

## Macro-regional strategy for the Alps

- The concept of macro-regions offers a significant opportunity in terms of regionalisation in Europe under the umbrella of the EU. The macro-regional strategy for the Alps, which is comparable to the strategies adopted by the EU for the Baltic Sea and Danube regions, is an opportunity to give the Alps a new dimension and significance in the EU context, in terms of, amongst other things, better access to funding. The CAA therefore supports this initiative as a matter of principle. The development of a strategy of this kind is a lengthy process which the CAA will observe and advise on. The CAA will continue to be guided by the Alpine Convention, which is an important major agreement for sustainable development in the Alpine region.
- The CAA believes that the spatial extent of a strategy for the Alps must be limited to the territory of the Alpine Convention. From the current perspective, expanding the macro-region to a larger territory (corresponding to the expansion of the EU Alpine Space Programme) would mean a danger that the extra-Alpine region with its metropolises and centres of industry would dominate the actual Alpine region in terms of population size and economic power. The interests of the territory of the Alpine Convention would be at a serious disadvantage, especially if territorial expansion were to result in funding for the mountain regions being cut. Under no circumstances should the priority of sustainable development in the Alpine mountain region be disadvantaged in favour of the surrounding extra-Alpine area.
- The CAA points to the great importance of aligning the content of the strategy for the Alps to the Alpine Convention as the CAA considers the Alpine Convention to be essential. The goal must be sustainable development in the Alps. The Alpine Convention must play an active role in achieving this goal by developing points of reference and a regulatory framework, including around the issue of the role and inclusion of regional bodies outside of the Alpine region. The Alpine Convention should be strengthened during the forthcoming discussion process to increase its political profile.
- The CAA is convinced that the Alpine Convention needs to play a leading political role in the process of developing and implementing any future strategy. Attention must be paid to the multi-annual work programme and status reports in this process.

Passed by the CAA General Assembly on 10/09/2011, Bergamo