

October 2019

Ladies and gentlemen, dear member associations,

I am pleased to be able to send you the ninth edition of the CAA associations info.

The associations info is again subdivided in the categories

- **Internal CAA**
- **Commissions**
- **Information from the associations**
- **Alpine Convention**
- **EUSALP**
- **EU infos /Nature and environment**

However, this time it was somewhat difficult to obtain information from the CAA member associations about their activities which might be of interest to the other associations. This is probably not due to the fact that there are no interesting activities or projects....

The CAA-Newsletter tries to promote the exchange between the alpine associations. The information about the activities should give the other associations, in particular their employees and officials, ideas for their own work and also encourage direct contact.

Please try to keep this in mind, at the latest when the next "request for input" for the CAA associations info comes.

Many thanks in advance for your support, without which the CAA associations info cannot fulfil its purpose.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue



CAA office manager



Forthcoming events

25./26.10.2019

CIPRA- Annual Conference
[„Cultural laboratory Alps Alpen“](#)
Altdorf/Switzerland (g,f,i,sl)

9./10.11.2019

[Alpin-Forum](#) and [Alpin-Messe](#),
Austrian advisory board (Kuratorium) for alpine safety,
Innsbruck/Austria (g)

11.12.2019

[Reading mountains festival](#),
Coord.: Permanent Secretariat
of the Alpine Convention, Lectures
all over the Alps in different alpine languages

Internal CAA

CAA General Assembly elects new President

On September 14, the CAA General Assembly elected **Dr. Nicole Slupetzky**, Vice-President of the ÖAV, as President of the CAA after the second term of office of Klaus-Jürgen Gran, President for many years, had ended and a re-election was not possible. In addition, **Ludwig Wucherpfennig**, former DAV Vice President, now completes the Executive Board, in which a position was vacant for two years.

At the invitation of the German Alpine Association, the presidents and managing directors of the CAA member associations met at this year's general



Nicole Slupetzky



Foto Ludwig Wucherpfennig:
DAV/Tobias Hase

meeting at the **Haus des Alpinismus in Munich**. In addition to the important elections, the meeting decided on a **"collaborating membership" of the CAA in the European Union of Mountaineering Association EUMA** with the aim of regular exchange and the use of synergies.

The agenda also included the adoption of updated joint rules on [safe indoor climbing](#), new [recommendations on bouldering outdoors](#) and a new version of the [position paper on mountain sports and risks involved](#), all of which had been prepared by the CAA mountaineering commission.

The CAA will also finance posters with illustrations on "Bouldering Indoor and Outdoor", following the recent "Safe Climbing" poster.



Other requests concerned a joint leaflet "Hiking in bear areas", which the CAA Nature Conservation Commission will develop from an existing AVS folder, and the assumption of interpreter costs for the forthcoming meetings of an international working group involving the DAV for the development of a CEN standard for material ropeways with limited passenger transport, which will benefit all CAA associations.

The day before, numerous delegates had already taken the opportunity to visit the anniversary exhibition of the DAV "Die Berge und wir" (The mountains and us) in the Alpine Museum and participated in a short discussion round to prepare the decision on the CAA's "collaborating membership in the EUMA".

The conclusion of the general assembly was the [farewell of Klaus-Jürgen Gran as CAA president of many years](#), who was honoured by the board members Heinz Frei and Georg Simeoni with warm words of thanks and various gifts.

At the invitation of the SAC, the CAA General Assembly 2020 will take place on 11-12 September in Switzerland.

More about the CAA General assembly:

The minutes and annual plans will soon be available on the internal section of the CAA website: **user name "caaintern", password "entranceall"**.

Commissions

Below is a summary of the **annual plans of the commissions** in accordance with the resolutions of the CAA General Assembly. The annual plans will soon be available in the internal section of the CAA homepage. For all commissions, the exchange of experience and information also takes up an important part of the work.

Annual plan Commission for nature protection and alpine spatial planning (KONSAR):

- **CAA Flyer "Hiking in bear territories":** Develop the Flyer in five languages on the basis of the existing AVS publication, Coordination and financing of layout and translations by CAA
- **Climate change:** Development of a "road map" for the implementation of the CAA strategy paper within our organizations
- **Management of overcrowded areas:** Continue exchange of experience in view of better management, evaluate the need for best practises or CAA recommendations
- **Mobility-App:** Development of an App at the alpine scale? Car sharing and connections with public transportation. Preliminary investigations of the feasibility and possible cooperation
- **Position paper on the protection of Wolf:** Define a common position paper on the issue of coexistence of Wolf and human activities, exchange on existing position papers among our associations
- **Annual meeting 2020 probably on May, 8.+9.,** in Austria

Annual plan Commission of huts and trails

- **Mountain biking, pedelecs, E-bike:** Exchange of experience regarding steering concepts
- **Material ropeways:** Preparing technical background for the CEN standard

- **Common hut database:** Joint database of all huts for a better marketing and more complete presentation of the huts, cooperation of the associations, implementation of the final ÖAV proposal
- **Huts and trails issues:** Development of closer cooperation with EUMA to bring Huts and trails issues on EU level
- **Huts and trails as part of touristic infrastructure:** Emphasize the role of huts and trails in tourism to achieve better support from tourism authorities
- **Conflicts mountaineers - cattle:** Steering concepts - impact on a possible negative development process, Take over the ÖAV-rules/adapt them
- **Free access to the mountains:** Steering concepts and defining the CAA position
- **Problems with bed bugs on huts:** Raising the awareness of the problem in the mountain huts, adaptation and publication of the (DAV/ÖAV/AVS-) info-folder "Bettwanzen wandern mit" by the CAA
- **Annual meeting 2020** probably on **June, 23./24.**, in Switzerland

Annual plan Commission on mountaineering, training and safety

- **CAA- recommendations in general:** Review and maybe update of the existing recommendations, collect proposals and present them
- **CAA - recommendations:** Revise CAA recommendations "**Mountain biking – safe and fair**", to include E-biking
- **Group sizes:** develop recommendations for limits of group sizes for guided association tours
- **Posters „Safe Bouldering Indoor“ + «Safe Bouldering Outdoor»:** Create illustrations and posters for CAA bouldering recommendations (analogue to the poster for Climbing Indoor)
- **CAA-Emergency-Hotline I+F** Looking for solutions for Italy and France
- **Annual meeting 2020** probably on **June, 4./5.**, in Slovenia.

The following solution was found in September to replace **Michael Larcher**, who had been **chairman** of the Mountaineering commission for many years: Larcher will temporarily continue the chairmanship until 2020. Two candidates proposed by the SAC and CAI, who have not been members of the Commission so far, will familiarise themselves with the Commission's work and take part in the 2020 meeting. The Commission then proposes one of the two candidates to the CAA Management Board as Chairman.

Information from the associations

General

ÖAV: Alpine Club weather service new

The Austrian Alpine Club has comprehensively revised the popular Alpine Club weather service as follows:

- New regions and more accurate forecasts
- Text weather forecast by alpine meteorologists
- Maps: Know-how of Alpine Club cartography
- Optimized for Smartphone

We would like to convince you to test the new weather service for the weekend at www.alpenverein.at/wetter! [More information \(Geman\)](#)

PZS: 40th anniversary of Slovenian conquest of Everest honoured



Foto: Manca Ogrin

On 13 May 2019 Slovenia celebrated the 40th anniversary since Andrej Štremfelj and Nejc Zaplotnik made history as the first Slovenians who reached the summit of the highest mountain in the world. On this occasion, the Alpine Association of Slovenia and the Slovenian Alpine Museum in Mojstrana honoured the anniversary with a ceremony and an exhibition about their conquest of Mount Everest. [More information](#)

Mountaineering

alpenvereinaktiv.com – Tour portal of AVS, DAV und ÖAV

A new system was introduced at the beginning of 2019. Now there is a free "Basic" and two paid versions - Pro and Pro+. The paid versions contain the official maps of Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, Norway, etc. as well as the Alpine Club maps. The sales figures are satisfactory. The access figures, number of registered users and app downloads have increased significantly since the introduction of Basic-Pro-Pro+. There is interest in cooperating with other CAA associations to further expand the data in the tour portal.

ÖAV: 10 CAA- rules „Safe Indoor Climbing“ published as poster

The ÖAV has already published the "Safe Indoor Climbing" rules, slightly revised in 2019 by the CAA Mountaineering Commission and adopted by the CAA General Assembly, with illustrations by Georg Sojer as a [Print-Pdf](#) (in German). The CAA has co-financed this poster, which can be adopted by all its member associations.

PZS: Summer mountaineering safety tips: staying safe in Slovenian mountains

Slovenian mountains demand a well-prepared mountaineer with experience and knowledge how to use your equipment. Wear sturdy hiking boots and keep in mind that Slovenian mountains can be a very dangerous place and it's not uncommon to encounter vast snowfields even in late summer. [Please, check the leaflet with summer mountaineering safety tips](#). Good preparation and planning are crucial for safety in the mountains. [More information](#)



Foto: Manca Ogrin

PZS: Janja Garnbret makes history with hat trick at climbing worlds

Janja Garnbret has claimed her third gold medal at the IFSC Climbing World Championships in August in Japan's Hachioji, securing the title in the combined, an Olympic discipline. The 20-year-old Slovenian is the first ever climber to complete a hat trick in a single championships. [More information](#)

PZS: Slovenian mountaineers win Piolet d'Or once more

Slovenian mountaineers Aleš Česen, Luka Stražar and Brit Tom Livingston will receive the Piolet d'Or, the top award in mountaineering, in September for their ascent of Latok I in August last year. [More information](#)



SAC: Status warnings on the SAC tour portal

If a route is closed for a longer period of time or if it is very difficult to walk, the experts at the SAC office publish a status warning on the SAC tour portal. Have you noticed during your hike or high altitude tour that the usual route can no longer be taken? You can add new status warnings to every tour destination and every route in the [SAC tour portal](#) by clicking on "Feedback" **(in three alpine languages + English!)**

Huts and trails

CAI: Sentiero Italia – first balance

Over the past seven months more than 2200 enthusiastic hikers have taken part in 64 community tours along the Sentiero Italia, supported by the Italian Alpine Club CAI. The majority of the route is now easy to walk, with markings and signage constantly being added. 20 regional groups and 55 sections were involved in the organisation of this special relay race and accompanying events on the approx. 7000km long trail. [More information \(Italian\)](#). [Sentiero italia \(Italian\)](#)

CAI-Newsletter 26.9.2019: Four huts become research centres

On 20 October, the CAI Central Scientific Committee inaugurates the first "Scientific Refuge". Giuliano Cervi, President of the Committee, explains: "For some time now we have decided to make the huts not only places of accommodation, but also places of culture and science. This is a new step forward. Four huts become places of research." The first will be the Rifugio Giardino Esperia of the section Modena at the foot of Monte Cimone/Appennin. Here is the meteorological station of Monte Cimone, reference station of the Italian Air Force. And it is no coincidence that this hut was chosen, where climate change will be the main topic of research. The hut will be equipped with a meteorological and climatic control unit and its data will be transmitted to the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate of the CNR. A collaboration of great prestige for the CAI. Four more scientific huts will be built in the future. The second will be located in Abruzzo and will be used to monitor seismic events. The last two will be located in the Piedmont Alps and South Tyrol. [Original text in Italian](#)



PZS: Slovenian Mountain Trail finally in English

The Slovenian Mountain Trail (Slovenska planinska pot in Slovene) is the most popular long-distance path in Slovenia and one of the oldest route of its kind in the world. Since August 2019 you can get a completely new guidebook "Slovenian Mountain Trail". It all started in 1953 when the Alpine Association of Slovenia opened the »Slovenian Mountaineering Long-Distance Trail No. 1«, based on the idea of Ivan Šumljak from Maribor. In 1991, the trail was renamed to its current name: Slovenska planinska pot - the Slovenian Mountain Trail. [More information](#)

PZS: Slovenian Mountain Bike Route in one day

On June 1st, 2019, more than 200 mountaineers on bikes joined forces and cycled all the stages of the 1850-km long Slovenian Mountain Bike Route. The main purpose of the event was to demonstrate the potential of Slovenian tourism while also highlighting the need for more bike-friendly legislation. [More information](#)



Foto: Manca Ogrin

SAC: Clean-ups around three SAC huts

In July and August, three clean-ups took place around SAC huts. Thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers over several days, a total of around eight tonnes of waste was collected at the Trift and Konkordiahütte SAC and at the Cabane de Mountet CAS. The SAC has thus come a few steps closer to its goal of eliminating its legacy from earlier times. [More information \(German and French\)](#)

Nature Protection and Alpine Spatial Planning

DAV: 12th Annual Meeting of the Mountaineering Villages ("Bergsteigerdörfer") in Ramsau near Berchtesgaden

The International Annual Conference took place for the 12th time, now for the first time in Germany. The goal of the network of mountaineering villages is to make nature-oriented and resource-conserving tourism competitive. More than 100 participants from Germany, Austria, South Tyrol, Italy and Slovenia travelled from 11 to 13 October 2019 to the first German Bergsteigerdorf Ramsau to talk about the possible future of the initiative. [More information \(German\)](#)

DAV: Campaign #machseinfach („just do it – easily“)

The campaign aims to show how easily everyone can make a contribution to environmental protection and resource conservation. In this year's DAV anniversary year, various topics have been dealt with on a monthly basis, ranging from climate-friendly tour planning in the mountains to the upcycling of mountain sports equipment. The campaign is intended to encourage people to take part. #machseinfach is part of the project "Bergsport mit Zukunft" (Alpine sports with future), which is supported by the Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection (StMUV). The campaign is supported by the DAV partner VAUDE. [More information about the campaign \(German\)](#)
[Monthly topics \(German\)](#)



Foto: Tomo Jeseničnik

PZS: Luče becomes the second Slovenian municipality to be part of the Mountaineering villages ("Bergsteigerdörfer")

On September 28th, 2019, the Luče municipality became part of the international network of Mountaineering Villages/Bergsteigerdörfer. Together with the Alpine Association of Slovenia, the town has undertaken to promote sustainable tourism based on outdoor activities in the mountains without excessive infrastructure, to act in an environmentally responsible manner, and to respect the cultural and natural heritage.. [More information](#)

SAC: Mass phenomenon drones

The SAC's view of a disputed object

Drones are becoming more and more popular, also in the mountains we encounter them more and more frequently. According to the BAZL (Bundesamt für Zivilluftfahrt: Federal Office of Civil Aviation) estimates, there are over 100,000 drones in the sky in Switzerland - and the number is rising sharply. The rapid technical development of the drones opens up promising new application possibilities. But the drones also carry risks. The SAC has therefore drawn up a position and a code of conduct: [More information \(German and French\)](#)

SAC: The snow tour bus starts with 8 lines into the 2nd pilot season

The snow tour bus launched last winter is entering its second season. The 2019/20 winter timetable is online at www.schneetourenbus.ch - from mid-November onwards, trips can be booked. The snow tour bus opens up the last mile to various classic ski and snowshoe tours in eight regions and five cantons.

The snow tour bus complements the public transport network: it covers the last mile to the starting point of popular ski and snowshoe tours. In the 2019/20 season, there are eight connections in the five cantons of Bern, Graubünden, Lucerne, Uri and Valais. Like a call bus, the snow tour bus must be reserved in advance and only runs if there are sufficient reservations. The timetables are published exclusively on the snow tour bus web portal. From this season onwards, all regional providers have defined new threshold values for the number of passengers above which a certain course runs. In some regions, two reservations are sufficient. The system automatically confirms the reservation to the person making the reservation. The snow tour bus is a project of the Swiss Alpine Club SAC and VCS Verkehrs-Club der Schweiz. PostBus and Mountain Wilderness Switzerland have been partners since the start of the pilot operation. Timetables, further information and reservations can be found at www.schneetourenbus.ch

Alpine Convention

Detailed reports from the **Permanent Committee** and **Compliance Committee as well as short reports from the working groups** can be found in the internal section of the CAA website, **user name: caaintern, password: entranceall**. The next meeting of the Permanent Committee - the first under French Presidency - will be held in Monaco in mid-November.

The CAA has also planned an inaugural visit by its **new President Nicole Slupetzky to the new Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, Alenka Smerkolič**, at the beginning of December.

Re-organisation of the working groups

Within the framework of the work plan adopted by the 15th Alpine Conference in Innsbruck on 4 April 2019, the number of working groups of the Alpine Convention was reduced from eleven to eight and realigned in order to better align them with the [multiannual work programme](#). In the meantime, all groups have started work. The overview of the working groups [has been updated for the CAA General Assembly](#). The CAA can send representatives to seven of the eight working groups. Many thanks to all participating member associations! In addition to regular participation in the working sessions, information and exchange about the contents are important. To this end, CAA representatives are requested to prepare a short report using a form, which the CAA will then make available to all associations.

Compliance Committee

The Compliance Committee (CC) will be more or less absorbed by the so-called "**ordinary compliance procedure**" within the next 1-2 years: The contracting parties are obliged to report every 10 years on the implementation of each article of all Protocols. This means extensive and laborious work for all ministries involved, although only the changes compared to 2009 need to be described. The Permanent Secretariat then draws up a summary, which then is the report of the Compliance Committee. However, this would only represent the States' view on the implementation of the Alpine Convention -- if the observers did not question it.

As an observer, the CAA therefore intends, within the framework of its work programme derived from the survey of its member associations in 2018, **to compile a collection of shortcomings in the implementation of the Alpine Convention**, for which it is, however, dependent on the support of the CAA associations.

The aim is 1. to question the responses of the states and thus the entire "compliance procedure", which is based exclusively on the states' own responses. 2. to communicate and illustrate the practical work of the CAA member associations with the actual shortcomings in the implementation of the Alpine Convention to the Compliance Committee, the Presidency, the Permanent Secretariat and, beyond that, the next Alpine Conference. To this end, the CAA will address its member associations separately in the near future. Of course, the observers are always free to submit a "request for verification of suspected non-compliance" on a specific case, the treatment of which would then have to be inserted by the CC.

Alpweek 2020/21

As previously, the French Presidency has not decided on the exact date and location of the next Alpine Conference, which makes planning for the next Alpweek very difficult. Although France has officially announced that it would welcome and support an Alpweek parallel to the Alpine Conference, the promises of financial support have so far been very vague.

The CAA was a partner in the Alpweek in 2012 and 2016 and also participated actively in the smaller Alpweek Intermezzo in April 2019. The CAA Board decided months ago that the CAA would only participate in the next Alpweek as a partner and co-organiser if at least the FFCAM (as the CAA association of the host country) were also actively involved in its preparation and implementation. The FFCAM has signalled interest and promised both personnel and financial participation, but has not yet been able to make any further decisions due to the unclear framework conditions.

The Alpweek is an international event lasting several days and dedicated to new perspectives for sustainable development in the Alps. It is organised jointly by important Alpine organisations committed to regional and sustainable development and takes place every four years. The event brings together the main Alpine

stakeholders who use the opportunity to exchange new ideas and develop cooperation. [More about the Alpweek.](#)

At the beginning of 2019, at the request of the Austrian Presidency and the then Secretary General of the Alpine Convention Markus Reiterer, the **Alpweek Intermezzo** was organised on the fringes of the Alpine Conference as the little sister of the Alpine Week. Here is the [report](#) completed at the beginning of August 2019.

EUSALP

Conclusion of the Italian Presidency - EUSALP Annual Forum

Projects and results of the Italian EUSALP Presidency 2019 will be presented at the Annual Forum in Milan on 28/29 November. The central themes on which the Forum will focus are Green Economy, the participation of young people and stakeholders in the EUSALP process and the strengthening of the Alpine cultural dimension. [More information.](#)

After Italy, France will take over the EUSALP Presidency in 2020.

Further information on EUSALP can be found at <https://www.alpine-region.eu/>

EU infos

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

10.10.2019

To-do list for the new EU Commission

At their meeting on Friday 4 October, the EU Environment Ministers* adopted conclusions on the UN climate conference, the circular economy and the eighth environmental action programme. [Read more \(German\)](#)

2.10.2019

EU overexploits land and soils

The way in which EU countries use soil, a vital and finite resource, is not sustainable. This is written by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in this year's "Signals" report. [Read more \(German\)](#)

Next Destination: Climate Neutrality

In a study, think tanks, scientists* and NGOs have collected measures with which the European economy can become greenhouse gas neutral in the coming years. [Read more \(German\)](#)

26.9.2019

Environmental Policy in the EU: A Status Report

Much has been decided, some of it has been implemented and much is still on the waiting list: That is the conclusion of the EU Parliament's scientific service on European environmental and climate policy over the last five years. [Read more \(German\)](#)

5.9.2019

Nature conservation (potentials): Guidelines for policy and planning

The EU Commission has presented further guidelines to ensure that the value of ecosystems is better taken into account in decisions. Although the restoration and protection of intact nature offers many social advantages, there is no political recognition of these facts. [Read more \(German\)](#)

25.7.2019

EU Commission promises protection for forests worldwide

On Tuesday, 23 July, the EU Commission published a strategy for forest protection. Environmentalists* welcomed the proposals but call for trade agreements and the agricultural sector to be included. [Read more \(German\)](#)

28.8.2019

Hohe Tauern Wilderness certified as IUCN 1b

Hohe Tauern Wilderness has been part of the [European Wilderness Network](#) since 2015. The Wilderness is characterised by impressive high alpine mountain landscapes, including unique mixed and conifer forests, as well as a desolate wasteland of rock and scree. As the glaciers continuously retreat, animals and plants are colonising this new habitat at a stable pace. Just above the tree-line, plant cover in the alpine meadows is lush, but extremely patchy. It consists of a handful of vascular plant species, mosses, lichens and algae. In the lowest part of the alpine zone, shrubs like alpine rose, bilberry and cowberry invade the grasslands. Characteristic animals that are home in Hohe Tauern Wilderness include chamois, ibex, bearded and griffon vultures, and golden eagle.

The Hohe Tauern Wilderness passed the [European Wilderness Quality Standard](#) in 2015, which provided a solid foundation to apply for the IUCN 1b Wilderness category. [Read more on the IUCN 1b certification](#)