



March 2018

Ladies and gentlemen, dear member associations,

Below you will find the sixth edition of the CAA associations info with information from the CAA, its commissions and its member associations, but also from the Alpine Convention and EUSALP as well as from EU topics. The latter again come from other newsletters related to the EU environment and seemed interesting to me for the alpine associations.

The association info is again subdivided in the categories:

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

Thank you for sending me messages for the section "Information from the associations". We would be pleased if the other associations would also contribute in future. This time I didn't get any photos, which simplifies the creation, but maybe makes the reading a bit monotone...

Any feedback that contributes to improvement is still welcome!

I hope you enjoy reading this issue

CAA Office Manager

CAA internal affairs

The CAA General assembly 2018 will take place on September 7/8 in Italy, Turin, Monte dei Cappuccini.

CAA board

Minutes of CAA Board meetings can be accessed at any time from the internal section of the CAA website:

User name **"caaintern"**, password **"entranceall"**.

Following the founding of the new European mountaineering organisation **EUMA** in Munich in November 2017, to which six of the eight CAA member associations belong, the CAA board will strive for good cooperation with the new association. A concrete agreement with the EUMA presidium on their forms and possibilities is planned, but can only take place once EUMA itself has taken the first steps to establish itself. This will probably only be the case in the second half of 2018.

Forthcoming events

6./7.4. 2018

International Conference
[Mountain Medicine Symposium](#)
(g, e)
Salzburg/ Austria

20./21.4. 2018

ÖAV- Trails Symposium
["Über den Wert der Wege"](#) (g)
Salzburg/ Austria

25./26. 5. 2018

CIPRA /AIDA – conference
[„Alpine tourism – quality of life included!](#) (g, i, f, sl)
Bled /Slovenia

4.-7.6.2018

Forum Alpinum & Water conference

[Alpine Water – common good or source of conflicts?](#) (g, e)

Breitenwang/Austria

Meeting of representatives of the CAA in the working groups and platforms of the Alpine Convention

On 24 January, the CAA organised a meeting of representatives of the CAA in the working groups and platforms of the Alpine Convention in Innsbruck with parts of the Board. Detailed documentation and a summary of the results of the valuable exchange were sent to the participants and are available from the CAA office. The meeting made it clear that the Alpine Convention is still an important reference point for the CAA associations, but is not visible enough and shows too few concrete results. In addition, some still vague ideas were collected to enhance the role of the CAA as an observer for the associations. In order to clarify the expectations and wishes of the associations towards the Alpine Convention, but also towards the CAA as an observer, the CAA is now developing a questionnaire to its member associations, which will probably be sent out in April. From the point of view of the CAA it would be desirable if (again) more people in the associations concerned themselves with the Alpine Convention, since only in this way a regular exchange can function meaningfully.

Commissions

Commission for Nature Conservation and Alpine Spatial Planning (KONSAR)

KONSAR meets from **April 26-28 for its annual meeting as guest of the SAC in Bern/Switzerland**. As always, the agenda includes the exchange of information and experience on activities and projects of the associations in the field of nature conservation and Alpine spatial planning. In addition, the two older CAA positions on climate change will be revised, the possible development of common tools will be considered and an exchange on the situation regarding large predators will take place and, if necessary, a joint recommendation on behaviour towards them will be worked out.

Commission for Mountaineering, Training and Safety

The Commission for Mountaineering, Training and Safety will meet in **Malbun/Liechtenstein on June 7/8**, also with an extensive agenda according to the annual plan. In addition to reviewing and, if necessary, updating existing recommendations, recommendations on bouldering, the emergency hotline, the comparison of the training of tour guides and recommendations of upper limits for group sizes are on the agenda.

Commission for Huts and Trails

The Commission for Huts and Trails will be meeting under the new chairman Miro Eržen at the **Schlernhaus/South Tyrol/Italy on June 18-19**, with an exchange of experiences on MTB/Pedelec/E-MTB steering concepts, the state concerning the development of a CEN standard for material ropeways, the common hut database and the discussion of common hut and trail topics with regard to possible EU standards on the programme.

Information from the associations

General

ÖAV: Considerable increase in members of the Alpine Association

Almost 23,500 people joined the Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV) last year. For the mountaineering and nature conservation organisation this means the second largest increase in members since the beginning of the census - and a strong vote for the mission of the Alpine Association. The long-term average of the membership statistics of the Alpine Association is around 7,000 new members per year. This number was more than tripled in 2017. Meanwhile the members form a community of over 545,000 mountain sports and nature enthusiasts all over Austria. [Read more \(German\)](#).
[Press information](#) (German)

PZS: 125 years of organized mountaineering in Slovenia and new headquarters

125 years after the establishment the Alpine Association of Slovenia is among the most numerous non-governmental organizations in Slovenia, and the most numerous sports organization. The anniversary was celebrated in Ljubljana on 27 February 2018. A morning meeting with the Slovenian Prime Minister was fol-

lowed by the reception for related organizations, state institutions and business partners, and in the afternoon in the presence of numerous representatives of mountain clubs there was the opening ceremony of the new AAS offices in Ljubljana. [Read more](#)

SAC: Daniel Marbacher becomes new Managing Director

The SAC executive committee has elected Daniel Marbacher as the new managing director. He replaces Jerun Vils, who left the SAC at his own request at the end of 2017.

The 44-year-old from Marbacher is currently still working at BKW Energie AG as Head of the Environmental Department. Prior to that, he worked in various companies in the Canton of Berne as a project manager and natural hazard expert. With Daniel Marbacher, a leader in the SAC with an excellent network takes over the fate of the Swiss Alpine Club. Marbacher has been a member of the SAC Entlebuch since 1992, worked as a tour guide in his section on a voluntary basis for over 20 years and served on the board as head of tours and vice president. [Read more \(German or French\)](#)

SAC is against heli-biking in the Alps

Starting this spring, a Valais-based helibiking company will be offering helibiking. Bikers are flown directly to the starting points of spectacular descents. It is the first offer of its kind in Switzerland; in foreign destinations such as New Zealand, the "sport" has existed for some time.

The SAC rejects this new leisure activity for Switzerland. It stands for non-motorized mountain sports and authentic nature experiences in the Alps. Since most bikers use existing hiking trails, helibiking also endangers the emotionally discussed coexistence of hikers and mountain bikers.

Mountaineering

ÖAV: Avalanches update - Lecture series on accident prevention and rescue technology

For a good start into the touring season, the Austrian Alpine Association organized the lecture series "Avalanches Update" again this winter. 21 sections throughout Austria offered an exciting lecture evening to all who are on the mountain in winter and encouraged them to update their avalanche knowledge. The successful tour will continue next season. Ski mountaineers, freeriders, snowshoe hikers and other enthusiastic winter sports enthusiasts are very welcome at the lectures of the Alpine Club.

The presentation video for the "Avalanche Update" with Michael Larcher in two parts is available online for those who could not be there live, and for those interested in winter sports to deepen and repeat it. We wish you a good winter season! [Details of the lecture series and link to the videos \(German\)](#)

ÖAV: Volunteers for the World Climbing Championships wanted!

From 6th to 16th September 2018 the World Championships in sport climbing will take place in Innsbruck. To ensure that this international sporting event goes off to a perfect start, 150 volunteers are now being sought who will take part with joy and enthusiasm.

Registration/Application:

Either directly by mail to office@austriaclimbing.com or via www.innsbruck2018.com/volunteers

Period of use: 30.08.-17.09.2018 (variable depending on the task)

Location: Innsbruck (climbing centre Innsbruck, Olympic Hall, market place)

Application deadline: 31.05.2018

ÖAV: Alpine Club publishes new "Booklet Ski Tours"

The attraction of untouched powder slopes and picturesque winter landscapes is no longer a secret. Ski tours are becoming more and more popular, but they remain a risky sport - despite an avalanche report and high-quality equipment. The brand-new "Booklet Ski tours" of the Alpine Club provides the most important facts for the avoidance of avalanche accidents, for correct route planning and for efficient rescue of comrades in emergencies in a compact and clear manner. Express recommendation for all who are outdoors in the winter season! The booklet can be ordered in the [Alpine Club Shop](#).

[Detailed information on the new booklet](#) (German).

PZS: Climbing for everybody - fourth mountain week in Slovenian winter

From 5 to 11 March 2018 the Alpine Association of Slovenia hosted the fourth mountain week of the international project Climbing for everybody in the Planica Valley in the heart of Slovenian Julian Alps. The three-

year-project, co-funded by European Commission, programme Erasmus+: Sport, Youth and EU Aid Volunteers, is being implemented in partnership of six European alpine associations: Czech, Croatian, Hungarian, Italian, Slovak and Slovenian. [Read more](#).

PZS: Slovenia opened the UIAA Ice Climbing season in Domžale

On 2 December 2017 Domžale hosted the first competition of the new European Ice Climbing Cup in lead. Italian Angelika Rainer and French Louna Ladevant claimed victory in Slovenia. This competition also counted as the final event of the 5th Slovenian-Croatian-Serbian Open Cup in Ice Climbing, the winners were Slovenians Maja Šuštar and Jaka Hrast. [Read more](#).

Protection of Nature and Alpine Spatial Planning

ÖAV: Petition against storage lake in Montafon

The Alpine Association Vorarlberg has started a petition to stop the construction of a snow-making reservoir in the sensitive high alpine landscape of the Schwarzköpfl (Montafon). [We also ask for your support!](#) (German)

ÖAV: Alliance for the Soul of the Alps

Only seven percent of Austria's territory is not developed at all or only slightly, more than half of it is not protected from landscape-polluting interventions. The Austrian Alpine Association, the Friends of Nature and the WWF have now joined forces to form an "Alliance for the Soul of the Alps" in order to draw attention to this alarming development and to defend **the last alpine open spaces**. [More information](#) (German)

Youth and families

ÖAV: Enabling responsibility - children need adventure

Nature used to be a huge playground, but today the radius within which children and young people are allowed to move unattended has been reduced to a few hundred metres. Children are guided by hand and thus not only protected from risks and dangers, but also from their own further development. The Alpine Association Youth, Austria's largest youth organisation, is deliberately going in a different direction and is now launching a discussion with a winking campaign. [More about the campaign \(German\)](#)

Culture

DAV: Alpine Museum Munich: New exhibition: "gerade wild. Alpenflüsse" (straight wild. Alpine rivers)

From 17 May 2018 to 17 March 2019, the DAV will present the special exhibition on Alpine rivers at the Alpine Museum on Praterinsel in Munich. The special exhibition "gerade wild. Alpenflüsse" plays impressively with the contrast between a wild river and a straightened, used river. The exhibition design is unusual, arousing curiosity and inviting to discover. [More information \(German\)](#).

PZS: Slovenian film "The Last Ice Hunters" the winner of 12th Festival Gorniškega Filma

For the first time in the history of the Slovenian Mountain Film Festival the Grand Prix was awarded to Slovenian film - The Last Ice Hunters by Rožle Bregar and Jure Brecljnik. The 12th Festival Gorniškega Filma took place between 26 February and 4 March 2018 in Ljubljana, Domžale, Celje 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. [Read more](#)

Alpine Convention

Informal Permanent Committee, Vienna/Austria, 14-15 March 2018

The Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat had invited to an informal meeting without minutes and decisions on self-reflection and prepared it with an "input paper". The discussion focused on a stronger orientation of the working groups and platforms on the multiannual work programme MAP, on the language regime in the committees and the possibilities of saving costs and resources for translations as well as on the relationship between the Alpine Convention and EUSALP. Furthermore, it was clear that the Alpine Convention had to sharpen its profile and focus on its strengths in order not to lose importance: 1. its objectives for the

protection and sustainable development of the Alps, 2. its perimeter (Alpine core regions), 3. its legally binding character, 4. the structured involvement of civil society. The Working Group on Macroregional Strategy is now to develop various scenarios on how the relationship with EUSALP could look in the future. The CAA had drafted a written statement on the "input paper", which was very much welcomed. A detailed report of the meeting has been sent out by the CAA. Both are available in the internal section of the CAA website under "Alpine Convention". (**User name** "caaintern", **password** "entranceall").

Alpine Climate Board (ACB)

The third meeting of the Alpine Climate Board took place in Vienna on 30 and 31 January 2018. The CAA was represented by Tobias Hipp (DAV). The meeting focused on the development of the "**Target system for climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps**" 2050. In addition to general principles in the preamble, the target system is to contain 12 areas of action, each with up to 5 sub-objectives, and will be adopted by the Alpine Conference in April 2019.

Compliance Committee

At the committee meeting at the end of November 2017, the focus was on "economical use of soil" and in particular the implementation of Article 9 (3) of the Spatial Planning Protocol and Article 7 (2) of the Soil Protection Protocol, on which an expert hearing was also held.

In addition, the implementation of Articles 20 + 21 of the Soil Protection Protocol, which require joint data collection and continuous monitoring, was discussed. **So far, their implementation has not been seriously tackled by the states.** In addition, a discussion arose on the further action of the Compliance Committee, in particular **with regard to the "in-depth review"** of individual articles of the protocols. The Presidency and the Secretariat are to prepare various options for this by the next meeting in July 2018. The CAA welcomed this discussion and reiterated that, for structural reasons, no real review is being carried out, but only inventories are being collected from the perspective of the states. A detailed report of the meeting can be found in the internal section of the CAA website (**user name** "caaintern", **password** "entranceall").

Working Group Macro-regional Strategy

Following the 64th meeting of the Permanent Committee at the beginning of October 2017 in Gmunden, the working group organised a workshop for the exchange between the chairs of the working groups and platforms of the Alpine Convention and the chairs of the EUSALP Action Groups, which was regarded as very valuable by all participants. The aim is to use synergies and avoid duplication of work, as many topics (and people) overlap. Further such exchange formats are being considered. In addition, the working group will deal intensively with the "governance" of the EUSALP- Alpine Convention and develop scenarios on how this could look in the future. Persons who are active in bodies of the Alpine Convention should, if possible, also stand up for the Alpine Convention at EUSALP, but this does not seem to be self-evident.

Alpweek Intermezzo 2019

After the Alpweek 2016 in Grassau, the Presidency and Permanent Secretariat asked the Alpweek partners to organise an event within the framework of the **next Alpine Conference (2-4 April 2019)** in Innsbruck to keep alive the "Alpweek spirit" of alpine wide exchange. The current state of planning is a two-part event, which will consist of an afternoon political-critical dialogue between politics, administration, NGOs and other interested parties on 2-3 theses and a "project showcase", which gives some partners the opportunity to present their projects on specific topics. So far, the CAA has contributed to the planning primarily with regard to political dialogue and will also participate in the preparation of critical theses. Wishes of the CAA associations are very welcome! A further involvement of the ÖAV is currently under discussion.

EUSALP

Tyrolean Presidency

The opening event of the EUSALP Presidency of Tyrol took place on 9 February in Innsbruck-Igls. Key topics for 2018 will be mobility and networking, while other key topics will be the use of natural resources and natural hazard management, as well as dual education and energy.

Further information on EUSALP is available at www.alpine-region.eu.

Information from the European Wilderness Society

08.03.2018

Four steps to solve wildlife conflict

The European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs commissioned a study on Large Carnivores in Europe. The study focuses on the legal framework, current management, and best coexistence methods. The researches identified three reasons why EU Member States allow killing of these (strictly) protected animals. But the European Union also identified four steps to solve wildlife conflicts in general and large carnivores conflicts in particular. [Read more](#)

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

22.3.2018

EU agricultural policy continues to neglect the environment

On Monday, March 19th, the European Court of Auditors complained that the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is not making any progress on environmental protection. On the same day, the EU Agriculture Council was unable to reach agreement on the future reform of the CAP. [Read more \(German\)](#)

26.02.2018

No trace of sustainability, nature conservation and climate protection in the European Council

At their informal meeting on Friday 23 February, EU-27 Heads of State and Government discussed the long-term post-2020 budget and the 2019 European elections. [Read more \(German\)](#)

23.2.2018

EU budget without nature conservation? Protest against the silent policy

Around 130 organisations from all over Europe have called for more money for nature in the EU budget. [Read more \(German\)](#)

Publication:

DNR profile: Better regulation instead of deregulation

The updated profile of EU coordination provides information on the state of better regulation in the EU and formulates demands on the future German government to distance itself from the "one-in one-out" principle. [Read more \(German\)](#)

From the EU-environmental office (EU-Umweltbüro) in the Environmental umbrella organisation (Umweltdachverband) Austria:

23.03.2018

"It's five after twelve for the glaciers"

Study proves Paris Convention ineffective for the disappearance of glaciers and calculates the amount of ice that melts from a 500m drive. [Read more \(German\)](#)