

October 2017

Dear Membership Associations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Here you get the fifth edition of the CAA association info with numerous 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 are taken from other newsletters with an EU environmental reference and I found them interesting 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 us your reports for the section "Information from the associations".

I continue to look forward to all your feedback!

I hope you find it a very interesting read.



CAA Office Manager

Forthcoming events

2./3.11. 2017

International conference
[International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas - 6th edition](#) (eng)
Salzburg/ Austria

13. 11.2017

Workshop "[Eco-Innovation supporting a Green Economy in the Alpine region](#)" (e, f, g)

Basel/Switzerland

28./29.11.2017

International conference
[„Energiemangement in Alpen-hotels – Energie sparen, Kosten senken, Klima schützen“](#)
(g, i, f, sl)

Bolzano/Italy

CAA internal affairs

General assembly 2017

On September 16th the presidents and directors of the CAA member associations met in Malbun/Liechtenstein, following the invitation of the Alpine Club Liechtenstein.

Following the agenda the delegates approved different papers:

- **10 recommendations "Safe climbing (Indoor)"**, prepared by the CAA commission of mountaineering, training and safety.
- Revisions of the positions concerning **Via ferratas** and the **value of landscape**, updated on initiative of the commission of nature protection and alpine spatial planning.
- A new position concerning **Pedelects/E-Bikes**, which was developed jointly by the three CAA commissions and which can now serve as an important reference framework for the member associations.



Furthermore was decided about the cost sharing for the **development of a CEN standard for material ropeways** with limited passenger transportation which is in preparation by an international commission with the participation of the German Alpine Club (DAV).

Regarding **the online reservation system**, for which the CAA had provided start-up financing, the current state of the project was reported. The extended system is currently already being used successfully in about 200 SAC, DAV, ÖAV and AVS huts. CAI and PZS are interested in the system, too.

The issues **Alpine Convention** and **Macro-regional strategy for the Alps (EUSALP)** this time were discussed rather briefly, whereby the relevance of the CAA's role as observer of the Alpine Convention was stressed. But it was also critically noted that not only the NGOs, but also the Alpine Convention has little influence within the framework of EUSALP.

After a detailed discussion about the future of the CAA after the **planned foundation of a European Mountaineering Association (EUMA)** had already been held on the day before the general meeting, the discussion was limited to a summary of this discussion during the general meeting. The CAA in the short term should further exist as independent organisation and concentrate on the Alpine Convention and the commissions.

Oskar Wörz (ÖAV), CAA-Vice-President, stepped down from his office for personal reasons. Georg Simeoni (AVS), longstanding chairman of the CAA commission of huts and trails, was elected for the board. Before, Miro Eržen (PZS), dismissed from the board after three years, because he took over the chairmanship of the commission of huts and trails. Wörz was discharged by the delegates with hearty thanks.

Delegates also signed a letter calling on the Swiss Federal Office of Culture (BAK) to reconsider its decision to significantly reduce the funds allocated to the **Alpine Museum in Bern** (see SAC announcement below).

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

More about the CAA General Assembly:

Minutes and summary of the discussion on the future of CAA after the establishment of EU-MA available in the internal area of the CAA website: Username "**caaintern**", password "**entranceall**".

Commissions

Below is a summary of the **annual plans of the commissions** in accordance with the decisions of the CAA General Assembly. The annual plans are available in the internal area of the CAA homepage.

At all this year's meetings of the Commissions, among other things, the future of the commissions after the foundation of the European association EUMA was discussed. The commission members are generally open to a moderate enlargement of the commissions, but travelling to meetings and much larger bodies are deemed to be not efficient. In addition, the KONSAR sees the Alpine Convention and thus the Alps as its most important frame of reference.

Annual Planning Commission for Nature Protection and Alpine Spatial Planning (KONSAR):

- **Climate change:** Review of the two CAA papers on climate change ("Political demands", "Climate Strategy"); exchange of experience on the implementation of the strategy by the CAA members; preparation of the revision by 2018.
- **Development of common tools:** discussion about the possibilities to develop such tools. Identification of a few topics for the beginning.
- **Large predators:** exchange of country-specific/national situations, preparation of a recommendation on behaviour to be applied by mountaineers; preparation of a draft for the meeting 2018 on the basis of the work already done by AVS.
- **Annual meeting in 2018** expected from **26-28 April** in Switzerland.

Annual Planning Commission of Huts and Trails

The CAA Board has now confirmed **Miro Eržen as the new Commission chairman**, who has resigned from the Board. The long-standing chairman of the Commission, Georg Simeoni, has been elected as a member of the Board.

- **Mountain biking, pedelecs, E-MTB:** exchange of experience on steering concepts

- **Material ropeways:** elaboration of a CEN standard, adoption, liaison with local authorities and cooperation with DAV
- **Joint hut database:** further development of the project idea for better marketing and presentation of huts, cooperation between associations
- **Huts and trails issues:** discussion of common issues related to possible EU standards
- **Annual meeting in 2018** expected to take place on **18-19 June** in Italy.

Commission of Mountaineering, Training and Safety

- **CAA recommendations in general:** review and, if necessary, update of the existing recommendation papers, collection of suggestions
- **CAA recommendations "Safe Bouldering"** elaborate, collection of existing recommendations, basis: DAV recommendations
- **Emergency hotline:** One contact address per Alpine country to support after accidents during club tours. Contacting the associations concerned and providing active support
- **Training of tour guides:** Comparison of selected competencies and training objectives, DAV and ÖAV present examples of skill descriptions
- **Group sizes:** develop recommendations for upper limits of group sizes for guided tours.
- **Annual meeting 2018** expected to take place in Liechtenstein on **7/8 June**

Information from the associations

General

ÖAV: Start of measurements for the annual Glacier Report

The glacier measurement team led by Gerhard Lieb and Andreas Kellerer-Pirklbauer started their annual measurement on the Passterze at Großglockner in mid-September. On Austria's largest glacier, the Alpine Club's Glacier Survey Service collects data on, among other things, changes in the length of the glacier's tongue, as well as on its height and flow rate. The results of all measurements on the approximately 100 glaciers throughout Austria will be presented again next year in the form of the ÖAV Glacier Report. [More information \(German\)](#)

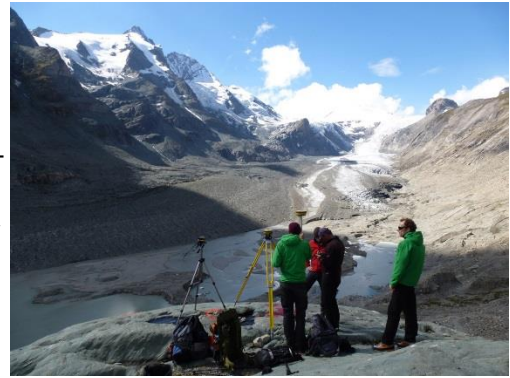


Foto : Gerhard Lieb

SAC: Termination of the Managing Director Jerun Vils

Jerun Vils, Managing Director of the Swiss Alpine Club SAC, will step down from his position at the end of March 2018 and leave the SAC at his own request. "For personal reasons, I have decided to take on a new challenge as of April," he explains his decision.

Jerun Vils joined the SAC in 2013. Prior to that, he was Managing Director of the destination Lötschberg and President of the tourist destination Berner Oberland. In the last five years as Managing Director of the SAC, one of his biggest tasks has been to restructure and organise the SAC together with the Central Board and the 110 sections. This task also includes transferring the SAC into the digital age. The SAC's new digital strategy is one of the largest projects in the history of the SAC and is still ongoing.

Mountaineering

ÖAV: Alpine Club starts again with a training course for "young alpinists".

For the second time already, the Austrian Alpine Association is putting together a "Young Alpine Team" of talented young mountaineers aged between 18 and 22. The first team has completed its training from 2014 to 2016. The aim of the training is to offer adventures, shared experiences and the further development of individual skills. Participants should push their limits in all alpine disciplines and exercise their skills independently and on their own initiative at a high level with the help of this intensive training. [More information \(German\)](#)



Foto: ÖAV

PZS: Mountain Hiking for Disabled People

The idea of mountain hiking for disabled people is based on the inclusion principle and it aims to implement the slogan of the Alpine Association of Slovenia (PZS): mountaineering as a way of life. The group working on the project Mountain Hiking for Disabled People has already prepared a training programme for professionals, and a logbook, a manual, and a draft for the coursebook "inPlaninec". In addition, the group is also making a list of mountain trails suitable for the disabled and wheelchair-bound hikers, as well as creating new trails. [Read more](#)

PZS: Successful first year for the Slovenian Mountain Bike Route

Since last summer, mountain bikers have been exploring Slovenia on the Slovenian Mountain Bike Route (in Slovenian: Slovenska turnokolesarska pot, abbreviation: STKP). The route visits all important mountain groups, and with its 1,800 kilometres in length and 50,000 vertical metres, it is the longest route of this kind in Europe. More than 1,400 STKP logbooks have been sold in just over a year, and already seven bikers have completed the entire trail. [Read more](#)



Foto: Manca Čujež

PZS: Slovenia is Mountain Hiking 2017

By organizing mountaineering events under the catch-phrase Slovenia is Mountain Hiking, the Alpine Association of Slovenia joined in the activities of the European Week of Sport for the third time. [Read more](#)

PZS: Detailed hiking maps by Slovenian Alpine Association on your smartphone

You can download Slovenian mountain hiking maps on your smartphone. Together with other maps of most countries around the world, they are accessible through handy application Locus Map. [Read more](#)

Huts and trails

ÖAV: Alpenverein calls for a reappraisal of the historical Helmhaus

According to the municipality of Sexten, the historic Helmhaus on the Austrian-Italian border is to be renovated and put out to tender as an inn for tourist use. The Austrian Alpine Association (ÖAV) and the Alpine Association of South Tyrol (AVS) see this project as a definitive break with the original agreement to create a meeting place on the "Peace Path". The commercial use of this historic building would mean the departure from a long overdue historical reappraisal. [Details about the history of the Helmhaus \(German\)](#)



Foto: ÖAV

PZS: SustainHuts – new technologies for renewable energy in mountain huts

Alpine Association of Slovenia participates in the European project SustainHuts to improve the sustainability of mountain refuges, through the integration of renewable energies, improved efficiency and isolation. The project is financed by the LIFE programme, lasts from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2020 and includes 9 mountain huts in Slovenia, Italy, Spain and Romania. [Read more](#)



SAC: Conversion of analogue to digital telephony - consequences for the huts

In Switzerland, all analogue telephone systems will be gradually replaced by digital by about 2020 (All IP). Swisscom, the largest telecom operator, equips all SAC huts with Internet-capable solutions (broadband Internet connection via satellite or mobile phone network). This change means that more energy has to be made available in the huts, because the previous remote power supply is no longer possible and the digital systems need more electricity. And it also means that in the event of a failure of the Internet connection, communication from and to the huts is only possible via emergency radio services or via satellite telephony. Together with Swisscom, which is responsible for the basic provision of communications services in Switzerland, the SAC is working on solutions for energy supply and communication security for the huts.

Protection of Nature and Alpine Spatial Planning

AVS: Folder „Wandern im Bärengebiet“ (Hiking in the bear area) published

The department for Nature and Environment of Alpenverein Südtirol - in cooperation with the Italian Alpine Club (CAI) - has published an information leaflet with advice on how to behave when hiking in an area where bears are potentially present. Its aim is to create more awareness among outdoor-lovers, fostering a respectful coexistence between humans and wildlife. [Read more \(German\)](#)



DAV: Media library on the topic of "Alpenplan"

On its website, the DAV has [compiled](#) information and articles on the subject of "Riedberger Horn" and "Alpenplan". The campaign "[Thank you Alpine Plan](#)", ("Danke Alpenplan") which has been running for months, is also documented there.

ÖAV, DAV, AVS: Mountaineering villages: New website

After welcoming their newest members in July, the network of the so called „Mountaineering Villages“ (Bergsteigerdörfer) in Bavaria and South Tyrol, and preparing to celebrate the first Slovenian village next year, the initiative of Alpine Associations presents a brand new [website](#). Background, history, suggestions for activities, etc. – no matter what season, alpine discipline or level, up-to-date information can be found on the website. But not only the content has been updated, most information is now available in several languages: German, English, Italian and Slovenian!

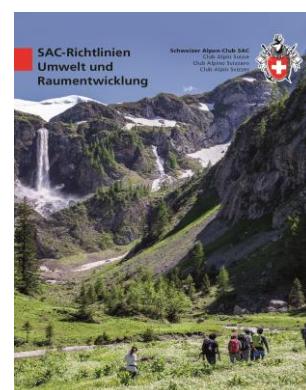


BERGSTEIGER
DÖRFER

SAC guidelines for the environment and spatial development in a definitive guise

The guidelines for the environment and spatial development adopted by the Assembly of Deputies in June are now available in a definitive layout and as a paper version and are now to be disseminated - and applied! The electronic version is available [online](#). (in German and French).

The guidelines substantiate the principles set out in the Articles of Association and in the mission statement. They serve as a guideline for SAC's commitment to sustainable mountain sports, free access, preservation of undeveloped landscapes and sustainable mountain development. The content is relevant for all organs of the Central Association, while the Sections are called upon to implement the Guidelines independently or jointly with the Central Association.



Youth and families

ÖAV: Alpine Club Youth is looking for participants for "Team Inclusive Transalp".

For the coming two years (2018 and 2019) the Austrian Alpine Club Youth is looking for people with and without a handicap who are interested in an inclusive adventure. Within the framework of the "Inclusive Transalp", participants will be able to cross the Alps together. The aim of the project is to identify existing barriers and learn to overcome them together. The application deadline is 15.01.2018. All information about the project, the requirements and the application is available (in German) at: www.alpenverein.at/inklusion > [TEAM INKLUSIVE TRANSALP](#)



Foto: ÖAV

Culture

ÖAV: Current exhibitions with participation of the Alpenverein-Museum

At present, several exhibitions are running with the participation and support of the Alpenverein-Museum and the Historical Archive of the Austrian Alpine Association:

- 1) **UP! (Hoch hinaus!) Paths and huts in the Alps** in the Alpine Museum Munich.
- 2) Follow-up projects to the major joint exhibition of the Alpine Association "Hoch Hinaus! Paths and huts in the Alps" can currently be seen in the Alpine Museum of the Austria-Hütte am Dachstein, in the rear Ötztal, in Lech and at the Grossglockner. [Read more \(German\)](#)



Gletscher.leben *Franz-Josefs-Höhe, Großglockner*; Foto: ÖAV

PZS: Slovenian Mountaineering Museum welcomes 100,000th visitor

The Slovenian Mountaineering Museum in Mojstrana has seen its number of visitors steadily climbing up after a five-year standstill, and welcomed its 100,000th visitor on 5th of July 2017. [Read more](#)

SAC: Alpine Museum Bern

On 19 July 2017, the Federal Office of Culture (BAK) decided to support the Alpine Museum of Switzerland (alps) with CHF 250,000 per year instead of the previous CHF 1,020,000 per year. This corresponds to a reduction of 75 percent and casts doubt on the existence of the museum.

The Swiss Alpine Club SAC has a big interest in ensuring that the alps continues to exist. The Alpine Museum of Switzerland was founded in 1905 on the initiative of the SAC. The SAC is committed as double foundation (central association and section Bern of the SAC) and the largest private donor. Of the 230,000 Swiss francs in cultural assets, 200,000 Swiss francs are donated to the Alpine Museum of Switzerland every year.

The alps stands in the middle of the present. Since 2012, it has positioned itself as a contemporary themed house with dynamic temporary exhibitions on time-critical themes such as the current exhibitions "Wasser unser" (Water Our) or "Der Wolf ist da" (The Wolf is Here). The decision of the BAK is a bitter setback for this successfully implemented new concept of the museum. Especially for that reason the SAC is disappointed and irritated by the federal decision.

Miscellaneous

What's Alp

How is the image of the Alps changing over the decades? What traces do people and natural events leave in the landscape? Between June and September 2017, under the name *WhatsAlp* a group of alpine experts trekked from Vienna to Nice through the Alpine region. Whilst on foot, the walkers wanted to document the current state and the changes of the Alpine regions since 1992 along their journey. An important guideline of this thematic long distance hike is the Alpine Convention. [The most important results in English](#)

Alpine Convention

64th Permanent Committee on October 4th/5th in Gmunden /Austria

Biodiversity and landscape as well as Green Economy were the main topics of the second meeting of the Permanent Committee in Gmunden.

Various activities were presented on these topics, including observers. The CAA presented briefly its paper "Preserving Alpine Landscapes" as well as individual projects of its member associations on the topic. In addition, the topics discussed were: the work on large carnivores ([WISO platform](#)) and the [Ecological Network](#), the 7th Alpine State Report on natural hazards, the Alpine ticket for young people, the Young Academics Award, the Reading Mountains Initiative, sustainable event organisation (Green Events), EUSALP, activities on the subject of Green Economy, climate change and mountain agriculture.

Extensive reports of the CAA from the meetings of the **Permanent Committee** with numerous additional links in the internal pages of the CAA website, Username "**caaintern**", password "**entranceall**".

Reading mountains festival

On December 11th for the 3rd year the Permanent Secretariat invites partners from across the Alps to celebrate modern alpine literature and culture. Invite a local author for a reading, hike in a group and read a book at the top of a mountain, start a reading circle and discuss alpine literature, present an exhibition on Alpine books in your local library, give a chance to young authors, combine literature with music/performing arts or gastronomy.... You can register your event on the www.alpconv.org. All participating organizations will receive posters, stickers and bookmarks for the promotion of their event. Not interested in organizing, but would love to join? Check out the map for the event close to you – new events are added daily!



Platform Mountain Farming

The previous declarations and working results of the platform for mountain agriculture have been published in the series "[Alpine signals](#)". On 13/14 September, an international conference on CAP/EU was held in St. Johann/Pongau (Austria), where a [memorandum](#) was adopted. The CAA representatives in the platform had spoken out in favour of clearer wording in the text.

Alpine Climate Board (ACB)

The second meeting of the Alpine Climate Advisory Board took place in Vienna on 18 and 19 September. Since the first meeting in February, a comprehensive inventory of relevant activities on climate protection and adaptation to climate change in the Alpine Space has been carried out, with contributions from the various bodies of the Alpine Convention, Parties and observers. The results of the stocktaking were presented and discussed at the meeting and initial recommendations for action were formulated. A brainstorming session was then carried out to prepare the development of a target system, which will then be decided by the next Alpine Conference.

Green economy in the Alpine region

Documentation of the international conference in Rosenheim in May [here](#).

A series of six stakeholder workshops are currently taking place to draw up the action programme for a green economy in the Alpine region. The aim of the action programme is to further develop and refine the recommendations of the Sixth Report on the State of the Alps and to identify concrete fields of action and relevant actors for implementation. [More information](#)

Compliance Committee

Recently, the guidelines for the interpretation of Article 6 (3) of the Tourism Protocol drawn up by the Committee and approved by the last Alpine Conference, and the recommendations for the application of Article 11 of the Protocol were published in a brochure. ([In the four alpine languages, but not in English](#))

The Committee will meet at the end of November for its next meeting in Vienna, which will focus on "Economic use of soil" and in particular on the implementation of Article 9 (3) of the Spatial Planning Protocol and Article 7 (2) of the Soil Protection Protocol. An expert hearing will also take place.

Working Group Macro-regional Strategy

This working group of the Alpine Convention tries, among other things, to coordinate the working groups and platforms of the Alpine Convention with the EUSALP Action Groups in order to take advantage of synergies and to avoid overlap. To this end, a multi-stage cooperation model has been developed, which has already been presented and welcomed in EUSALP meetings, as well as working aids such as lists of persons and topics. Subsequent to the meeting of the Permanent Committee at the beginning of October, a workshop was held to exchange information between the heads of the working groups and platforms of the Alpine Convention and the leaders of the EUSALP action groups.

The Alpine Convention thus has a certain influence on the process, even if it officially "only" functions as an observer of EUSALP. Through staff of the Permanent Secretariat in various action groups, it also tries to ensure that the content of the Alpine Convention protocols is respected, such as in April in connection with the plans of representatives of Veneto for the further development of the "Alemagna" motorway in the EUSALP Action Group 4.

EUSALP

Bavarian Presidency

At the invitation of the Bavarian Environment Minister Scharf, and as part of the Bavarian EUSALP Presidency, an Environment Ministerial Conference on Green Infrastructure was held in Munich, Bavaria on 2 October. Representatives of states and regions adopted a [declaration](#) calling for green infrastructure to be given the same attention at Alpine and European level as transport, energy and digital networks. The declaration was prepared by the EUSALP Action Group 7 of EUSALP, in which Alfred Ringler, an expert representing the CAA, is fighting for the implementation of such declarations in international networking projects.

The EUSALP- **Annual Forum 2017 will take place on 23 and 24 November 2017** in the Munich BMW Welt. During the Annual Forum, the political representatives of member states and regions will present the implementation measures undertaken in 2017 to the public, engage in discussions with citizens, associations, businesses, municipalities and institutions, and give an outlook on the future implementation of the Strategy. The Annual Forum will be partly open to the general public. Bavaria hands over the chairmanship to Tyrol for 2018.

EUSALP Action Group 6 (chaired by the Alpine Convention and Carinthia)

At the beginning of July, working groups 6, 3 and 9 presented the status of their work to the steering committee. The key to a successful implementation of the work plans was generally seen as the active participation of the nominated AG members and the contributions of representatives of civil society institutions, in addition to the constant exchange between all action groups and their activities.

On 18 September, Action Group 6 met in Innsbruck with representatives of other Action Groups. The workshop aimed to discuss possible concepts for a joint application for the "Preparatory Fund for the Alpine Region" (ARPAF). ARPAF is designed to support the implementation of EUSALP and aims to develop projects in the following areas: Circular economy, demographic changes – initiatives against depopulation in remote areas and Sustainable mobility solutions for regional and local levels as well as across regional borders. The deadline for submissions is set at the end of October; in November 2017 the winners will be announced during the EUSALP annual forum.

These very short deadlines were criticised at the last meeting of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention at the beginning of October by some Contracting States as well as by the Permanent Secretariat, as they were detrimental to the quality of the project proposals submitted. It was also noted that the priorities of the respective EUSALP Presidency should be coordinated with the action groups.

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

EU

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

02.10.2017

EU Commission relaxes funding for LIFE programme

Last week, the EU Commission announced an investment package to promote measures in nature, environmental and climate protection. [Read more \(German\)](#)

05.10.2017

Before the World Climate Change Conference: EU Parliament puts pressure on climate change policy

The MEPs are calling on the EU Commission to develop a strategy for making Europe greenhouse gas neutral by the middle of the century. [Read more \(German\)](#) .

09.08.2017

DNR profile of the Multiannual Financial Framework after 2020

After 2020, the EU's monetary cake will be redistributed. How the opportunities for sustainability, climate and nature conservation stand in the face of brexit, migration and defence, this fact sheet takes a close look on. [Read more \(German\)](#)

From the EU-environmental office (EU-Umweltbüro) in the im Umweltdachverband Österreich:

28.09.2017

Wind energy: major increase possible until 2030

The umbrella organisation of the wind industry in Europe (WindEurope) has presented two reports outlining the development of wind energy up to 2030 [Read more \(German\)](#)

European Wilderness Society

07. 09. 2017

The power of words in Nature Conservation

Journalist George Monboit just published an article in the Guardian about the effect of using word to describe nature conservation efforts. He appealed to use much more emotional wording to describe... [Read more..](#)

EEB-Information (European Environmental Bureau):

Pubication:

- New **DG Environment brochure on EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy**. Download it [here](#). More info on the Action Plan can also be found on the following webpage: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/fitness_check/action_plan/index_en.htm