

European strategy for an Alpine macroregion (EUSALP)

- The concept of macroregions offers a significant opportunity in terms of regionalisation in Europe under the umbrella of the EU. The macroregional strategy for the Alps, which is comparable to the strategies adopted by the EU for the Baltic Sea and Danube regions, is an opportunity to give the Alps a new dimension and significance in the EU context, in terms of, amongst other things, better access to funding. The CAA therefore supports this initiative as a matter of principle and welcomes the decision of the European Council of December 2013 to develop the EUSALP. During the development and implementation of EUSALP the CAA attaches particular importance to the protection of natural areas and landscapes in its uniqueness and diversity. Under this premise the CAA will continue to observe critically and advise on the process. With regard to content, the CAA will continue to be guided by the Alpine Convention, which is an important major agreement for the protection and sustainable development of the Alpine region.
- The CAA continues to believe that expanding the scope of the EUSALP to an area far beyond the perimeter of the Alpine Convention entails the risk that the Alpine region proper will be dominated by the outside territories with their large cities and industrial agglomerations and that the interests of the territory of the Alpine Convention will be severely disadvantaged. Within the framework of the process of dialogue being sought between the core Alpine region and the metropolitan regions under the strategy, the sustainable development of the mountainous region of the Alps should not be deprioritised in any way whatsoever in favour of the outside territories surrounding the Alpine region and neither should conservation concerns be disadvantaged in relation to economic interests.
- The CAA points to the great importance of the content of the Alpine Convention for the EUSALP, which the CAA considers absolutely essential. The goal must be the protection of nature and landscape as well as a sustainable development in the Alps. The Alpine Convention therefore must also play an active and leading role in the development of the structures of the EUSALP and in issues of governance. The Alpine Convention should be strengthened through further discussions to increase its political profile.
- Individual participants, institutions, organisations as well as national, regional and local authorities in the region of the Alpine Convention and beyond should be involved in strategy development and implementation at all levels of the process. This includes the organisations and representatives of civil society such as the Alpine associations.

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