

October 2018

Ladies and gentlemen, dear member associations,

Below you will find the seventh 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**
- **Commission**
- **Information from the associations**
- **Alpine Convention**
- **EUSALP**
- **EU**

unterteilt.

Thank you for sending me messages for the section "Information from the associations".

Any feedback that contributes to improvement is still welcome!

I hope you enjoy reading this issue



CAA office manager

Forthcoming events

7.11. 2018

Closing event WeWild (Alparc): [The Future of Mountain Experience in the Alps-Towards a Sustainable Management of Nature and Mountain Sports \(g +e\)](#). Munich/ Germany

7./8. 11.2018

International conference by AidA, CIPRA, AsdJ: [„Make climate visions become reality“ and launch of the „Alpine Partnership for Local Climate Action“](#). (g, f, i, sl, partly e), Innsbruck/Austria

9.11.2018

DAV- Expert symposium [„Neue Wege an der Oberen Isar“](#) (New ways at the upper Isar)(g), Munich/Germany

CAA internal affairs

General assembly 2018

On 8 September the presidents or vice-presidents and managing directors of the CAA member associations met at this year's general assembly in Turin.

On the agenda was the adoption of various papers:

- [10 recommendations "Safe \(indoor\) bouldering"](#), prepared by the mountaineering commission.
- Update of different recommendations:
[Safety on alpine tours](#)
[Safe ski mountaineering](#)
[Hiking in safety](#)
[Safety on via ferratas](#)
- New versions of the CAA positions [„Political](#)



[demands on climate change](#)" and [„Climate strategy](#)" on initiative of the Commission for nature protection and alpine spatial planning (KONSAR).

The day before, **the Alpine Convention and the role of the CAA as its observer** had already been the subject of a lively discussion. The CAA had previously questioned its member associations about this in detail and had now presented the results. A work programme is now to be developed from the proposals contained therein.

After 8 years, Franco Capraro's second term of office on the CAA's Executive Board ended: he was [discharged](#) with warm thanks. His successor is Antonio Zambon, long-serving mayor of Budoia, who in 1997 was a founding member of the [Alliance in the Alps](#) network of municipalities for the implementation of the Alpine Convention at municipal level. The two auditors Gislar Sulzenbacher (AVS) and Alois Schnider (LAV) were elected for a second term of office.

The CAA General Assembly 2019 will take place on 13-14 September in Munich/D at the invitation of the DAV.

More on the CAA General Assembly:

Minutes and summary of the discussion on the Alpine Convention and the role of the CAA as its observer 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 of nature protection and alpine spatial planning (KONSAR):

- **Climate change:** Exchange of experience on the implementation of the strategy by the CAA-member associations
- **Development of common tools:** Discussion about the possibilities to develop such tools. Identification of few topics for the beginning.
- **Large predators:** Exchange in national situations. Prepare a recommendation oriented on the behaviour to be adopted by mountaineers. Preparation of a draft for the 2019 meeting on the basis of the work already done by AVS on the item.
- **Annual meeting 2019 probably on April, 12+13,** in Munich/Germany.

Annual plan Commission of huts and trails

- **Mountain biking, Pedelecs, E-MTB:** Exchange of experience on steering concepts
- **Material rope ways:** Preparing technical background for the CEN norms
- **Common hut data base:** Further development of the project idea for a better marketing and more complete presentation of the huts, cooperation of the associations
- **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:** Emphasizing the role of hut and trails in tourism and to achieve better support from tourism authorities
- **Winter rooms in huts:** Develop possible recommendations
- **Problems with bed bugs in huts:** Develop recommendations for prevention and elimination measures
- **Annual meeting 2019** probably on **June, 24 + 25,** on the Dreischuster hut, Sexten, South Tyrol /Italy.

Commission of mountaineering, training and safety

- **CAA- recommendations in general:** Review and maybe update of the existing recommendations, collect proposals and present them
- **CAA-recommendation:** review „**Mountain biking - safe and fair**“, to include E-biking
- **CAA-position paper „Alpine sports and risks involved“:** Revision, collection of proposals
- Expand **CAA-recommendations „ Safe indoor bouldering“** to include „outdoor“, collect and present proposals
- **Emergency hotline I+F:** Looking for solutions for Italy and France
- **Posters «Safe climbing » + «Safe bouldering»:** make illustrations and posters for the CAA sports climbing and bouldering recommendations
- **Group sizes:** Recommendations for limits of group sizes for guided association tours
- **Annual meeting 2019** probably **on June, 6 +7**, in Slovenien

Information from the associations

General

AVS: 150 years of Alpenverein in South Tyrol

In 2019 the South Tyrolean alpine club celebrates its 150th anniversary. 1869 the first South Tyrolean sections of Deutscher Alpenverein were founded in Bozen and Niederdorf. By the time the first World War started, further 15 sections had been founded. The motto of the club was: "to foster the knowledge of and love for the Alps, to promote the discovery and facilitate the access for travellers" The main task of the association was to build huts and paths and organize the growing guild of mountain guides.

Between the two world wars the South Tyrolean alpine club was prohibited and the huts were expropriated. Some of the sections continued their activities as single alpine clubs with very limited activities. 1946 Alpenverein Südtirol was officially founded as an autonomous association. Today AVS counts 70.000 members and 2.500 volunteers in 35 sections across South Tyrol.



PZS: The Deaf Served in Slovenian Mountain Huts

Very successful voluntary campaign "The Deaf Serve in Mountain Huts" which took place on 22 and 23 September 2018 in 10 mountain huts in Slovenia, connected, broke the fears, and undermined stereotypes. The Mountaineering Committee for Disabled People / People with Disabilities (Pin / OPP), which operates under the Alpine Association of Slovenia, fully supports the idea to enable deaf and hard of hearing people and also other volunteers to help serve and animate programs in hills and mountains. The campaign "The Deaf Serve in Mountain Huts" took place in 10 mountain huts all over Slovenia during two major events: International week of the deaf (17 - 23 September) and International Day of sign languages (23 September). The reason behind the idea of the project is the **inclusion of** everyone, regardless of disability or non-disability, especially deaf and hard of hearing. "*Being inclusive*" is a slogan that gives the deaf and hard of hearing and others the opportunity to test themselves in serving and animation in the hills and mountains. There were examples of the inclusion through cooperation and the establishment of multilingual communication. We encourage connecting and integration for the benefit of the community as well as raising the awareness of the capabilities of all volunteers. [More information](#)

Mountaineering

DAV: New project "Mountain biking - sustainable into the future".

Mountain biking is becoming an ever-increasing trend throughout the Alps. There are increasing tensions between landowners, mountain bikers and hikers. The German Alpine Association wants to solve this problem sustainably. The Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection has also recognized the need for a joint strategy and will support the DAV in the next three years for the project "Mountain sports - mountain biking - a sustainable future". In two pilot regions (Oberallgäu and Bad Tölz-Wolfratshausen), model mountain bike concepts are now being developed, implemented and evaluated.

[More information \(German\)](#)

ÖAV: The „International Snow Science Workshop“ in Innsbruck

The [ISSW](#) (International Snow Science Workshop) will take place this year in Innsbruck (07. - 12.10.2018). On behalf of the CAA Commission of mountaineering, training and safety the **CAA recommendations for "Safe Ski Tours"** were submitted and accepted by the ISSW Committee. Michael Larcher will now present the CAA recommendations at the congress.

PZS: Slovenian climbing legend Andrej Štremfelj gets lifetime Piolet d'Or

Slovenian mountaineering legend Andrej Štremfelj has been awarded the 2018 Piolet d'Or (Golden Ice Axe) for lifetime achievements, becoming the first Slovenian to receive what is considered the top accolade in climbing. [More information](#)

Huts and trails

PZS: The Aljaž Turret, a Slovenian national symbol, currently under renovation

The Aljaž Turret, a monument of national importance (heritage register number 5531) and one of the most recognisable Slovenian national symbols, is currently undergoing a full-scale renovation. The renovation is almost completed and in October the Aljaž Turret will be returned to Triglav, the highest Slovenian mountain. [More information](#)

Nature Protection and Alpine Spatial Planning

AVS celebrates Lungiarü – The Ladin Mountaineering Village (Bergsteigerdorf) in the Dolomites

On August 5, the Ladin village of Lungiarü joined the Mountaineering Villages' network. As a Mountaineering Village, Lungiarü wants to preserve its originality and emphasise its distinctiveness. With the Mountaineering Villages initiative, the South Tyrolean Alpine Association supports sustainable tourism in South Tyrol. In addition to that, the project aims at vitalising networks in the village, securing local amenities, and improving sustainable mobility. By observing the development of tourism in the region of the Dolomites, Lungiarü appears to be similar to a "Gallic village" secluded from the touristic hubs of the Val Badia. The peacefully located village of Lungiarü is situated at 1.400 m above sea level and is surrounded by the Dolomite summits of the Puez, Geisler, and Peitlerkofel mountain groups.

[Impressions from the accession ceremony](#)



Foto: Tourismusverein San Vigilio-San Martin

The valuable natural and cultural landscape of Lungiarü can be experienced by a wide range of diverse touring possibilities throughout the year www.bergsteigerdoerfer.org/lungiarue

CAI: New mountaineering village (Bergsteigerdorf) Val di Zoldo

The three Belluno localities Forno di Zoldo, Zoppè di Cadore and Cibiana di Cadore received the award on 6th October, the first "Bergsteigerdorf" to be supported in Italy by the Italian Alpine Association CAI. Through the CAI Veneto and the Val di Zoldo Section, the CAI has supported the candidacy to promote sustainable tourism in the Alpine environment, with the lowest possible environmental impact, aesthetic valorisation of the landscape, preservation of cultural roots and traditional working activities. [More information](#) (Italian)

DAV: Kreuth is the fourth Bergsteigerdorf in Germany

Lush green alpine meadows, clear blue skies, ringing cow bells and Bavarian traditional music echoing from the mountain tops: what sounds like a scene from a nostalgic movie, became reality on 13 July this year in the Bavarian Alps. The village of Kreuth signed the declaration and officially became a member of the inter-

national network of the "Bergsteigerdörfer". More than 150 people from different countries came together to hike up to the alpine meadows of the "Königsalm"; among the guests were three Bavarian ministers (environment, economy, building and transport), representatives from all involved Alpine associations, all mayors of the other three Bavarian "Bergsteigerdörfer" as well as the Alpine Convention. For the mayor of the town, Josef Bierschneider, the acceptance to the "Bergsteigerdörfer" is a strong motivation to continue and strengthen the policy of sustainable development and environmental friendly tourism in his community. Together with Ramsau b. Berchtesgaden, Schleching and Sachrang, Kreuth is the fourth Bergsteigerdorf in Germany. [More information \(German\)](#)

DAV Nature Conservation Conference: Ways to a sustainable mountain sport

The nature conservation conference from 28-30 September 2018 in Dresden focused on core issues of the association's development: What will nature conservation work look like at the DAV in the future? How will the DAV be able to contribute to sustainable tourism development in the future? The title of this year's DAV nature conservation conference in Dresden could not have been more appropriate. The concept of sustainability was invented in Saxony, so to speak. Hans Carl von Carlowitz used it for the first time in 1713 in connection with a forestry system in which only as much wood is cut as grows back. At the nature conservation conference in 2018, the DAV took its almost 150-year history - 2019 is the anniversary year - as an opportunity for a critical assessment of the situation and a look into the future. Around 100 participants discussed current and future ways of making mountaineering and the German Alpine Association more sustainable. [More information \(German\)](#)

ÖAV: Alliance for the Soul of the Alps launched petition

The development and utilisation pressure on the alpine landscape is greater than ever. Land consumption and soil sealing continue unabated, with 12.9 hectares of land being used daily in Austria between 2015 and 2017. Only seven percent of Austria's national territory is still undeveloped or only slightly developed. The majority of these alpine open spaces are located in the high mountains and are not adequately protected from large-scale construction. With the "Alliance for the Soul of the Alps", the Austrian Alpine Association, the Friends of Nature Austria and the WWF Austria are highlighting the importance of the last Alpine open spaces as a rare and valuable resource.

Petition online: www.seele-der-alpen.at (German)



ÖAV: "Glacier trail Innerschlöß": New publication and adapted routing

It was built in August exactly 40 years ago by the Austrian Alpine Association in the Hohe Tauern National Park: The Innerschlöß Glacier Trail. A path with symbolic nature conservation value and breathtaking views of the Venice Group and the Schlatenkees. However, the sharp retreat of the glacier required a new route - this was the occasion to present a completely new version of the "Naturkundliche Führer Gletscherweg Innerschlöß" (Natural History Guide Glacier Trail Innerschlöß).

The "Naturkundliche Führer Gletscherweg Innerschlöß" is available at the National Park Centre Matri as well as in the huts and guest houses of the region.



Cover: Norbert Freudenthaler

PZS: Sustainable mobility promotion day in the Vrata Valley 2018

The aim of the promotion day "Slowing Down the Traffic 2018" in the Vrata Valley, which took place on 18 August 2018, is to encourage visitors to recognize the benefits of such traffic regulation regimes and provide the managers with valuable experience. [More information](#)

PZS: Jezersko, first Slovenian village to be part of the Mountaineering villages (Bergsteigerdörfer)

On May 26th, 2018, the Jezersko Municipality became part of the international network of Mountaineering Villages, an event which coincided with the celebrations of the Alpine Convention Day. Together with the Alpine Association of Slovenia, the village 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](#)

Alpine Convention

Self-reflection of the Permanent Committee continues

The relationship between the Alpine Convention and the EUSALP was one of the causes and one of the topics of **an informal meeting of the Permanent Committee on self-reflection on 14-15 March 2018 in Vienna, Austria**. There was also discussion about a stronger orientation of the working groups and platforms on the [MAP \(multiannual work programme\)](#), about the language regime in the committees and the possibilities of saving costs and resources for translations. Furthermore, it was clear that the **Alpine Convention had to sharpen its profile and focus on its strengths in order not to lose its importance - also vis-à-vis EUSALP**: 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.

At the **65th meeting of the Permanent Committee in Schaan in June 2018**, which had "Transport" as its main topic from the multiannual programme 2017-22 P, the topic of "Reorganisation of working groups and platforms" was again discussed, but still not conclusively. The aim of the Presidency continues to be to increase the visibility of the Alpine Convention, to make the results of the working groups and platforms more usable and to strengthen the work of the Permanent Committee. Again proposals were made, but as is so often the case, it turned out that all participants welcome reforms in principle, but consider their own issues in the working groups and platforms to be the most important and do not want to see any cuts or slippages in their topics.

At the beginning of September, **an informal meeting of the Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat with the observers** took place, in which the CAA was unfortunately unable to participate due to its proximity to the CAA General Assembly, followed by a meeting of heads of delegations on the subject. The main ideas of the observers were: to be as concrete and relevant as possible in the implementation of the multiannual programme, to concentrate on Alpine themes, to develop concrete projects, to pursue a transversal approach to topics and to have the courage to leave gaps. The main objective of the Head of Delegation meeting was to obtain a clearer overview of the structure of the working bodies and possible elements for their future mandates. At the next meeting of the Permanent Committee in Innsbruck on 6 and 7 November, a new written proposal will be submitted for the orientation of the work of the Alpine Convention. The CAA will continue to be involved in the process.

Detailed reports of the CAA from the meetings of the **Permanent Committee** with numerous further links in the internal area of the CAA website, user name "**caaintern**", password "**entranceall**".

Observer role of the CAA

Parallel to **the self-reflection of the Alpine Convention** on its own identity, the CAA also carried out several internal activities in connection with its observer role. As a result of the CAA General Assembly 2017, the CAA organised a meeting of the CAA representatives in the working groups and platforms of the Alpine Convention with parts of the Board on 24 January 2018 in Innsbruck.

The meeting made it clear that although the Alpine Convention is still an important reference point for the CAA associations, it is not visible enough and does not show enough concrete results. In addition, some still vague ideas were collected in order to make the CAA's role as observer more valuable for the associations. In order to clarify and specify the expectations and wishes of the associations towards the Alpine Convention, but also towards the CAA as observer, the CAA subsequently developed a **comprehensive questionnaire** and sent it to its member associations in April 2018. The results of the survey were presented to the representatives of the associations on 7 September, the day before the CAA General Assembly, and discussed with them. Although the CAA's observer role is generally more satisfactory than the role of the Alpine Convention itself, there is also room for improvement here. The results are available to the

CAA associations in detailed form. A CAA work programme is now to be developed from this, with the aim of creating greater added value for the associations.

Compliance Committee

In its last two meetings (November 2017 and July 2018), the **Compliance Committee** of the Alpine Convention dealt in detail with the topic of "economical use of soil" within the framework of the so-called "in-depth review", on which, among other things, an expert hearing took place and on which a draft report for the next Alpine Conference now exists. Essentially, the information in the report is based on answers given by the states to in-depth questions on the subject. The CAA made hardly any substantive comments on this topic, but more on the discussion of the Committee on the further "ordinary compliance procedure", which every 10 years (again by 1 September 2019) requires states to submit a comprehensive country report on progress in the implementation of all paragraphs of the Protocols of the Alpine Convention - and thus ties up immense resources without really reviewing anything. Even the "in-depth review" of individual paragraphs (such as on the subject of "economical use of soil" and previously on tourism) cannot take place for 1-2 years. The CAA repeatedly criticised this structural problem of the Committee. At the meeting in July 2018, the Committee decided, after lengthy discussion, that, despite everything, it would still be necessary to deliver country reports every 10 years, as these would form an important and indispensable data basis. The "compliance procedure" of the "Declaration on Population and Culture" will also be carried out accordingly.

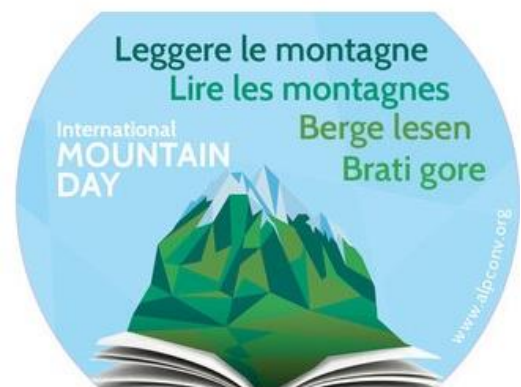
"Green Economy Action Programme

After the "Green Economy" action programme has been drawn up by the "Green Economy" Advisory Board as part of a participatory process over a longer period of time, the current draft is available for comment via a link. The CAA has sent the link to its associations with a request for feedback **by 16 October**. If you are interested, please contact the CAA!

Reading Mountains Festival

On 11 December, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention invites partners from all Alpine regions to celebrate modern Alpine literature for the fourth time in order to underline the cultural diversity of the Alps. Partners from various fields - from schools, libraries, restaurants and book clubs to other interested groups - are cordially invited to organise creative events in which Alpine literature is brought in front of the curtain. The Permanent Secretariat will assist you in promoting your event in the form of posters, bookmarks, stickers and the website:

<http://www.alpconv.org/en/activities/IMD/2018.html>



Alpweek-Intermezzo 2019

After the Alpweek 2016 in Grassau, the Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat had asked the Alpweek partners to organise an event within the framework of the next **Alpine Conference (3-4 April 2019) in Innsbruck** that would keep alive the "Alpweek spirit" of alpine exchange. The current state of planning is a two-part event consisting 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 been involved in the planning, especially with regard to political dialogue, and is also involved in the preparation of critical theses. Wishes of the CAA associations are very welcome! The ÖAV has already suggested that it should, among other things, be a matter of preserving free space. Further information will soon be available at

www.alpweek.org

EUSALP

Tyrolean Presidency

At the end of the Tyrolean EUSALP Presidency, the **EUSALP Annual Forum will take place on 20-21 November 2018 in the Congress Centre of Innsbruck**. Italy will hold the EUSALP Presidency in 2019.

The EUSALP **Action Group 6, "Natural and Cultural Resources"**, in which Roland Kals represents the CAA, last met in Carinthia at the beginning of July and adopted the draft declaration on soil protection, which could be commented on during a public consultation in September. The Action Group will meet again at the end of October.

Second exchange workshop Alpine Convention - EUSALP

The chairs of the Alpine Convention's Working groups and Platforms as well as the leaders of the EUSALP Action groups met on 10-11 September 2018 in Vienna for the 2nd Alpine Convention – EUSALP exchange workshop. (The first one took place in October 2017). After a presentation of the experiences and lessons learned from the cooperation between the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River the participants discussed possible synergies and cooperation fields of both structures in five interactive sessions segmented along the thematic priorities of the Multiannual Work Programme 2017-2022 of the Alpine Convention. The results of this workshop will serve as a basis for a document shaping the future cooperation of both Alpine Convention and EUSALP.

Further information about EUSALP: www.alpine-region.eu.

EU

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

02.10.2018

Stop hydroelectric madness - European river summit calls for free rivers

At the first European River Summit in Sarajevo, river conservationists from all over Europe called for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. Hydropower projects should no longer be regarded as sustainable energy production. [Read more](#) (German)

27.9.2018

Continuing struggle for the future of EU agricultural policy

The 28 EU agriculture ministers* met this week in Austria to discuss the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Environmental organisations are calling for an immediate political turnaround. [Read more](#) (German)

6.7.2018

EU countries report little progress on climate protection

The European Environment Agency (EEA) reports that in 2017 EU Member States provided only limited information on how far they had come towards their goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. [Read more](#) (Message in German, Reports in English)

29.6.2018

EU summit without green issues

The European Council "took note" of the EU Commission's proposals on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Climate, environmental and nature conservation as well as the UN sustainability goals did not play a role at the summit. [Read more](#) (German)

9.5.2018

Guidelines for energy and nature conservation conflicts

At the beginning of May, the EU Commission published two guidelines designed to improve nature conservation and secure energy supplies. They are part of the measures announced in the stock plan for nature, people and the economy. [Read more](#) (Message in German, Guidelines in English)

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

4.10.2018

Cañete rejects plan for higher EU climate targets

Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete abandons his plan to cut EU CO2 emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 instead of the current 40 per cent. [Read more](#) (German)

27.9.2018

New report as argument for EU soil protection directive

A multidisciplinary group of European experts has examined and compiled research results on securing the sustainability of European soils. [Read more](#) (German)

18.5.2018

Nature destruction is not sufficiently pursued in Europe

A documentary by Birdlife Europe, the European Environment Bureau (EEB) and Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE) draws attention to shortcomings in EU nature conservation policy. [Read more](#) (Message in German, Documentation in English)