

### April 2017

Dear Readers and Association Members,

The fourth edition of the CAA Associations News has taken longer than usual to produce, demonstrating yet again quite an imbalance between the work involved and the time resources available... But many things happened. For this reason the move to a more professional template, which e.g. will make it easier to count the accesses, has also been postponed again. However we have responded to the suggestion made by individual associations to arrange the information from the associations by subject matter, so that readers can find the material they are interested in this chapter more easily.

The fourth edition once again contains information on the following topics:

- **CAA internal affairs**
- **Commissions**
- **Information from the associations**
- **Alpine Convention**
- **EUSALP**
- **EU**

Thank you for sending us your reports for the section "Information from the associations". The chapter "EU" focuses on environmental information.

I continue to look forward to all your feedback!

I hope you find it a very interesting read.



CAA Office Manager

### Forthcoming events

**11/5/2017**

International Conference  
[„Greening the economy in the alpine region“](#), Rosenheim/Germany

**16-18/ 5/ 2017**

International Conference  
[“The Wolf in the alpine cultural landscape – chances and challenges“](#), Sölkaler Nature parc, Steiermark/ Österreich

**14-16/6/2017**

Conference [Sustainability and tourism – 25 years after Rio](#), Wergenstein/Switzerland

**29-30/9/2017**

CIPRA Annual symposium  
["Alpine spaces: Natural borders, endless possibilities"](#), Innsbruck/Austria

## CAA internal affairs

### CAA Executive Board

The minutes of the CAA board meetings can be accessed at any time via the internal pages of the CAA website: **Enter "caaintern" and "entranceall"**.

Alongside the usual focus of the CAA - its observer role at the Alpine Convention - the CAA Executive Board has also been involved with setting up the new European Union of Mountaineering Associations (EUMA). To that end, in December 2016 it sent a [statement](#) to the working group, under the leadership of the DAV and ÖAV, which is preparing for the foundation of EUMA.

As things stand in April, EUMA will be set up in 2017. The CAA will initially continue with its specific role as observer of the Alpine Convention, but in the medium term it will be integrated into EUMA along with this task. The

plans for the CAA Commissions have not yet been finalised. The CAA Board will ask the opinion of the commissions at their forthcoming annual meeting.

### **CAA working group Mountain Biking: Position on Pedelecs**

In December, the CAA began to coordinate a small working group of representatives of as many member associations as possible, i.e. all three commissions and various perspectives, which – at the suggestion of the AVS - have been invited to tackle the issue of a joint approach to the subject of mountain biking, since all three CAA commissions have included the topic in their annual planning. At their meeting on 7 March, the working group (representatives of DAV, ÖAV, AVS; PZS) agreed to concentrate on the topic of "E-biking/Pedelecs". A joint position was then drafted, which is now being discussed in the individual CAA commissions and will hopefully be approved by the General Assembly in September 2017.

## **Commissions**

### **Commission of Nature Protection and Alpine Spatial Planning (KONSAR)**

KONSAR met from **21-23 April for its annual meeting, hosted by AVS in Bolzano/South Tyrol**. As part of its extensive agenda, alongside the exchange of information and experiences regarding the associations' activities and projects in the field of nature protection and alpine spatial planning, the main focus was on the revision of various CAA positions, in particular "Via ferratas in nature and landscape" and "Protect the Alpine landscapes". The two positions of the CAA on climate change are due to be revised by 2018. In addition, there was an exchange on the draft of "E-Biking/Pedelecs" and on the CAA activities as part of the Alpine Convention and EU-SALP. Marie-Laure Tanon (FFCAM), who took on the Presidency of the commission for one year in 2016, was nominated by the commission to remain as President for a further three years.

### **Commission of Mountaineering, Training and Safety**

The Commission of Mountaineering, Training and Safety will meet on **8/9 June 2017 in Bern/Switzerland** with an equally wide-ranging agenda: Alongside the usual reports from the associations, the agenda includes recommendations for sport climbing, an emergency hotline, a debate on short roping and the need for a review of the existing recommendations for mountaineering.

### **Commission of Huts and Trails**

For the Commission of Huts and Trails, the programme for the meeting on **19/20 June in the new Höllentalangerhütte/Germany** will include devising a CEN norm for goods ropeways, the integration of hut trekking in the online reservation system and the issue of "barrier-free huts and trails". A new President must also be nominated, as Georg Simeoni (AVS) is coming to the end of his second term of office.

## **Information from the associations**

### **General**

#### **ÖAV: Membership statistics - Ongoing enthusiasm for the Austrian Alpine Association**

The current membership statistics for the Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV) show that the mountains continue to hold great appeal. Almost 19,000 new members joined the Alpine Association last year, representing a growth of 3.7 percent. As of January 2017, the Alpine Association has 521,575 members. This means that it is not only the largest mountaineering association in Austria, but also the second largest Alpine Association in the world. [Details on membership statistics for the Alpine Association](#) (German)



#### **SAC: Office reorganisation**

The SAC office was restructured in January 2017. The new management team consists of the Managing Director and the heads of department. The previous areas have been amalgamated into the five departments of Mountaineering, Huts and Infrastructure, Environment and Spatial Development, Communication and Marketing, and Finance and Services. This structure improves transparency between the departments (former areas), optimises and provides greater support for the management and is better suited to meet the needs of the various sections. There

are now three new departments, which cover all the main areas of activity and deal with the core businesses. [More information \(German\)](#)

## **Mountaineering**

### **AVS: Mountain bike signage**

Mountain biking is growing in popularity. However, the shared use of trails and routes by mountain bikers needs to be clearly regulated and appropriately marked. In order to ensure a standard MTB signage system, the IDM South Tyrol has cooperated with the South Tyrol Alpine Association (AVS), the Office for Nature Parks and the South Tyrol Association of Tourism Organisations to create the Mountain Biking Signage Guidebook for South Tyrol. This contains the technical information and regulations for additional signage of the MTB routes and trails. Online and available to download from the [IDM website.\(German\)](#)

### **DAV: Basic Mountaineering Programme**

At the General Meeting held at the end of 2016 in Offenburg, the Basic Mountaineering Programme was agreed almost unanimously. In preparation for this document, experts from a project group along with numerous sections submitted valuable contributions via a written survey, which make the Basic Mountaineering Programme a forward-looking instrument for the German Alpine Association. The basic programme defines which sports come under the heading of mountaineering in the DAV and in which areas of activity the DAV is active. Through this basic programme, DAV has a document that will provide guidelines in these areas of activity for a long time to come. [Download \(German\)](#)

### **PZS: Andrej Štremfelj Awarded Lifetime Achievement in Alpinism**

Each year, the Alpine Association of Slovenia dedicates the alpinism and climbing evening to honour the outstanding achievements in alpine, rock and ice climbing, as well as ski mountaineering, which contributes to greater recognition of these sports in media. This year, the lifetime achievement in the field of alpinism has been awarded for the fourth time. On 2 February 2017, it was received by the excellent alpine climber, the Himalayas expert and mountain guide, Andrej Štremfelj. [More information](#)

## **Huts and trails**

### **AVS: Digital tour planning**

Is the trend increasingly moving towards digital tour planning? The joint touring app from the DAV, ÖAV and AVS, alpenvereinaktiv.com, has reached half a million downloads. [More information \(German\)](#)

### **ÖAV: Alpine Association supports an action group from the section Touristenklub Innsbruck**

A gigantic new ropeway station complete with restaurant, all costing 58 million euros, is due to be built directly in front of the terrace of the Patscherkofel Schutzhaus. This threatens the existence of this hut, the property of the ÖAV section Touristenklub Innsbruck. Even if the "New Patscherkofelbahn" project is already a done deal for the city, the Alpine Association section Touristenklub Innsbruck has registered its protest and set up a citizens' initiative in line with the Innsbruck municipal charter (§44). [Details \(German\)](#)



### **PZS: Already 47 Environmentally and Family Friendly Mountain Huts in Slovenia**

Slovenian alpine clubs manage 179 mountain huts, shelters and bivouacs, of which 164 are staffed. As an incentive to lower harmful impact on mountain nature and to attract families to visit, the Alpine Association of Slovenia has followed the example of the mountaineering associations of Germany, Austria and South Tyrol, and introduced the Environment-Friendly Mountain Hut and Family-Friendly Mountain Hut certificates, which have already been awarded to a total of 47 Slovenian huts; some received them recently at the Mountain Hut Economy Conference held on 4 February 2017. There are 25 environment-friendly and 41 family-friendly mountain huts, with 21 huts holding both certificates. [More information](#)

## **Protection of Nature and Alpine Spatial Planning**

### **DAV - Exhibition KLIMAwandel klimaSCHUTZ**

What effect will climate change have on the Alpine region? What can we expect in the future? And what can we do? The exhibition is available for hire. [More information \(German\)](#)

### **ÖAV: Alpine Association demands the right to a say in the designation of wildlife preserves**

The designation of a wildlife preserve in the Malta valley has caused significant damage to tourism in the region. A strict ban on access in the winter months has already come into effect in the area of the Kesselwände, a prime ice-climbing location. The Alpine Association, as the largest lobby representing mountaineers, is now battling a tricky legal situation: The one-sided interpretation of the hunting law in order to push through particular interests - at the expense of recreational sports enthusiasts and visitors looking for rest and relaxation. The Alpine Association is critical of the lack of party rights and rights of appeal in the designation of wildlife preserves and has now collated its opposition in the form of a petition. [More information](#) (German)



### **ÖAV: Alpine Association presents latest glacier report**

Observers visited and measured 90 glaciers and reported that last year was characterised by a lack of winter snow and less of a decline than had been recorded the previous year. The latest glacier report shows that the average decline in length in 2015/2016 at 14.2 metres was far less than the previous year's loss and also less than the average decline of the last ten years. In total, 87 of the 90 glaciers observed (therefore 97%) had shrunk. Only one glacier (the Landeckkees) had encroached slightly more while two glaciers (Winkelkees and Totenkopfkees) remained stationary. [Alpine Association Glacier Report](#) (German)

## **Youth and families**

### **AVS: Project Nature Park Junior Ranger Development (in collaboration with the Regional Office of Nature Parks)**

To strengthen the relationship of children to native flora and fauna and to teach them the right way to behave in nature and in the mountains. These are the aims of the community project of the Regional Office of Nature Parks and the South Tyrol Alpine Association. [More information](#) (German)

### **AVS: Successful project conclusion for the series of lectures "Mountain Mad":**

The series of travel lectures created and given by participants on the youth leader trip to Iceland and the two ALPINIST trips to South Africa and Turkey were met with warm applause on the four lecture evenings held in Bruneck, Feldthurns, Bolzano and Algund. The approx. 750 audience members particularly appreciated the authentic reports of the speakers' individual experiences. [More information](#) (German)

### **PZS: Mountaineering competition Youth and Mountains**

The Youth Commission of the Alpine Association of Slovenia has been, for almost three decades now, organizing the Youth and Mountains competition, the most established Slovenian mountaineering competition for youth, which tests their knowledge, skills and experience pertaining to all areas and forms of mountaineering activities. The 28th national competition for primary and secondary schools took place on 21 January 2017 in Idrija, the Alpine Town of the year 2011. [More information](#)

## **Culture**

### **DAV: Hoch hinaus! (Aim high!) Trails and huts in the Alps – new special exhibition in the Alpine Museum**

The exhibition asks what is so special about Alpine trails and huts. It depicts the early years of tourism in the mountains and traces the development from the first accommodation at the start of the 1870s to the "mountain hotels" found at the turn of the century. It also studies the deliberate reduction in creature comforts in the 1920s and showcases cutting-edge solutions for contemporary hut construction today. The exhibition explores the aims that members of Alpine Associations associate with the construction of the huts and trails, the way they move in

the mountains and the basic attitudes they see as their duty. On display are items of furniture and everyday objects as well as documents, paintings, photographs and models from the sections of the Alpine Associations. **Until 8 April 2018.** [More information](#) (German)

### **DAV: The Höllentalanger hut in the garden of the Alpine Museum**

Together with the Hoch hinaus! (*Aim high!*) exhibition, the original structure of the Höllentalanger hut can be seen in the garden of the Alpine Museum. It gives a clear insight into the function, furnishings and operation of the earlier Alpine huts. [More information](#) (German)

### **PZS: Sherpa the winner of 11th Festival Gorniškega Filma, award for Slovenian film Ama Dablam**

Australian-Nepali film Sherpa - Trouble on Everest, which presents the problem of commercial mountaineering in the Himalayas, is the winner of the 11th Slovenian Mountain Film Festival, which took place between 20. and 26. February 2017 in Ljubljana, Domžale, Celje, Nova Gorica and Mojstrana. In addition to the Grand Prix the festival jury awarded the best films in the categories of mountaineering, climbing, mountains, sports and adventure, mountain nature and culture. Best mountaineering film is Slovenian film Ama Dablam, Dreams Unfolded. [>More information](#)

## **Cooperations**

### **DAV: Alps.Life.People: Integration of refugees in the Bavarian Alpine region**

In order to make it easier for refugees to settle in Bavaria's Alpine region, the German Alpine Association has set up the project Alps.Life.People. (Alpen.Leben.Menschen, or A.L.M.), in cooperation with the Malteser Hilfsdienst charity. [More information](#) (German)

### **PZS: The Alpine Association of Slovenia and the Ljubljana Faculty of Medicine become honorary patrons of a Nepalese health clinic**

On 28 November 2016, the Alpine Association of Slovenia and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana, signed an agreement in which they undertake to monitor the operation of the medical clinic in Chyalsa (Solo Khumbu, Nepal). Together with the clinic's founder Milena (Špela) Kristan, M.D., they will strive to achieve recognition of the clinic's activities among the Slovenian and Nepalese public, as well as to connect the clinic with institutions which may be able to assist in its operation by providing professional staff or material aid. [>More information](#)

## **Alpine Convention**

Extensive reports from the meetings of the **Permanent Committee** with numerous additional links to the internal pages of the CAA website, enter "**caaintern**" and "**entranceall**".

### **Launch of the Alpine Climate Board**

On 22 and 23 February 2017 in Vienna, the **Advisory Committee on the Alpine Climate (Alpine Climate Board ACB)** instituted by the XIVth Alpine Conference met for the first time. Chaired by the Austrian Presidency, the ACB gathers climate change specialists from the eight Alpine States and Observer organisations. It aims at bundling the current contributions of the Alpine Convention to climate change mitigation and adaptation, with the establishment of a climate-neutral Alpine space 2050 as the overarching goal. Until the next meeting (scheduled for mid-September 2017) the ACB is carrying out a stock-taking of the existing contributions to mitigation and adaptation provided by the different Alpine Convention organs and related objectives. On this basis specific recommendations on a system of objectives as well as fields of actions and measures of the ACB will be prepared, for the attention of the next Alpine Conference.

In the new Alpine Climate Board the CAA will be represented by Tobias Hipp (DAV). DAV is specifically interested due to its project "Climate-friendly Mountaineering" and "Mountaineering with future". The CAA already forwarded a questionnaire to its associations to collect their activities concerning climate change, asking for feedback until the end of April.

### **Green economy advisory board**

The Green economy advisory board will elaborate an "action programme" for the implementation of the recommendation of the last report of the state of the Alps (RSA VI) in Green economy, including some stakeholder dialogues in the second part of 2017. More Information

## The Working Group Macro-regional Strategy connects with EUSALP

This working group of the Alpine Convention is meant to be coordinating the contribution of the Alpine Convention to EUSALP and the work of the respective organs in a multi-step cooperation model: The Austrian presidency will work to identify the overlaps between people, topics and programmes in each group. There are around 40 people working in both EUSALP action groups and Alpine Convention working groups simultaneously. The goal of this process must be to exploit synergies whilst avoiding duplication – all while ensuring that the EUSALP action groups remain focused on sustainable development. The CAA (V. Schulz) participates in this working group to stay informed about the political and administrative developments and to be able to inform its member associations. [More information.](#)

**You can find an overview concerning the organs of the Alpine Convention and EUSALP in the internal part of the CAA-Website, enter "caaintern" and "entranceall".**

## Compliance Committee

The Compliance Committee in 2017 will concentrate on the in depth review of "economical use of soil", especially the two articles 9 (3) of the protocol on spatial planning and 7 (2) of soil conservation and spatial planning, focusing on settlements and traffic axis. This probably is not as interesting for the CAA as the former issue tourism. For more information you'll find the detailed report of the last meeting of the Compliance Committee of March 2017, written by V. Schulz, in the internal area of the CAA-Website, enter "**caaintern**" and "**entranceall**".

## AlpWeek report and cooperation video ready

Under the motto "Alps & People", the fourth AlpWeek 2016 was dedicated to the many facets of the links between the Alps and the people who live, work and spend their leisure hours there. We are delighted that the AlpWeek report is now also available on the website [www.alpweek.org](http://www.alpweek.org). It contains a short summary of the results of the event on the three topics of demography, culture and quality of life. The report also offers new perspectives on the next AlpWeek. Read more [here](#). This [video](#) brings the AlpWeek atmosphere to life. Here you can also find a [link to the video](#), which illustrates the special cooperation of the Alpine network. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the success of AlpWeek 2016!

In order to comply with the wish of the General Secretary of the Alpine Convention, Markus Reiterer, that we should not limit the special "spirit" of AlpWeek to only coming alive every four years, the organisers of AlpWeek 2016 got together before the last Permanent Committee at the beginning of April to discuss what sort of event, given the resources available, could be held as part of the Alpine Conference planned for November 2018 and would further the dialogue between country delegations, observers and other experts. The current proposal is a workshop format, whose contents could then be used as topics for AlpWeek 2020. Further planning sessions will be held in autumn 2017.

## EUSALP

### EUSALP General Assembly and Action Group Forum in Bavaria

The **EUSALP General Assembly** and the EUSALP Action Group Forum took place from 13-16 February 2016 in Bavaria. At the EUSALP General Assembly in Rottach-Egern the EUSALP Presidency was handed over from Slovenia to Bavaria. Moreover, representatives of States and Regions adopted a Joint Declaration on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) and called for adequately considering the Macro-Regional Strategies in the relevant EU-Policies beyond 2020. Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, Markus Reiterer, highlighted the importance of cooperation to achieve the best possible results which are beneficial for both the mountainous and surrounding regions.

The **EUSALP Action Group Forum** in Garmisch-Partenkirchen included a variety of events, which aimed at fostering the potential interlinkages between the different Action Groups, as well as between the Action Groups and Alpine Space projects. Furthermore presentations on innovative and successful collaboration and concepts and a workshop with representatives with practical backgrounds tried to inspire the members of the various action groups.

The CAA is glad that Roland Kals, spatial planner with a long-term experience with the project "Mountaineering villages" for the ÖAV is ready to represent the alpine associations in Action group 6, subgroup 1, spatial planning and soil protection. Action group 6 has developed its work program, but as in other action groups, until now it is

rather unclear with which financial and personal resources the operative work will be done. The further EUSALP programme can be downloaded under [www.alpine-region.eu](http://www.alpine-region.eu).

## EU

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

28/02/2017

#### **Soil protection policy in the EU - Taking stock**

The Ecologic Institute has been asked by the EU Commission to investigate which soil protection policy measures currently exist in the EU: [Read more \(German\)](#)

21/03/2017

#### **Our Europe is fair, sustainable, democratic and inclusive**

Civil organisations and trade unions are calling on EU governments to guide Europe along a sustainable path. [Read more \(German\)](#)

07/04/2017

#### **Study: Biological diversity requires more funding**

The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) has compared funding for biodiversity measures in the EU. [Read more \(German\)](#)

### **EEB information (European Environmental Bureau)**

#### **EU action plan for Nature, People and Business**

The action plan for the better implementation of the EU nature conservation acts - the Fauna-Flora-Habitat directive and the Bird Protection directive - should, according to the EU Commission, be ready by the end of April and will be presented at a conference on 6 June. This is likely to include:

- intelligent implementation measures aimed at supporting national, regional and local authorities and interest groups and avoiding unnecessary costs and burdens;
- measures that ensure that the nature conservation acts are more closely adhered to in future;
- increased investment in the Natura 2000 network of protected areas and better links with the EU subsidies policy;
- enhanced access to knowledge and support for interest groups and the general public in their commitment.

[More information on the results of the Fitness Check of the EU nature conservation acts](#) (English; Link to other languages)

#### **Toolkit zu "Zielen für nachhaltige Entwicklung" (Sustainable Development Goals, SDG)**

The EEB has published an [online toolkit](#) to help environmental NGOs and in particular its members to learn more about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to better understand how you can use the Agenda2030 in their campaign work. The website brings together more than 300 tools ready for use including articles, presentations, social media activities, images, policy papers, monitoring and review tools, SDG coalitions and more. All the material can be researched for instance by country or SDG. The toolkit answers basic [questions on the SDGs](#) with the aim of [inspiring national and local level environmental organisations](#) and [getting them started](#). Please share the toolkit widely in your network, amongst your members or local groups.