

November 2016

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Member Associations,

Several months have passed since the publication of the second CAA bulletin. Apart from the CAA General Assembly, AlpWeek and the Alpine Conference also took place during this time, which kept the office very busy. This edition will inform you about these and other events as well as interesting news from the associations.

We also welcome all feedback, including criticism, because this is the only way the newsletter can be improved. Please share the CAA newsletter with as many people as possible in your associations. Thank you very much!

The third edition contains information on the following topics:

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

While the content of the first five topics mainly comes from the CAA or its associations, you can find under **EU** information about the EU's environmental policy, primarily taken from other newsletters.

I hope you enjoy reading the bulletin.



CAA Office Manager

## Internal CAA

### General Assembly 2016:

On September 17<sup>th</sup> the delegates of the CAA's member associations – presidents and directors – met for the General assembly 2016 in Innsbruck, following the invitation of the Austrian Alpine Club. The delegates approved a [recommendation concerning belay devices for sport climbing](#), which the commission for mountaineering had prepared before, as well as a common [position concerning artificial snow making](#), developed by the commission for nature protection and alpine spatial planning. Regarding the online reservation system, for which the CAA made a start-up financing, the current state



## Upcoming events

**25.11.2016**

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

**11.-13.1.2017**

[Conference Mountain regions, territories of innovation](#), Grenoble/Frankreich

**10./11.2.2017**

[DAV/ÖAV/AVS: Huts symposium on "Alpine Infrastructure in Transformation: challenges and possible solutions"](#)  
Benediktbeuern /Germany



of the project was reported. The extended system is ready for operation since July 2016 and already in use in numerous SAC, DAV and ÖAV huts. The development of an e-payment solution is progressing. At the moment the system is in possession of SAC, DAV, ÖAV and AVS. Further associations can take it over and adapt it later.

For the use of the tool developed in the framework of the CAA project "Energy efficiency on mountain huts" a training course for persons responsible for huts was already held, in order to ensure a practical application of the tool, which allows an assessment of building and restoration measures.

For the additional costs, charged by project leader Peter Büchel in the Beginning of 2016, was found a consensual solution.

The longstanding treasurer in the CAA board, Gianna Rauch, stepped down from the office on her own request and [was discharged](#) by the delegates with hearty thanks. She was succeeded by [Heinz Frei](#), member of the SAC's central board, who was elected unanimously.

Without a clear result ended a discussion about the foundation of a European Mountaineering Association (EUMA). In the meantime the discussion continued at the margins of the UIAA General assembly in October.

[Read more about the CAA General assembly](#)

Minutes available in the internal area of the CAA homepage. **Input "caaintern" and "entranceall".**

## Commissions

Hereinafter you find the short version of the **annual plans** according to the decisions of the General Assembly. The annual plans are available in the internal area of the CAA homepage.

Additionally for all commissions **the exchange of information and experience** is an essential element. Furthermore the issue **"Mountain biking"** will be dealt together by all commissions.

### Commission for Nature Protection and Alpine Spatial Planning (KONSAR):

- **Climate Change:** To discuss the current situation in the Alps and in the associations and to initiate the revising process of the CAA position papers
- **Alpine Convention and EUSALP:** To discuss the state of the Alpine Convention with regard to EU-SALP and to derive possible measures for CAA
- CAA position paper **"Protect the alpine landscapes"**: To add a statement on the generation of value from nature and landscape.
- CAA position paper **"Via ferratas in nature and landscape"**: To revise the existing position paper to assess the current situation relating to via ferratas in the Alps.
- **Environmental education:** To support the Commission of Mountaineering in producing educational targets for Alpine sports in the Alpine associations
- **Mountain biking in the CAA member associations/Alps:** To develop a compilation of best practice examples and legal issues concerning mountain biking (the latter already done) and make it available to all interested parties in the CAA associations in a suitable form.

**Annual meeting 2017:** probably on **April, 21-23**, in South Tyrol.

### Commission of Huts and Trails

- **Mountain biking on trails:** Development of additional guidelines for multiple usage
- **Material ropeways:** Development of additional guidelines for multiple usage, contacts with local authorities and cooperation with DAV
- **Hut trekking:** Further development of the online reservation system
- **Accessible huts and trails:** Presentation in the different online tour-portals
- **Election of a new commission chair:** A new chairman of the commission has to be elected

**Annual meeting 2017:** Probably on **June 19/20** on the Höllentalanger Hut/Germany

## Commission of Mountaineering, Training and Safety

- **Sport climbing:** To produce indoor sport climbing CAA- recommendations analogous to the "10 recommendations" regarding Hiking, Ski mountaineering, Via ferratas, Alpine tours, Mountain biking
- **CAA-Emergency hotline:** Reports from the different countries to setup a hotline for accidents during association tours abroad
- **Via Ferrata:** Revision of the 10 recommendations approved in 2009
- **Training of association leaders:** To compare selected skills and training objectives.
- **Group sizes:** Recommendations for limits of group sizes for guided association tours

**Annual meeting 2017:** Probably on **June, 8/9** in Switzerland.

## Information from the Associations

### PZS: Golden Albert Mountain Award to the Slovenian Alpine Museum

On September 3rd, 2016, on the Diavolezza in the Upper Engadin in Switzerland, the King Albert I Memorial Foundation presented the Golden Albert Mountain Award to the following persons and institution for their essential contributions to the mountain world: the Slovenian Alpine Museum, the mountaineers Nives Meroi and Romano Benet (Italy), the scientist Michael Krautblatter (Germany), and the rock climbers Claude and Yves Remy (Switzerland).

The **Slovenski planinski muzej** in Mojstrana, at the entrance to the Triglav National Park, has fostered the identity-forming significance of mountains and mountaineering in Slovenia since 1984. The museum plays a pre-eminent role as the national archive of Slovenian alpinism and is an important regional cultural event organiser and promoter of tourism. [Read more](#)

### PZS: "Climbing for everybody" initially in Czech Republic

Climbing for everybody is a three-year-project, co-funded by European Commission, programme Erasmus+: Sport, Youth and EU Aid Volunteers. It is being implemented in partnership of six European alpine associations: Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, Italian, Slovak and Slovenian. The initial mountain week was organized by Český horolezecký svaz in Adršpach in Bohemian Switzerland in the north of Czech Republic from September 25th to October 2nd 2016.

The international project Climbing for everybody is taking place from January 1st 2016 to December 31st 2018 and is being implemented in partnership of six alpine associations from the European Union: Český horolezecký svaz (CHS), Hrvatski planinarski savez (HPS), Magyar Természetbarát Szövetség (MTSZ), Club Alpino Italiano (CAI), Slovensky horolezecky spolok JAMES (SMU JAMES) and Planinska zveza Slovenije (PZS). [Read more](#)



Foto: Manca Čujež

### PZS: Slovenian Mountain Bike Route

Mountain biking has become increasingly popular among the members of the Alpine Association of Slovenia. As a result, the 1,800km circular Slovenian Mountain Bike Route (STKP) was officially opened in June 2016 after several years of work and research in the field, which was carried out by the Mountain Bike Commission of the Alpine Association of Slovenia. The route visits all of Slovenia's significant mountain groups and passes 109 control points; the total ascent along the route adds up to almost 50,000 vertical metres.



The basic course of the [Slovenian Mountain Bike Route](#) is not particularly technically demanding, as it is intended for a broad spectrum of mountain bikers; however, it can be physically demanding at some points where the trail is not rideable and bikes need to be pushed, though never carried. [Read more](#)

## **PZS: First International Mountaineering Orienteering Competition at Pokljuka successfully completed**

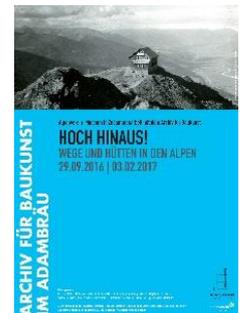
From September 30th to October 2nd 2016, the Pokljuka Plateau, with its vast expanses of forests, hosted the first International Mountaineering Orienteering Competition organized by the Youth Commission of the Alpine Association of Slovenia in cooperation with the Balkan Mountaineering Union. Twenty-one teams from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovenia competed in three categories, with the home nation taking all three wins. The Balkan Mountaineering Union (BMU) had entrusted the Alpine Association of Slovenia with the organization of its first international mountaineering orienteering competition. It was carried out in accordance with Slovenian rules for such events, which have been held in Slovenia for more than six decades. [Read more](#)

## **ÖAV: Alpine club demands to rethink development**

More and more interest groups are protesting against the obsession with further development. The Austrian Alpine Club emphasises the demands of CIPRA and calls for a pause for reflection. It wants to offer more possibilities for tourists to enjoy a stress-free, restful and relaxing holiday, combined with a healthy lifestyle. President Dr Andreas Ermacora, on behalf of the ÖAV, therefore requested a period of reflection to consider possible skiing development measures and the introduction of a structured revision process so that the tourism industry can prepare in good time for the challenges of the future. More information about [Alpine association demands pause for reflection \(German\)](#)

## **ÖAV: Opening of exhibition & book presentation of HOCH HINAUS! in Innsbruck**

Alpine infrastructure was both a requirement and an incentive for the rapid increase in tourism in the Alps in the late 19th century. The two-volume work and the accompanying exhibition "HOCH HINAUS! Wege und Hütten in den Alpen" ("AIM HIGH! Trails and Huts in the Alps") focuses on trails and huts as evidence of this passion for nature and the mountains. The book was presented at the end of September during the opening of the exhibition at the Archiv für Baukunst (Archive for Architecture) in Innsbruck. Information about the exhibition, opening and the programme can be found at: [www.alpenverein.at/museum](http://www.alpenverein.at/museum) (German).



## **ÖAV: Alpine club calendar for 2017**

Given the 500,000-strong membership of the ÖAV, the association's calendar for this year includes the very first edition of the project "Members for Members". During the year, an online vote was used to decide which of the submitted photos from the albums of the Alpine club members should feature in the calendar. The final result is now available in the Alpine club's shop. To mark the anniversary, this year, non-members can also buy the calendar. Details about the project: [www.alpenverein.at/500000](http://www.alpenverein.at/500000) (German)



## **ÖAV: Bergsteigerdörfer: "Memorandum of Understanding" signed**

The effects of climate change were the main topic of concern at the annual meeting of the "Bergsteigerdörfer" held in Vent in the Ötztal valley in mid-September. Climate changes in the Alps constantly pose new challenges for the inhabitants of the Alpine regions as well as local tourism. During the annual meeting, the ÖAV also obtained official recognition for its commitment, in the form of a signed "Memorandum of Understanding", which seals the collaboration of the Alpine associations and the Alpine Convention. It

aims to educate the general public and guests about the protection of the Alpine region and enable the further development of sustainable tourism in the Alps. For more information, go to: [http://www.bergsteigerdoerfer.at/\(German\)](http://www.bergsteigerdoerfer.at/(German))

## ÖAV: The "Safe Climbing" tour continues

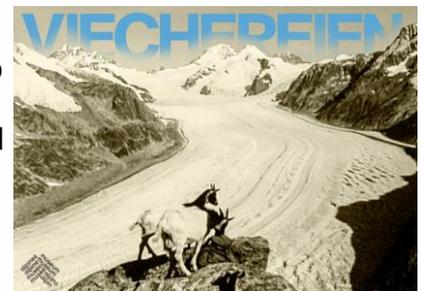
The second edition of the ÖAV's "Safe Climbing" project is underway, enabling climbers to test their safety techniques at workshops free of charge throughout Austria until 2 December 2016. A 60-kilogram dummy offers the ideal conditions for training climbers in how to deal with falls, enabling them to practise how they would react to emergencies. The ÖAV's safety experts can provide climbers with assistance and advice and will have the latest belay devices on hand at all 22 stops of the tour, which will be travelling through all of Austria. The safety dummy will be doing a tour of climbing centres from Vienna and Lower Austria to Vorarlberg and invites climbers to experiment. You can find information, register for workshops and view dates at: [www.alpenverein.at/sicherklettern](http://www.alpenverein.at/sicherklettern)



Foto: M.Melcher

## SAC: Mountain Day, 11 December

Fun on Mountain Day, 11 December 2016. The popular Pecha Kucha also took place this year to mark the international Mountain Day at the [Alpine Museum](#) in Bern. This year, the speakers discuss the topic of "People and Animals in the Alps" from many different angles. The organisers are the Alpine Museum, the Swiss Alpine Club SAC, CIPRA, ICAS and Mountain Wilderness.



## SAC: Parc Adula – Charta will be going ahead

On 27 November, 14 local authorities in Graubünden and three in Ticino will decide whether they want to have a national park in their territory. They will be voting about Charta, which will define the future rules applicable to Parc Adula. The differences to the draft version are not significant. In particular, the trails and routes on offer and the network of trails permitted in the core zone have been retained. As such, the most important proposals made by the SAC (and the SBV) were unfortunately not taken into consideration.

The SAC expressed some criticisms during the [consultation process](#), particularly regarding the removal of almost 50% of the summer routes according to the guides published by the SAC. The case of national parks in other Alpine countries shows that this is not necessary. All the local sections of the SAC and the sections that own huts submitted proposals for trails. It is now up to the inhabitants of the territories to balance the interests. > Charta online: [www.parcadula.ch](http://www.parcadula.ch). (German, Italian, Romansh)

## Alpine Convention

### Alpine Conference

The 14th **Conference of EU Environment Ministers** of the Alpine states and their representatives, as well as observer organisations, took place in Grassau, Bavaria, on 13 October.

At the [conference](#), the presidency of the Alpine Convention was transferred from Germany to Austria. The main topics and decisions of the conference concerned the **"Green Economy", the 2017-2022 Multiannual Work Programme (MAP), EUSALP**, as well as the guidelines and recommendations for action of the Compliance Committee regarding the interpretation of Art. 6 (3) of the Tourism Protocol and Art. 11 (1) of the Nature Protection Protocol, which



Alpine Conference 2016  
Foto: Wolfgang Gasser

should now be implemented at a practical level through local and regional approval procedures. ([Documents](#) available in all alpine languages, but not in English). The CAA successfully promoted **greater prominence for the landscape and its protection** as part of the MAP and the declaration on the "Green Economy". The development of guidelines for the interpretation of Art. 6 (3) originates back to the CAA's application for a cableway on Piz Val Gronda in 2013/14. In detailed work and supported actively by the ÖAV, the CAA tried to use these guidelines to achieve better future compliance with the provisions of the Alpine Convention in relation to the sustainable development of tourism. The Compliance Committee's report concerning the in depth review of tourism that was approved by the Ministers' conference contains many comments by the observers CAA and CIPRA based on the 2015 survey of our member associations.

The various reports approved during the Alpine Conference also included the report on the first [Alpine Building Conference](#), at which Peter Büchel presented the **CAA's "Energy Efficiency of Mountain Huts"** project in March 2016.

[The assessment made by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety \(BMUB\) of the German presidency \(German\)](#)

After the actual conference, the **observer organisations met to hold talks with the German minister Barbara Hendricks** and the representative of the Austrian minister, Section Chief Liebl, about the common as well as individual concerns of the observers. The CAA pointed out, among other things, that care should be taken not to automatically give priority to the economy above the protection of the environment. This prioritisation of the economy has been seen in the Alps and beyond.

**The Austrian presidency in 2017/18** will particularly emphasise the **principle of "protect and use"**, which is a phrase and pairing that is very familiar to the Alpine associations. The CAA also highlighted this on 4 November at a meeting between the observer organisations and **the Austrian Minister Rupprechter** in Salzburg marking the start of the Austrian presidency.

Most of the **working groups and platforms of the Alpine Convention** will be continuing their work over the next two years. The new mandates of the working groups and platforms were adopted by the Alpine Conference. The CAA will issue an updated overview. The previous representatives of the CAA in the Transport (H. Denis, FFCAM), Sustainable Tourism (L. Dagostin, ÖAV) and Macroregional Strategy (V. Schulz, CAA) working groups and the PLANALP (D. Bieri, SAC) and Mountain Farming (A. Ringler/K. Lintzmeyer, VzSB) platforms will continue to participate in these working groups and platforms.

## AlpWeek "Alps & People"

**The Alpweek [www.alpweek.org](http://www.alpweek.org) took place around the Alpine Conference, from 11 to 15 October 2016, in Grassau** (Germany). It welcomed well over 400 participants, thereby exceeding the expectations of the eight partner organisations, including the CAA, which jointly organised the event. Many panel discussions, sessions, market stands, exhibitions and workshops provided opportunities for attendees to discuss current challenges and shared solutions for sustainable development in the Alps, particularly regarding culture, demography and quality of life. The ÖAV organised a workshop about its primary focus, **"Mountain Sports and Health"**, the AVS showed its exhibition called **"Neobiota"**, which received very positive feedback, and the DAV held its Nature Protection Conference at the end of AlpWeek.



Neobiota: Foto: Wolfgang Gasser

People and their relationships were the main topic of many of the lively discussions during AlpWeek, whether regarding for example migration, Alpine culture, young people or tradition vs modernity. Presentations and photos relating to most of the events held during AlpWeek are already available to download from the website [www.alp-week.org](http://www.alp-week.org).



Foto: Wolfgang Gasser

The cultural high point of the week was without a doubt the 25th anniversary celebration of the Alpine Convention, which included a multilingual Alpine poetry slam, comedy skits and lots of alpine music, creating a fun atmosphere for the evening among the highly diverse audience.

## **Final report on the workshop "Climate Protection in the Hospitality and Gastronomy Industry"**

The final report on the workshop held under the German presidency, during which Heinrich Kreuzinger presented the CAA's "**Energy Efficiency of Mountain Huts**" project in April, is now available in all the Alpine languages [to download](#).

## **Reading Mountains Festival**

Based on the success of the [first edition](#) the Alpine Convention organizes the Reading Mountains festival also this year and invites you to participate! Join it with organizing your event, targeting your members/inhabitants/partners and celebrate the International Mountain Day under the umbrella of the Alpine Convention. In 2016 the Festival "Reading Mountains" will take place for a whole week – between 5 and 11 December. The »Reading mountains« festival is an opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity of the Alps – its many languages, different, yet similar cultural heritage and its arts in all shapes and forms. All participating organizations will receive posters, stickers and bookmarks for the promotion of their event. More information as well as the locations of reading can be found on the [webpage](#) of the Alpine Convention.

## **Alpine Nature 2030 publication**

The many years of work performed by the Alpine Convention's Ecological Network platform and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC) for a biotope network throughout the entire Alpine territories is now available as a comprehensive [publication](#). It can be ordered and/or downloaded as an e-paper or pdf.

## **EUSALP**

In September, [a report and resolution](#) concerning EUSALP (Macroregional Strategy for the Alpine Region) was approved by the European Parliament. The strategy had been previously discussed in its various committees.

As already indicated in the letter sent by the CAA to the member associations in July 2016, the **nine Action Groups at the implementation level of EUSALP** are in the process of preparing their work programmes. The aim is to develop specific common projects in the respective areas and acquire funds to support them from the various programmes of the EU. Not all the Action Groups desire or permit civil society representatives. The biodiversity expert Alfred Ringler will be participating in the Action Group 7 as a representative of the CAA. Action Group 8 will cooperate closely with the Alpine Convention's platform PLANALP, in which Daniel Bieri (SAC) is representing the CAA.

The CAA was invited to and participated in the meetings of Action Group **6 ("To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources")**, led by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and Carinthia. This Action Group has been divided into the following subgroups: **land use planning and soil conservation (1), mountain and forestry management and biodiversity (2) and integrated water management (3)**. The next meeting of the Action Group is scheduled to take place in Innsbruck on 21/22 November. The CAA member associations have been informed about the content that has already been proposed in the Action Group. However, experts are needed at the implementation level. An umbrella organisation cannot carry out this specific sort of work. Since the member associations until now didn't express an interest to make their own contributions to Action Group 6, the CAA will, with regard to EUSALP, limit itself in the future to participating in the "Macroregional Strategy" working group of the Alpine Convention, which it has already been doing for some time. This

working group is meant to be coordinating the contribution of the Alpine Convention to EUSALP and the work of the respective organs. The next meeting will take place in Vienna on 18 November. The CAA will report on it. In terms of staying informed about political and administrative developments and being able to inform the Alpine associations accordingly, it is sufficient for the CAA to participate in this committee. This does not, however, enable it to influence the organisation and implementation of EUSALP with regard to the topics of Action Group 6.

[More information about macro-regional strategies](#)

## EU

### **Information from the newsletter of the Deutscher Naturschutzring (German League for Nature, Animal and Environment Protection, DNR):**

27 October.

Politics & Law

#### **Work programme of the European Commission for 2017**

On 25 October, the European Commission presented its work programme for the coming year. It focuses on the 10 political priorities of the Juncker Commission, which does not include the environment nor the sustainable development of Europe.

» [Read more \(German\)](#)

6 October.

Climate & Energy

#### **Paris Agreement, ratified by EU, enters into force**

The consent of the European Parliament has opened the door to EU ratification of the Paris Agreement. Through the EU ratification, the Agreement can enter into force in time for the next climate conference in Marrakesh, Morocco.

» [Read more \(German\)](#)

23 September.

Agriculture & Genetic Engineering

#### **The REFIT platform recommends CAP Fitness Check**

The REFIT platform, which consists of representatives from industry, trade unions and civil society, yesterday issued a recommendation to the European Commission to conduct a fitness check of the EU's Common Agriculture Policy (CAP).

» [Read more \(German\)](#)

### [Link to "Fitness Check" of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives](#)

18 August

Politics & Law

#### **Deregulation threatens environment, consumers and health**

The latest announcement of the DNR entitled "Better Regulation or Deregulation?" clarifies the context and structures of the deregulation agenda under European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and makes a connection with the upcoming Brexit.

» [Read more \(German\)](#)

#### **Initiative for Soil protection**

The Commission officially accepted the **European Citizens' Initiative (formal petition) "People4Soil"**. You can find the press release [here](#). Now a group of NGOs will be running a campaign over the next year to reach the 1 million signatures. Their main objective is to put pressure on the European institutions to adopt specific legislation on soil protection and that soil be recognised as a common good essential for our lives. Find out more about People4Soil [here](#).

## **Publications:**

### **EEB publication: Navigating the Better Regulation Maze**

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) has published an analysis of the effects of the "Better Regulation Agenda" of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in relation to the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework.

### **EEB brochure about CAP**

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) has published a brochure about the EU's **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**.

### **The DNR's fact sheet regarding EU soil protection**

The soil as an important environmental medium benefits from very few legal rights in the EU. A new fact sheet by the DNR emphasises the need for an EU-wide soil protection policy, explains the reasons for its previous lack of success and predicts the future of soil conservation in Europe.

[» Read more \(German\)](#)