
CAA associations Info 2/2016

June 2016

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Member Associations,

The response to our first issue of the new CAA Associations Bulletin, which aims to improve internal communication between the CAA Associations, was limited yet positive. Thank you for your feedback!

The second issue will also include the following topics:

- **Internal CAA**
- **Commissions**
- **Information from the Associations**
- **Alpine Convention**
- **EUSALP**
- **EU**

It has been published a little later than planned, but is also considerably more extensive than the first edition. Thank you for the submissions of information for publication.

Unfortunately, until now it has not been possible to complete the additional planned "EU Environmental-Info" due to time constraints. I have therefore included some information from the "EU environment" under the heading "EU", which will hopefully be interesting.

We remain grateful for any feedback!

I hope you enjoy reading the bulletin.



CAA Office Manager

Internal CAA

General Assembly 2016: The CAA General Assembly 2016 will be held on 16 - 17 September at the headquarters of the Austrian Alpine Club in Innsbruck. The invitation and the agenda will be sent out in mid-July.

Commissions

Topics and results of the annual meetings:

Contact: CAA- Club Arc Alpin, Tel. 0049/89/211224-12
caa@club-arc-alpin.eu



Upcoming events

11.-15.10.2016

[AlpWeek - Alpweek 2016](#)

Grassau / Germany

14.-16.10. 2016

[DAV Nature Protection Conference](#), Grassau / Germany

25.11.2016

[ÖAV Symposium "Mountain Sport & Health"](#), Vienna/Austria

The minutes of the meetings and appendices are available in the internal area of the CAA website: **Enter "caaintern" and "entranceall"**.



- **Commission for Nature Protection and Alpine Spatial Planning (KONSAR), 22 - 24 April 2016 Chamonix Le Tour, France**

- Detailed discussion of current conservation issues in the Associations
- Discussion of draft CAA position paper "Artificial Snow making", to be decided by the CAA General Assembly 2016
- Clarification as to whether the CAA position papers need to be updated: the "Via Ferrata Paper" 2009 and the papers on climate change 2010 are to be updated. An addition to the paper on landscapes to include the "value" aspect is also planned.
- Exchange of information about the Alpine Convention and EUSALP: KONSAR stresses the importance of the CAA's monitoring role.
- Proposal for Chair of the Commission, as Jörg Ruckriegel is leaving the DAV: Marie-Laure Tanon, FFCAM (initially for one year)

- **Commission Huts and Trails 6/7 June 2016, Valvasorjev Hut, Slovenia**

- Clarification and solution finding additional costs energy efficiency project in the metallurgical industry: proposal must be decided by the General Assembly.
- Online reservation system: installation for several DAV and ÖAV huts in the summer of 2016, AVS + CAI South Tirol working on secure internet connection to their huts. PZS is expected to take over the system.
- Discussion about the harmonisation of the cancellation conditions: difficult due to different legal situation. Tendency to increase the limitation of reservations to 90%.
- Presentation of the different information systems for AWIS.GIP: all organisations work with similar systems, but fully national. A cross-border solution should be sought.
- In planning: Guidelines for the multiple use of the paths with regard to mountain biking, consensus at CAA-MV. Subsequent development of basic principles by all three commissions jointly by General Assembly 2017.
- The Commission invites the Alpine Clubs to convince its competent authorities and organisations of the need for a new CEN standard on material ropeways. The DAV is already working with an international technicians' commission to revise the standardisation.



- **Commission of mountaineering, training and safety, 9.-06.11.2016, Innsbruck, Austria**

- Completion of position for the use of safety devices in climbing halls and gardens (to be decided by the CAA General Assembly 2016)
- Detailed exchange of information regarding the work of the Associations, see internal area of the CAA website for reports. Conspicuous: Importance of the topic Mountain biking.
- Discussion about a "CAA Emergency Hotline" after accidents occurring during club tours abroad, which is considered to be appropriate by the Commission: one prerequisite is internal crisis management in all Associations. Further steps have been initiated. Development of a matrix should be pursued as a basis for the CAA Emergency Hotline.
- First discussion on recommendations for indoor climbing based on a DAV template: CAA recommendations planned for 2017.
- Also planned: Recommendations on group sizes for guided club tours and a comparison of skills and educational goals of the organisations.

Information from the Associations

Common reservation system for huts

The new online reservation system for AVS, DAV, ÖAV and SAC huts will be available no later than the end of June - adapted to the needs of the four clubs. The simple, functional and reliable functions will guarantee the efficient use of wardens, keepers and of course the guests! The feedback from the test cabins is very positive. The subsequent introduction of other CAA associations is possible. More bids are to be gathered for the planned e-payment tool before implementation.

At SAC, the system has been in operation for more than two years with increasing success: Hut guests can use the system to conveniently book overnight stays and meals, change and cancel reservations and add their name to a waiting list for 45 mountain huts. During the past year, over 23,000 online bookings were made within SAC for over 100,000 overnight stays. In 2015, the CAA provided initial funding for the conversion of the SAC system into a multi-client solution. **Continue reading (SAC system)**

South Tyroleans vote against public funding for Bolzano Airport

On 12 June, South Tyrol voted on the development concept presented by Governor Arno Kompatscher and the further public financing of Bolzano Airport. 46.7% of eligible voters took part in the consultative referendum, amounting to 191,422 voters. Thus also achieved the quorum of 40%, which gives the citizen survey official validity. 70.6% of voters voted no, 29.4% yes. This is a gratifying success for the Alpine Club South Tyrol, which clearly spoke out against the airport in Bozen ahead of the referendum. The AVS has committed to the holistic protection of nature and the environment in its mission statement. It has therefore been publicly campaigning against a further expansion of air traffic in Bolzano since 1997. In advance of the referendum, the AVS informed its members about the expected impact of airport expansion and the increased frequency of flights with larger aircraft, also drawing attention to the additional emissions affecting large parts of South Tyrol, particularly the Bolzano basin, the lowlands and the Überetsch.

The AVS now hopes that local politicians will respect the result and put the will of the voters into practice. South Tyrol has recognised this opportunity: South Tyrol has said YES to a new type of conservativeness, YES to a slightly more modest lifestyle and deceleration and YES to safeguarding their quality of life and health.

At the annual meeting of AVS in May, AVS officials explained why they are against the expansion of the airport:

http://www.alpenverein.it/de/natur-umwelt/gegen-flughafen-f%C3%BCr-nachhaltigkeit-und-klimaschutz-redebeitr%C3%A4ge-hv-seis-555_152937.html

New CAI President

Vincenzo Torti has been the new president of the Italian Alpine Club since 22 May. The 65-year-old lawyer from Giussano (Lombardy) succeeded Umberto Martini, who could not stand for election after two terms in office. The General Meeting in St. Vincent/ Valle d'Aosta also newly appointed Antonio Montani from Pallanza as one of three vice presidents.

DAV Climate Symposium 2016 - results online!

The DAV, its partners and many other organisations are already involved in climate protection. What else can we set in motion together? This was discussed at the Climate Symposium in Garmisch-Partenkirchen at the end of April 2016:

<http://www.alpenverein.de/Natur-Umwelt/Klimaschutz/Klimaschutz-Symposium>

DAV Nature protection Conference 2016

The Nature protection Conference – Berge.Umwelt.Zukunft (Mountains.Environment.Future) takes place from 14 - 16 October 2016 in Grassau/Bavaria. Bring along your ideas for the future and discuss them with others! The Alpine Conference, the decision-making body of the Alpine Convention, will take place under the German Presidency in Grassau on October, 13th, 2016, too. Grassau is also the venue for this year's Alpine Week/Alpweek (www.alpweek.org). This is an opportunity for DAV to embed its position in the field of conservation and environmental protection within this context. The 2016 conference will focus on the future of Alpine tourism and the question of what the DAV can contribute to sustainable development.

<http://www.alpenverein.de/Natur-Umwelt/Natur-und-Umweltschutz/naturschutztagung>

ÖAV photo competition: Alpine Club Calendar 2017

The Austrian Alpine Association broke through the magic barrier of 500,000 members in January 2016 ([details](#)). The Alpine Association has given its thanks for the shared success story with a special action: The Alpine Club Calendar 2017 is full of photos from Alpine Club members' albums for the first time ever! **These photos** have made it to the Alpine Club Calendar 2017. More than 500 prizes are currently being drawn from all addresses registered during the voting.

ÖAV school campaign "Hüttengaudi with class"

275 children were excited to receive an invitation to the Austrian Alpine Association event "[Hüttengaudi with class](#)". The Austrian Alpine Association aims to increase health awareness among school-age children with this campaign. Around 100 school classes from all over Austria took part in the ÖAV competition. For a total of 15 classes this commitment has paid off. They will win plenty of exercise in beautiful natural surroundings while experiencing a shared mountain adventure with the Alpine Association.

Austrian Alpine Association awarded "Green Branch"

The Austrian Alpine Association is honoured to receive the "**Green branch**" award presented by the pupils of HLUW (Higher School for Environment and Economics) Yspertal, the private school of the Cistercian Monastery in Zwettl (Lower Austria). The Alpine Club was awarded the prize this year by these budding environmental industry managers due to its special work to secure habitats for future generations in the field of environmental protection in its "Alpine Forest Project". (<http://www.alpenverein.at/portal/berg-aktiv/freiwilligenarbeit/bergwaldprojekte/>) (German)

ÖAV: Inclusive Adventure - "Team Insieme"

The Austrian Alpine Association has set new standards for the inclusion of people with disabilities in outdoor activities in its **Insieme Project**. In highly individualised times, this programme aims to promote cooperation. "[Team INSIEME](#)" gives people with and without disabilities the opportunity to bring out their adventurous sides and to define their own personal boundaries. To conclude the project, the group plans to take part in a unique outdoor project in southern Sweden in August.

PZS: New short film about the Slovene Alpine Association

[Alpine Association of Slovenia - film presentation.](#) The film is also available [on YouTube](#).

PZS: 5. Meeting of the Leaderships of the Slovenian and the Croatian Mountaineering Associations

The Alpine Association of Slovenia (PZS) and the Croatian Mountaineering Association (HPS) have enjoyed a long-standing fruitful cooperation, which has been gaining new dimensions after the fifth meeting of their leaderships on 11 and 12 March 2016 in Starigrad, Paklenica.



Foto: Alan Čaplar

They will continue to collaborate on the projects financed from the European funds, both in the area regarding mountain huts as well as in the areas of training and competitive activities, since Paklenica will be hosting the main international gathering of climbers within the framework of the Erasmus+ project. In the event that a European umbrella mountaineering organization will be established, they will act and present their coordinated positions together. Both mountaineering associations welcome the growth of the already established Slovenian and Croatian Ice Climbing Championship by including the climbers from Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as from Serbia, and in the future they also wish to maintain mutual access to and sale of mountaineering literature by the publishers of both associations.

[More about the fifth meeting of the heads of the Slovenian and the Croatian Mountain Sports Associations](#)

60 Years of the Youth Commission of the Alpine Association of Slovenia



Photo: Manca Čujež

The Alpine Association of Slovenia (PZS) was working with young people already in the first half of the 20th century, and in April 1956 they established the Youth Commission (YC), which became involved in the education and training of young mountaineers. Together with youth sections which operate within alpine clubs, the commission has been for already six decades implementing various campaigns to popularize mountain hiking and ensure its quality, encouraging youth organisation and youth activities, as well as training professionals to work with young people. 105 (out of 287) Slovenian alpine clubs have a youth section, and in 2015, there were more than 17 000 young mountaineers enrolled as members of the mountaineering organisation, from preschool children up to age 26. The PZS Youth Commission celebrated its 60th anniversary on 9 April 2016 in the Slovenian Alpine Museum in Mojstrana.

More: [60 Years of the Youth Commission of the Alpine Association of Slovenia](#)

SAC: Revised guidelines SAC and Environment

The revision of the guidelines SAC and Environment started at the beginning of 2016. The working group, headed by René Michel and Philippe Wäger, has produced a first draft. Only the occasional striking change is planned in terms of content, although the form of the guidelines will be revised and some parts will be restructured. After consultation with the Environmental Commission and other departments of the central association, the sections will be invited for consultation in the autumn of 2016.



SAC: First Aid Book

The standard text has been revised and published in German. Publication in French and Italian is planned:

[http://www.sac-cas.ch/service/medien/medien-aktuell-detail.html?tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=6656132&cHash=63dbb685b71c9fb1735fdecf13c25d9b](http://www.sac-cas.ch/service/medien/medien-aktuell-detail.html?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=6656132&cHash=63dbb685b71c9fb1735fdecf13c25d9b)

Alpine Convention

Institutions

A detailed report regarding the last meeting of the **Permanent Committee** (PC 61, 9-10 June, Sonthofen), which focused on tourism, is available in the internal area of the CAA website and was also sent by mail in mid-June. The German Presidency is driving ahead with numerous initiatives in the areas of construction, climate protection and spatial planning, which will be continued under the upcoming Austrian Presidency, according to decisions of the Permanent Committee. Even stronger links between existing initiatives are being sought to implement the Alpine Convention.

Plans are in place to create a new platform "**Alpine Spatial Planning**" to be founded in the fall of 2016, after the Presidency is taken over by Austria. The 7th report of the state of the Alps will deal with the topic of "**Natural Hazards and Risk Governance**". After lengthy discussions a decision was also made to allow the Permanent Secretariat to participate as partners in EU programme projects in the future. The work on the new multi-annual work programme **MAP 2017-22**, which focusses on population and culture, climate change, biodiversity and landscape, traffic and coordination with the EUSALP process, is not yet entirely complete. The working group "Macro-Regional Strategy" will coordinate the work done by the various working groups and platforms of the Alpine Convention with the EUSALP Action Groups, whereby the focus will be on Action Groups 6, 7, 8 and 9.

At the meeting of the **Compliance committee** on 12 and 13 April in Berlin, the Alpine-wide guidelines on the interpretation of Article 6 (3) of the protocol on tourism was discussed among other things. This is an issue that has moved into focus following the "Cableway Piz Val Gronda" case, which the CAA in 2014 asked the Committee to review. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting from 6 to 8 July in Innsbruck. In addition, the in-depth phase for the topic of tourism, which was launched in 2013 under the Italian Presidency, is to be completed with the publication of a synthesis paper. An attempt has been made to gain an overview of the legal and actual implementation of the protocol on tourism by posing additional questions to the states, the tourism working group and four external experts. Together with CIPRA, the CAA has asked its member associations concerning the implementation of individual articles, summarised these answers and thereby highlighting certain contradictions regarding representation by the states.

AlpWeek "Alps & People" www.alpweek.org

from 11 - 15 October 2016 in Grassau (Germany). Numerous panel discussions, market stands, exhibitions and workshops await you, with the opportunity to exchange views on the current challenges and shared solutions in the areas of culture, demographics and quality of life in the Alps. Register at: www.alpweek.org. Register as soon as possible and don't forget to book a hotel room. Rooms will be available for participants to book at the conference hotel until **7th of July**.

The CAA is involved in the planning as co-organiser. The ÖAV will contribute to the program with a session on "Mountain Sports and Health", while AVS will be displaying its "Neobiota" exhibition and the DAV is sent to hold its Conference on nature protection at the end of the Alpweek.

The Alpine Week is jointly organised by:

The network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps"; Alpine Convention; Interreg Alpine Space Programme; Alpine Town of the Year; CIPRA International; Club Arc Alpin; ISCAR Alpine Research; Eco Model Achenal.

With financial support from: The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and the Bavarian State Ministry for Environment and Consumer Protection (StMUV).

Photo Contest "THE ALPS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE"

This year's photo contest of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention will start with an appeal to the creative, innovative side of all photo enthusiasts: "[The Alps from a different perspective](#)" for the Alpine Convention Calendar 2017.

"Reading Mountains Festival 2016"

After the success of "Reading Mountains" on the "International Mountain Day 2015", a "Reading Mountains Festival" has been planned for the week of 5 - 11 December 2016. Participate by holding your own event! All required information is already available on the Alpine Convention website. [Read more](#)

EUSALP

The nine Action Groups that make up the implementation level of EUSALP (Macro-regional Strategy for the Alps) have started their work over the last few weeks and months.

Action Group 6, ("To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources") held a preparatory meeting with an initial brainstorming session for its work programme under the direction of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and Carinthia on 31 March and 1 April in Bolzano. The Action Group will initially address the topics **spatial planning and soil protection (1)**, **mountain agriculture, biodiversity and forestry (2)** and **integrated water management (3)** in three sub-groups. The aim is the initiation and the development of specific joint projects in these areas. The official "Kick-off meeting" of AG 6 will take place on 28 and 29 June in Klagenfurt. V. Schulz will participate, especially in the sub-group 1. However, specialists in the corresponding topics should be involved in the further participation of the Alpine Associations, - as far as the Alpine Associations are interested in a contribution and a certain influence.

NGO representatives are not desired and /or permitted in all Action Groups. The Alpine Convention will focus on Action Groups 6, 7, 8 and 9. for resource reasons. So far, no uniform rules of procedure have been adopted for the Action Groups, but these are in the pipeline. In Action Group 7, Ecological Connectivity, which is headed by Bavaria and Slovenia, the expert Alfred Ringler will represent the CAA. Action Group 8, which is headed by Austria and Bavaria, deals with risk management and prevention and will work closely with the PLANALP platform, where Daniel Bieri represents the CAA. CIPRA will also be involved in some Action Groups.

Action Group 2 will deal with the topic "growth potential of strategic sectors", which includes tourism, under the lead of Rhône-Alpes and Baden-Württemberg. So far, it seems that neither the Alpine Convention nor alpine organisations working for sustainable development will be represented.

Bayern will take over the presidency of EUSALP 2017 from Slovenia and Tirol is expected to preside in 2018.

More information:

<http://www.alpine-region.eu/index.html>

[EU Strategy for the Alpine region](#)

EU

Parliament resolution of May 10th on "Cohesion policy in mountainous regions"

Among other things, the representatives asked the Commission to support the development of the EU's mountain areas more effectively and have proposed a series of measures, including the establishment of an agenda that makes better use of existing programmes and benefitting from the cross-border potential of macro-regional strategies. The Alpine Convention is also frequently referenced in the paper:

[Read more](#)

Information from the DNR (Deutscher Naturschutzring/German Nature Conservation Ring) Newsletter

23.6.:

Climate & Energy

Ambitious implementation of Paris climate targets

At their yesterday's meeting in Bruxelles the EU- ministers of environment have expressed the intention to

implement the climate targets approved in Paris in December 2015 consistently.

[» Read more \(German\)](#)

16.6.:

Nature Conservation & Biodiversity

Commission report emphasises the added value of EU Nature Directives

The EU Habitats Directive is an effective conservation tool and could bring even greater benefits with improved implementation. This was found in a study by the European Commission in January, which has now been published.

[» Read more \(German\)](#)

9.6.:

Nature Conservation & Biodiversity

Conference on Natura Directives cancelled

The Dutch government has cancelled a conference on the future of the EU Nature Directives scheduled for the end of June at short notice. According to the government, which currently holds the EU presidency, the reason for this is that the European Commission has not yet published the results of the Directives' "Health Check".

[» Read more \(German\)](#)

26.5.:

Nature Conservation & Biodiversity

Associations call for "Environmental Union"

The amendment of the EU Habitats Directive could profoundly damage the trust of millions of EU citizens in the European Union. Prior to the German Nature Conservation Ring, the BUND, Nabu and the WWF sent an open letter to Jean-Claude Juncker warning about this and demanding that the President of the European Commission maintain the guidelines in their current form.

[» Reda more \(German\)](#)

19.5.:

Politics & Law

Economic policy recommendations - still ignoring the environment

The European Commission decided to issue country-specific recommendations to Member States for 2016 and 2017 within the scope of the European Semester in mid-May. This policy includes Member State-specific measures to create jobs and create incentives for grow

[» Read more \(German\)](#)

Nature Conservation & Biodiversity

EU Nature Directives protect biodiversity

On Monday, 16 May, twelve thousand people from across Europe called for the EU Commission to make an immediate decision regarding the preservation and better implementation of EU nature conservation directives. A recent study by the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - RSPB), the British member association of BirdLife, confirmed the benefit and value of the guidelines.

[» Read more \(German\)](#)

28.4.:

Nature Conservation & Biodiversity

EU wants to protect endangered species better

21 initiatives, the EU has for the meeting of the CITES Convention (CITES) proposed in September to improve the protection of more than 50 animal and plant species.

[» Read more \(German\)](#)

13.4.:

Nature Conservation & Biodiversity

EU nature conservation policy passes "Fitness Check"

The existing EU Habitats Directive is effective in areas where it is seriously implemented and promoted by the EU member states. This is backed up by the "From Alert to Action" presented today by NGO BirdLife Europe and its partner organisations from all EU member states.

» [Read more \(German\)](#)

Agriculture & Genetic Engineering

EU agricultural policy undergoes fitness check

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union is to be a focus of the reviews under the RE-FIT platform. As reported by the European environmental news service ENDS on April 12, the representatives of the platform from the Member States, industry and civil society decided on their first meeting last week.

» [Read more \(German\)](#)

17.3.:

Politics & Law

DNR factsheet "Better regulation or deregulation?" updated

The EU tries to deal with allegations of over-regulation with the "better regulation" agenda. The updated DNR factsheet also explains the connection with the Brexit Deal.

» [Read more \(German\)](#)

Publications:

- European environmental Bureau: **Europe's nature Laws Matter – For biodiversity, people and the economy.** Download [here](#).
- New EEB (European Environmental Bureau), BL (BirdLife), FoEE & WWF -Publication: **Nature legislation - Fit for purpose and in need of action.** Download [here](#).
- Instructions to the European Commission "**Natura 2000 and Forests**" now available in English, German, Spanish and French [here](#).
- Justice & Environment: new publication on **legislation for environmental impact assessments in Natura 2000 areas** (see <http://goo.gl/HEVxdV>). The short document attempts to explain how these assessments are performed; a large proportion are decisions of the European Court.
- ECOFYS study on "**Public funding for energy efficiency in the EU**" published: The report provides an overview of public funding for energy efficiency in the EU 2012-2014.