

ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP

FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2024

(BETWEEN THE XVII AND XVIII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CONFERENCE)

1. Overview of the mandate given by the XVII Alpine Conference

Summary of the objectives according to the 2023-2024 mandate

In its previous mandate, the Group set out to carry out the following operational tasks:

- Carry out an in-depth study of the connections between transport and regional development, as endorsed by the 2023-2030 Alpine Convention MAP. For instance, assess socialised remote working modes such as coworking and promote mobility as a service (MaaS) solutions. Assess solutions for the improvement of remote mountain destinations accessibility using integrated transport systems or multimodal mobility.
- 2. Assess the necessary framework conditions for the creation of emission-free pilot routes for LGVs, HGVs and buses, together with their relevant charging infrastructures, especially relating to ongoing work related to the draft EU-AFIR (alternative fuels infrastructure regulation) regulation and to the Simplon Alliance.
- 3. Assess the implementation of the energy transition in transalpine logistics, measures and regulations.
- 4. Assess the potential of combined transport for the modal shift in alpine crossing freight transport. This objective contributes to the implementation of Pathway 1, step 1 of the Alpine Climate Target System.

2. Meetings

Summary of the meetings held (date, place, main topics and milestones)

- 2 February 2023: 51st meeting (online). Division of topic of the current mandate between WG members.
- 1 June 2023: 52nd meeting (online). Progress of mandate topics.
- 22 September 2023: 53rd meeting (Paris, FR). Joint meeting with Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group. Change of the Working Group chair from Michel Rostagnat to Michel Pinet.
- 8 March 2024: 54th meeting (Nuremberg, DE). Workshop on combined transport, progress of mandate topics.
- 18 June 2024: 55th meeting (Ljubljana, SI). Preparation of the 2025-2026 mandate.
- 2 September 2024: 56th meeting (Paris, FR). Validation of the 2025-2026 mandate and reports.

3. Activities carried out

Activities carried out with their outputs and results, highlighting their contributions to the relevant priorities of the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030

- At its 53rd meeting in Paris (FR), the Group organised study visits of the HAROPA Ports of Paris headquarters, a Franprix (supermarket) multimodal river terminal, and of the SNCF Réseau (French railway network public owner) control centre.
- 12-13 October 2023 in Innsbruck (AT): Workshop on "Accelerating the Electrification of Road Transport in the Alps/AFIR-Cooperation Stakeholder-Meeting". The two-day workshop addressed current issues surrounding the decarbonisation of alpine road transport. The event was hosted by the state of Tyrol and the BMK and was organised and carried out by OLÉ Austria's National Competence Centre for E-Mobility. Over 50 participants from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Slovenia, representatives of the European Commission, academia, and industry, gathered in Innsbruck to join expert presentations, workshops and moderated discussions. This allowed to bring together relevant stakeholders to work on solutions, discuss challenges, exchange experiences, and collectively learn from them. The workshop included a study visit of the Brenner Base Tunnel being currently built between Austria and Italy, and a report with the outcome of the workshop and recommendations was prepared.
- 7 March 2024 in Nuremberg (DE): Workshop on "Opportunities of Digitalisation for Transalpine Intermodal Freight Transport ". The workshop was hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport and the Bavarian State Ministry for Housing, Building and Transport. The event congregated representatives from various sectors to address the digitalisation of combined transport. Insights on bolstering intermodal transport were shared by German, Bavarian, Austrian, and Italian representatives, highlighting state support and showcasing projects enhancing freight centres and port infrastructures. The workshop included a visit of the multimodal port of Nuremberg and a report with the outcome of the workshop and recommendations was prepared.
- A report on the "Decarbonisation of Alpine transport Assessing the implementation of the energy transition in transalpine logistics - Policies for the decarbonisation of transalpine freight transport" was prepared under the coordination of the Italian members of the Group.
- All the above activities contributed directly or indirectly to priority areas 2 and 3 of the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030. Due to capacity and time limitations, the objective of the previous mandate to carry out an in-depth study of the connections between transport and regional development could not been achieved.

4. Cooperation

Cooperation developed with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and resulting benefits

- 22 September 2023 in Paris (FR): Joint meeting with the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group of the Alpine Convention. During a workshop, members of both Working Groups contributed to the Alpine Spatial Planning Perspective (ASPP) with focus on topics of interface between transport and spatial planning / development, with the results to be included in the ASPP synthesis report.
- Reciprocal regular observer participation in the meetings of the EUSALP Action Group 4 on Mobility in the Alps

5. Communication

Communication measures and outreach activities carried out, specifying their respective target groups

 Social media campaign: the chairs of the Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention, in June 2023.

6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to this report, such as papers proposed for approval by the XVIII Alpine Conference (thematic reports, guidelines, statements etc.) and supporting documents (workshop proceedings, survey reports, communication materials etc.).

- Report: Accelerating the Electrification of Road Transport in the Alps/AFIR-Cooperation Stakeholder-Meeting, Innsbruck
- Report: Opportunities of Digitalisation for Transalpine Intermodal Freight Transport, Nuremberg
- Report: Decarbonisation of Alpine freight transport Assessing the implementation of the energy transition in transalpine logistics - Policies for the decarbonisation of transalpine freight transport