

Political demands of the Club Arc Alpin with respect to climate change

As "hot spots" of the diversity of the species and unstable regions in geomorphological terms mountains react in an intensified way to global warming: the melting of glaciers, the disappearance of ice shelves, the rising of the snow line, the change in water balance and ground instabilities, etc. In the alps global warming is affecting our central infrastructures for mountaineering – alpine paths and mountain huts - more and more. On the one hand new risks in terms of natural dangers must be taken into account and on the other it will cost a lot of money to adapt the infrastructures. In addition, mountaineers must adapt themselves to the ongoing and greatly changing environment of the upper alps.

The CAA membership associations derive a strong share of responsibility for their own measures with respect to climate change based on their fundamental commitment to conservation of the environment and the direct impact of climate change. At the present time this is apparent in the associations in the planning and the measures which are partly already in place to reduce the production of CO₂ caused by mountaineering.

At the same time the alpine associations merged in the CAA demand decisive action from politics and society to halt the emission of greenhouse gases quickly. In September 2009 the membership associations of the CAA passed the following demands.

1. CO₂ reductions shall be achieved in the first place by means of politically triggered but economically effective systems of incentives in accordance with the principle of causal responsibility. The charge for high CO₂ production shall be high and those who cut down on CO₂ production effectively shall be reimbursed from these high charges.
2. The dependence on fossil sources of energy (oil, gas, coal) must be reduced as quickly as possible. This shall only occur through intense promotion of low-emission and environmentally-friendly forms of energy until they have reached the critical market sizes.
3. The CO₂ emissions of the traffic flows must be reduced as quickly as possible. The means for achieving these reductions are incentives for CO₂ low vehicles, increased limiting values and laws, speed reductions initially on motorways, development and promotion of public transport, specific promotion of green mobility.
4. The CAA demands standardized outline conditions throughout Europe for a gradual reduction of all motor sport activities which merely serve the enjoyment of leisure time, in particular, driving snow mobiles, offroad driving as well as sightseeing flights and helicopter skiing in the mountains.

Resolved by the general assembly 2009 in Innsbruck.

