Felipe (Councilor for mobility Tyrol), Florian Mussner (Councilor for mobility South-Tyrol),

In the afternoon the conference participants were invited to visit the building site of the Brenner Base Tunnel in Mals. The BBT, with a total length of 64 kilometers, is currently the longest underground railway tunnel under construction in the world. With its completion in 2026, the BBT will ensure improved transport connections on rail across the Alps, encouraging modal shift from road to rail and promoting inter-modality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport.



Participants of the study visit to the building site of the Brenner Base Tunnel in Mals

The AG4 offers a platform to coordinate and harmonise initiatives of Alpine regions and countries for a sustainable transport and mobility system. Its mission is to build a common understanding of transport policy and mobility, to define common objectives and to launch specific activities and projects. The 2nd Mobility Conference offered an important opportunity to bring different stakeholders together and to discuss the challenges and opportunities towards sustainable transport and modal shift in the Alpine Region in the frame of EUSALP. The input presentations of external experts and economic stakeholders, the discussions with the political representatives in the frame of a roundtable discussion as well as the exchange with the public provided a comprehensive picture about the challenges and opportunities towards sustainable transport and modal shift which need to be tackled.

The Mobility Conference was organized as a local event of the and thus provided an opportunity to reflect on Europe and the future of the EU Strategy of the Alpine Region in the context of mobility. Herwig van Staa, Member of the Committee of the Regions and leader of the Austrian delegation provided further information on this initiative, organized by the European Committee of the Regions in collaboration with the European Commission DG Regio. The important role of the CoR concerning macro regional aspects and green mobility as well as the responsibility of the regions to contribute to the European integration process has been lined out by the prominent speaker. The collected contributions by participants from regions will feed into an opinion on 'Reflecting on Europe: the voice of regional authorities to rebuild trust in the European Union' in spring 2018.

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