

COMMON DECLARATION

Adopted during the Summit of Regions
STRATEGY for the ALPS
on March 12th, 2010 at Mittenwald, Bavaria.

The Signatories share the conviction that a specific STRATEGY FOR THE ALPS must be elaborated for the Alps, the most important European mountain range.

Such strategy shall be put on equal footing with other macro regional strategies, complete and reinforce them, and ensure a sustainable development for the fragile biotope and the economic and leisure area the Alps represent.

This Strategy for the Alps pursues the objective that the alpine regions assume their responsibilities in the future strategic orientation of such area and that alpine regions will be represented in an appropriated way in international agreements and programs (i.e. Alpine Convention, drafting of strategic bases in the territorial development programs).

The Signatories consider that :

the STRATEGY FOR THE ALPS must address the most essential challenges that have to be tackled by Europe in the early 21st century and that cannot be solve exclusively at the state or regional level.

This requires specific measures in the following fields:

- Adaptation and mitigation in the field of climate
- Alpine biodiversity protection through a transborder ecological alliance defined according with the interested territory.
- Sustainable exploitation of the hydrological natural resource, in particular through its wise use by neighbouring urban communities
- Sustainability in the energy production and supply in smart European energy networks, with the highest possible share of renewable energy
- Clever use of the energy as the base of the development of a saving-energy oriented society development in the whole alpine region
- Organisation of a valid environmental friendly transalpine and inter-alpine people and goods transports, exploiting the possibilities that are contained in the “electro-mobility”, the organisation of traffic measures, the Modal Shift development benefitting the railway and public transports, as well as the clever exploitation of existing transport infrastructure,
- Reinforcement of the relations between the alpine centres and peripheral zones in order to achieve a balance decentralized development in the alpine regions, the preservation of endogenous innovation potential, the cultural development and the insurance of an appropriated service to the population
- Sustain value generation by the reinforcement of the eco-efficient growth through the exploitation of the endogenous capabilities and the network of innovative forces in the alpine space
- Support the regions so they can fully assume their responsibilities in the implementation of existing international framework convention in the corresponding territorial development programs.

We welcome

The macro-regional approaches in Europe for the encouragement of the European integration of transnational spaces with common characteristics and facing common challenges.

We support the European Commission position aiming to grant to the Regions a stronger participation right concerning the development of concerted European measures.

We are ready to guide the action of our governments for a common STRATEGY FOR THE ALPS, within the principle of subsidiarity, and invest the necessary powers and means to such aim.

We think

That the thematic priorities of the interministerial cooperation, working groups and euro-regions (Such as the Alpine Convention, the Zurich group, ARGE ALP, Arge AlpenAdria, Alpes-Méditerranée/Alpi-Mediterraneo) as well as the alpine and European networks (for example AEM, the municipalities network « Allianz in den Alpen – Alpine cities network) contribute to the detection of the challenges that an alpine macro region must face, to the definition of a STRATEGY FOR THE ALPS, and to discover the precious indications for institutional cooperation

We consider necessary

given the European inter-dependencies at large scale in the mentioned fields to integrate a STRATEGY FOR THE ALPS, not only in the strict alpine domain, but also in its peripheral area, as well as in its relations with the extra-alpine large cities, allowing to adopt the necessary measures at the appropriate level, whilst taking into account the diversity of city-countryside relationships.

We share the opinion

That the STRATEGY FOR THE ALPS must be formulated, piloted and accompanied in a determined way by the alpine states and the alpine regions. At the same time, we wish that the European Commission will support the initiative. Thus, the strategy will be better linked at the decision-maker level as well as in the population, whilst finding its place in a European context.

We recognize

that, locally, within the macro-region formed by the alpine space, very different conditions and potentials co-exist closely and that prosperous regions have grown next to depressed areas. This reality must be taken into consideration during the conception and the implementation of the STRATEGY FOR THE ALPS, and shall form the basis of the construction of a solidarity extending through the alpine space.

We recommend

That the STRATEGY FOR THE ALPS be implemented within the framework of the corresponding powers, either specific or shared powers, in particular thanks to the European Program of Territorial Cooperation (INTERREG IV B) Alpine Space 2007–2013, or through a follow-up program in the frame of the cohesion policy, as well as through the use of other complementary financing instruments.

We ask to the National States and to the European Commission

To support the alpine regions in the process of drafting and realising a STRATEGY FOR THE ALPS, and within the respect of inter-sectoral

development concepts of the existing space at the member States level, and at the Regions levels, to grant that STRATEGY FOR THE ALPS the similar importance given to the other macro-regional strategies implemented in Europe. A follow-up program for the transnational cooperation for the period 2014-2020 should be given appropriate means allowing to show concrete progress for the implementation of such strategy.

Mittenwald, the 12 March 2010

Signed

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Dr Markus Söder, Bavarian State Minister for the Environment and Health

signed

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Dr Michl Laimer, member of the Government of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Sud Tyrol

Signed

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Remo Fehr, Canton of Graubünden

Signed

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Walter Blachfellner, member of the Government of the Salzburg Land

Signed

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Hannes Gschwentner, Vice-governor of the Tyrol Land

Signed

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Alberto Pacher, Vice President of the Autonomous Province of Trento

Signed

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Ing. Erich Schwärzler, member of the Government of the Vorarlberg Land

Signed

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Silvia Jost, Federal Office for Territorial développement, Switzerland