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## Bovec, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2011 The energy challenges for the Alps in the framework of the Alpine Convention

#### Marco Onida Secretary General of the Alpine Convention





- 1. The Alpine Convention and energy policy: basic framework, objectives and measures
- 2. A critical assessment of the "Autarchy" objective
- 3. Perspectives



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## 1. The Alpine Convention and energy policy: basic framework, objectives and measures

- 1. The 1991 Framework Convention
- 2. The 1998 Protocol on energy
- 3. The 1999 Action Plan on climate change
- 4. Activities of WG and PF



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# **1991 Framework Convention**

#### Art. 2

**Comprehensive policy for the preservation and protection of the Alps** 

K) the objective is to introduce methods for the production, distribution and use of energy which preserve the countryside and are environmentally compatible, and to promote energy saving measures;



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# **1998 Protocol on Energy**

In force in Austria, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, the EU, Italy (for the part falling under EU competence)



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# **Protocol on Energy: objectives**

 Creating framework conditions and adopting measures for energy saving, production, transport, distribution and utilisation within the territorial scope of the Alpine Convention in order to establish sustainable development in the energy sector which is compatible with the Alpine region's <u>specific tolerance limits</u>.





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# THREE MAIN CATEGORIES OF MEASURES

- A. Reduce energy need (e.g saving, efficiency, polluter pays principle)
- B. Reduce environmental impact of energy infrastructures (eg EIA, renewables, protected zones)
- C. Research, observation, training



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# **CATEGORY A (saving)**

• Article 5 (example: building insulation, heating and water costs calculation)



# CATEGORY B "IMPACT"

- Climate: renewables (Article 6)
- Hydropower (Article 7)
- Fossile plants (Article 8)
- Nuclear plants (Article 9)
- Transport and distribution (Article 10)
- Renaturalisation and environmental engineering (article 11)



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# **CATEGORY B "IMPACT"**

- EIA (Article 12)
- Dialogue (Article 13)



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# **MAIN CHALLENGES**

- Implementation gap
- Monitoring and compliance check





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# THE ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- 2 strategies (adaptation mitigation)
- 9 sectors/strategic areas
- 24 main objectives
- 81 measures



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# **Action Plan on Climate Change**

not meant to be a regulatory plan but rather a strategic framework for the setting of more precise objectives

#### **Mitigation strategies**

Land Planning Energy Transport Tourism

#### **Adaptation strategies**

Land Planning Forests Biodiversity Tourism Water Mountain Farming





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# Few examples of measures of the Actions Plan

- Maintain natural areas as carbon sinks
- Harmonise school holidays calendars
- Inform the population of natural hazards areas
- Implement coordinated observation methods on CC effects on forests

With for each measures examples of good practices



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# Implementation of the AP

## TERRITORIAL ACTORS: BEST PRACTICES/EXAMPLES TO SHARE

### **PROJECTS**

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# The climate portal of the AC



INTRANET | JOBS | SITE MAP | IMPRINT | PRESS

A Print page



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## Territorial actors implementing the Action Plan

Velenje (SI): Climate Plan

Mitigation

Energy Industry: Photovoltaic power plants supported, energy efficient reconstruction of Public Street Lightening ...

**Transport: free public transport system** 

Waste: 210 waste collection points

#### Chamonix (FR): Climate Energy Plan

Adaptation

Natural hazards: monitoring programme on their evolution

Biodiversity: creation of a forest charter aimed at the sustainable management of forests

Tourism: development of an "exemplary eco-tourism valley" project adapting the tourism sector of the local economy to the challenges of climate change (certification of tourism organisations, development of eco-responsibility events, and creation of new eco-touristic products.)

#### New on our website: Wildpoldsried Energy Plan, Germany





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# ACTIVITY OF RELEVANT WORKING GROUPS

- Platform WATER
- Platform ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS
- Platform NATURAL RISKS

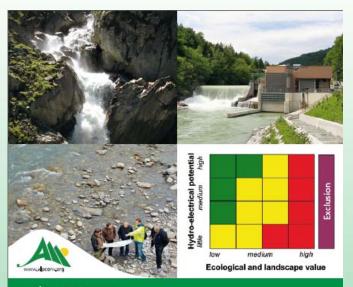


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### **GUIDELINES FOR SHP IN THE ALPS**



Alpine Convention Platform water management in the Alps

#### **ALPINE SIGNALS FOCUS 1**

COMMON GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF SMALL HYDROPOWER IN THE ALPINE REGION





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# 2. Autarchy? A critical assessment

- Geographical delimitation of the Alpine Convention
- The nature of the "electricity" commodity
- Risks for the Alpine territory

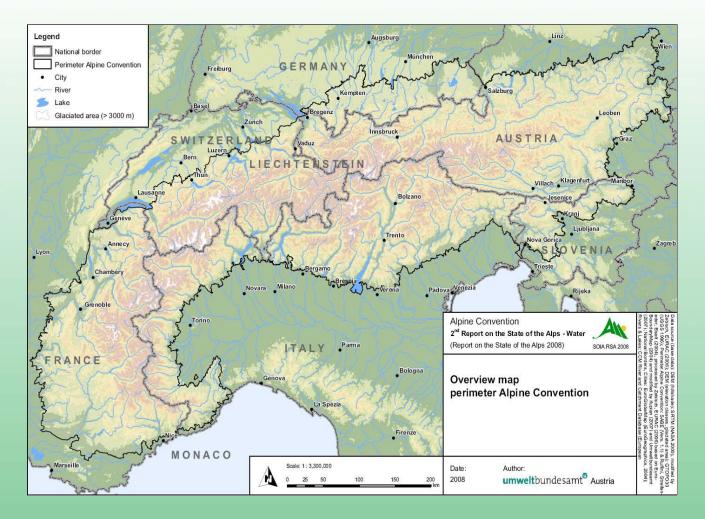




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# **Scope of application**





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# CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AT EU LEVEL

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- New legal basis for energy in the EU Treaty
- RES Directive: target 20% renewables will most likely be exceeded (current forecast 20.6%.
- New political target (Feb 2011): 80-95% compared to 1990 level by 2050



- About half of the MS will be able to produce more than needed nationally (and
- Various support schemes exist but are <u>totally</u> <u>uncoordinated:</u> their integration and coordinatin is one of the main challenges (expected savings: 10 bn/year)
- New push to infrastructures (e.g single permits)



- 29 June 2011 financial package for energy: the objective is to spend more than 1 bn/year in energy. Priority: production and energy efficiency at local level
- Decisions on Energy TEN (interconnection and interoperability) make it very difficult for the local territories to have a say in decisions which concern them!

CONCLUSION: strong push to new infrastrutures and investments and corresponding impact





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# **Energy autarchy?**



Bei der vorliegenden Montage handelt es sich um eine realitätsnahe Darstellung uns bekannter Maßnahmen, die im Zusammenhang mit den Windparks "Sattelberg" und "Sandjoch" geplant sind. Die Montage legt jedoch keinen Anspruch auf eine exakte lage- bzw. größengetreue Abbildung der geplanten Eingriffe. So ist die im linken Bildbereich eingezeichnete Materialseilbahn in einer nachgelagerten Geländekammer vorgesehen. Die grauen Linien stellen die neu zu errichtenden bzw. auszubauenden Zufahrtsstraßen dar. In der Landschaft zu erwartende Erosionsschäden wurden nicht visualisiert.



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE THE "PRICE" OF LANDSCAPE - Who cares about landscape in the Alps? JUNE 24th 2011

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# **3. Perspectives**

- Strategy of the Alps as contribution to wider strategies
- Energy as a topic for a possible macro-regional strategy for the Alps



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#### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

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