



# Energy turnaround and the Alpine Convention

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# Alpine Convention – Framework Convention

- energy - 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



# Energy Protocol – article 2

## Basic commitments

- (1) (...) the Contracting Parties shall:
  - (a) Harmonization of energy planning with general spatial planning
  - (b) Environmental considerations for energy production, transport and provision systems
  - (c) limit the impact of energy on the environment by optimizing the provision of services to energy end-users through, amongst other things and as far as possible, adopting the following measures:
    - reducing energy needs through the use of more efficient Technologies;
    - making wider use of renewable energy sources to meet remaining energy needs;
    - optimizing existing plants which produce energy from non-renewable sources;
  - (d) limit the negative effects of power plants on the environment and the landscape, including those concerning the management of waste produced by them, by adopting preventive measures for the new plants and, if necessary, improving existing ones;



# Energy Protocol – article 2

## Basic commitments

- (2) In the event of the construction of new, large power plants (...) evaluate the impact on the Alpine environment and (...) evaluate the territorial and socioeconomic effects (...) recognise the right to consultation at international level on projects with cross-border effects.
- (3) (...)
- (4) (...) preserve protected areas and their buffer zones, other protected and quiet zones as well as areas of unspoilt nature and countryside; they shall optimise energy infrastructures according to the different levels of vulnerability, tolerance and the ongoing deterioration of the Alpine ecosystem.
- (5) (...)
- (6) (...) cooperate with a view to developing methods for taking better account of the true costs in the field of energy.



# Energy Protocol – article 5

## Energy saving and rational use

- (2) (...) seek to make energy use more environmentally friendly and shall, as a priority, encourage energy saving and rational energy use (...)
- (3) (...) adopt measures and make provisions, particularly (...):
  - (a) improving insulation in buildings and the efficiency of heating systems;
  - (b) optimising the performance of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems;
  - (c) periodic monitoring and reduction (...) of polluting emissions (...);
  - (d) saving energy (...) technological processes for energy use and conversion;
  - (e) individual calculation of the costs (...);
  - (f) (...) use low-energy technologies;
  - (g) (...) municipal or local energy and climate projects (...);
  - (h) (...) buildings (...) use of environmentally-friendly heating systems.

# Energy Protocol – article 6

## Renewable energy resources

- (1) Encourage renewable energy sources under conditions that are environmentally sound and compatible with landscape
- (2) (...) encourage (...) decentralized plants for the use of renewable energy sources such as water, the sun and biomass.
- (3) (...) use of renewable energy resources (...)
- (4) (...) encourage energy produced through the rational use of water and wood from sustainably managed mountain forests



# Energy Protocol – article 7

## Hydroelectric power

- (1) (...) shall ensure that the ecological functions of watercourses and the integrity of the landscape are maintained through appropriate measures (...) in the case of new hydroelectric plants, and existing ones (...)
  - (2) (...)
  - (3) (...) shall (...) protect water resources in areas reserved for drinking water, in protected areas and their buffer zones, other protected and quiet zones as well as areas of unspoilt nature and countryside.
  - (4) (...) recommend reopening disused hydroelectric plants rather than building new ones. (...)
- (...) may, in the framework of their national legislation, (...) make end-consumers of Alpine resources pay marketprices, and the extent to which the local population can be fairly compensated for services supplied in the general interest.



# Energy Protocol – article 8

## Energy from fossil fuels

- (1) (...) shall ensure that the best available techniques are used in new thermal plants using fossil fuels to produce electricity or heat.
- (2) (...) shall examine the technical and economic feasibility and the environmental compatibility of replacing fossil fuel thermal plants with ones which use renewable energy sources or are decentralized.
- (3) (...) In border regions, (...) as far as possible, harmonize and connect their emission and immission monitoring systems.



# Energy Protocol – article 9

## **Nuclear energy**

- (1) (...) shall undertake (...) to exchange comprehensive information on plants and other nuclear installations which have, or could have, consequences for the Alpine region
- (2) (...) shall ensure the harmonisation and connection, as far as possible, of their systems for monitoring environmental radioactivity.



# Energy Protocol – article 10

## Transport and energy distribution

- (2) When constructing electricity transmission lines and power stations linked to them, as well as oil and gas pipelines, including pumping stations and booster stations and plants which are very significant from an environmental point of view, (...) shall implement all (...) measures to avoid disturbance to the local people and the environment, including, if possible, the use of preexisting facilities and grids.
- (3) Concerning electricity transmission lines (...) shall take particular account of the importance of protected areas and their buffer zones, other protected and quiet zones as well as areas of unspoilt nature and landscape, as well as birdlife.



# Energy Protocol – article 12

## Environmental impact analysis

- (1) (...) carry out an initial evaluation of the environmental impact of any planned power plant under Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the present Protocol, and of any substantial change made to these plants.
- (2) (...) shall recognize the advisability of adopting (...) the best available techniques so as to eliminate or limit environmental impact by making provision for the decommissioning of disused and non-environmentally friendly plants.



# Energy Protocol – article 13

## Dialogue

- (...) shall undertake to consult one another prior to starting any project which may have crossborder effects.
- (...) the Contracting Parties concerned must be able to present their comments in good time (...)



# Declaration on climate change

**Avoid** climate change (...) by means of:

- improvement of the energy efficiency and the use of existing energy saving potential,
- (...) use of local raw materials that can be regenerated (...) and (...) use of renewable energies (...)
- the promotion of energy saving constructions and the renovation of buildings with a view to energy saving,
- environmentally sustainable traffic (...)



# Platform Energy (1)

- Mandate for 2013/14, under Swiss presidency
- Three main topics:
  - Energy usage
  - Energy generation
  - Energy systems
- Consisting of:
  - “Core group” of national experts and observers
  - Expert workshops



# Platform Energy (2)

- New challenges for the Alps:
  - Active contribution for international commitments (e.g. Energy protocol, EU20/20/20)
  - Save, affordable, ecologically friendly
  - Keep quality and attractiveness
- **Create substantive report and overview for XIII. Alpine Conference** – possibility to deepen aspects in a second mandate



# Platform Energy (3)

Topics	Core Group	Workshops
Energy Usage	28/5/2013, 1.15 - 5pm 29/5/2013, 9am - 1pm  (Bern)	30/8/2013, 8:30am – 4:30pm <i>followed by the handing over of the “Constructive Alps” architecture competition prize</i> (Bern)
Energy Generation	29/8/2013, 9am – 5pm  (Bern)	24/10/2013, 1 – 5.30pm 25/10/2013, 9am – 3pm (Lucerne)
Energy System	10/12/2013, 8.30am – 4pm  (Zurich)	13/2/2014, 9am – 5pm  (Zurich)
Synthesising topics 1-3	28/4/2014, 2 – 5pm  29/4/2014, 9 – 12am (tbd)	
Preparing XIII Alpine Conference	11/9/2014, 2 – 5pm  12/9/2014, 9 – 12am (tbd)	



In the end, sufficiency limits and progressive efficiency specifications represent one of the most reasonable ways of halting the steady rise in absolute consumption (...)

**(...) how much is enough and how much is too much (...)**

Chris Calwell, 22 March 2010, European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy

