

**MANDATE OF THE  
Transport Working Group  
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026  
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE  
CONFERENCE)**

**1. Introductory remarks**

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

Transport plays an integral role in the life of people living in the Alps, and is crucial to the region's economy, and to flows of people and goods beyond the Alps. Transport also contributes substantially to the region's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and is one of the sectors struggling most with decarbonisation at EU level. Environmental impacts from transport also include air pollution, noise pollution, land-use, and the fragmentation of ecological habitats, all of these intensified by the Alps' distinct topography. Furthermore, expected economic and social developments could aggravate many of these impacts in the future, without adapted policies. Solutions and technologies to mitigate such impacts already exist, ranging from a modal shift from road to rail, electrification, and other alternative fuels, to active mobility and increased use of public transport.

Alpine transport is made of three main components: crossing flows, tourist mobility, and local mobility. To different extents and in different ways, all of them impact the Alps. These three components need to be properly organised and regulated to preserve the region's natural heritage and to improve quality of life in the Alpine arc. Close cooperation is required between Alpine countries at national and regional level in both developing and enacting measures for sustainable transport.

The Transport WG aims to contribute towards the objectives of the Transport Protocol, the Climate Action Plan 2.0 and to implement the Action Plan of the Simplon Alliance initiative.

**2. Planned topics and activities**

**Topic No. 1: Modal shift in 'vertical' public transport**

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference

Many Alpine destinations are easily accessible only using passenger transport specific to mountain areas, such as cable cars or funiculars. While they are mostly set up for tourism purpose, they can also play an important role for local inhabitants and services.

To achieve climate and pollution objectives in the Alps, it is important to consider the modal shift towards these types of transport, as well as their decarbonisation. In this mandate period, an exchange of experiences across the Alps will be initiated, to identify good practices, challenges and possible developments.

Envisaged activities	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
<p>Seminar or workshop on the modal shift of passenger transport specific to the Alps (such as cable car or funiculars), organised in Grenoble (FR) by the French ministry of Transportation in cooperation with STRMTG (the French service for cable cars and guided transport)</p> <p>The seminar/workshop will bring together the members of the Transport WG and various stakeholders (local authorities, user representatives, industry experts, technical services, and planning departments). It will focus on the presentation of various examples and experiences in the Alpine countries, the field of use, regulatory and certification aspects, profitability and socio-economic issues, acceptance by local populations and other difficulties, and the associated challenges in terms of land planning.</p> <p>The scope might be extended to the issue of public transport policies in Alpine agglomerations (with a potential presentation of the Grenoble agglomeration public transport policy).</p>	Spring 2026
Expected outputs	
- Minutes of the seminar/workshop and short report with recommendations.	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
- A second workshop could be organised on the same topic in a similar Alpine destination, building on the first	

<b>Topic No. 2: Conference on the energy, technological and ecological transition of freight transport and logistics</b>	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)	
High Level Conference with contribution of institutions, associations and stakeholders of transport and logistics supply chains to define a strategy to promote the sustainability and the decarbonisation of the transalpine freight transport and logistics system, according to the European targets	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
Conference on the energy, technological and ecological transition of freight transport and logistics in Rome (IT)	October 2025

Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)
Brochure including recommendations for the decarbonisation of transalpine transport and logistics system, to be shared primarily with regional, national and EU institutional stakeholders
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference
Further development in the mandate 2027-2028.

<b>Topic No. 3: Cycling in the Alps</b>	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
Sustainable forms of transport are essential for achieving climate and pollution objectives in the Alps. Among these, cycling is one of the most sustainable, healthy and efficient. Cycling is a very effective means of transport for local populations and for tourists discovering a region alike. The Alps boasts some of the best cycling infrastructure in Europe, although its availability and quality varies greatly throughout the region and regional networks are sparsely connected. To remedy this and progress towards denser and better-connected cycling infrastructure in the Alps, the Transport Working Group aims to promote knowledge sharing.	
Envisaged activities	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
Side-event in the frame of the National Cycling Conference (NRVK) in Berlin (DE)	March or April 2025
Expected outputs	
- Statements, exchange of views, discussion about the feasibility of a VeloAlpina and Alpine EuroVelo-route and cross-border cycling routes	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Improved cooperation between stakeholders; increased attention for investment in cycling infrastructure in the Alpes	

<b>Topic No. 4: Sustainable Tourism Mobility in the Alpine Region</b>
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)

Sustainable tourism mobility has become an important issue in the mobility and tourism sector: The Alpine Convention (e.g. Simplon Alliance Action Plan and Climate Action Plan 2.0) and the Transport, Health, Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) have already addressed this issue in the past, with the aim of ensuring that destinations and sights are easily accessible by train and bus, using flexible mobility services, as well as by bicycle and on foot. Climate-friendly mobility services have been developed for the first and last mile, and mobility services have been established at destinations and in regions.

Simultaneously, overtourism and congested roads in tourist regions pose significant challenges, particularly affecting guest satisfaction. Promoting sustainable tourism and encouraging arrivals without personal vehicles not only benefits the environment and local communities but also enhances the resilience of destinations from a business perspective. Combining the activities to avoid, shift and improve tourism mobility into a holistic mobility management system supports the ambition to sustainably strengthen the resilience of Alpine tourism and make Alpine tourism mobility climate friendly. This mandate is intended to pool existing knowledge, bring stakeholders together and support the exchange and transfer of knowledge.

It will be important to identify cross-connections between tourism, mobility and climate action and to realise climate-relevant win-win situations in tourism, focusing on the corresponding implementation pathways and steps of the Climate Action Plan 2.0.

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Identify relevant topics for the event	Winter 2024 or early spring 2025
b. Set up the agenda for the event	Spring or summer 2025
c. Hold an event focussing on current developments and key issues such as mobility management at destinations, integration of sustainable mobility services in tourism packages, ticketing and multimodal travel information (systems), and sustainable mobility labelling at destinations, Vienna (AT).	Spring 2026

Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)

- Seminar/workshop report
- Agreement on further cooperation and information exchange on the topic of Sustainable Tourism mobility within the Alpine Region

Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference

Establishment of a platform that brings together relevant tourism, mobility and climate change stakeholders on a regular basis to mainstream sustainable tourism mobility management.

Topic No. 5: Coordination platform for electric charging infrastructure (AFIR Report follow-up)	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)	
<p>The AFIR Stakeholder Meeting in October 2023 in Innsbruck was an important event to promote cross-border cooperation between the Alpine Convention signatory states to further the implementation of the provisions of the AFIR Regulation.</p> <p>In this sense, it is proposed to pursue this cooperation within the framework of existing groups or meetings on the matter. Another stakeholder meeting could be organised, possibly in the context of the spatial and content-related objectives of the Transport Protocol of the Alpine Convention.</p>	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
Renewed cooperation on the AFIR Regulation implementation within the framework of existing groups or meetings	2025
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
Output depending on the chosen form of cooperation	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
Holding regular stakeholder meetings on the topic	

### 3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)
<p>The group plans to meet three times per year. The group will aim to organise at least two physical meetings per year, if possible back-to-back with workshops of the Working Group, or other relevant events. The remaining meetings will be held online.</p> <p>Tentative calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spring 2025: Berlin, WG meeting + workshop (cycling, German National Cycling Conference)</li> <li>- Summer 2025: (location to be decided), WG meeting</li> <li>- October 2025: Rome, WG meeting + conference (transition of freight transport and logistics)</li> <li>- Winter 2026: (location to be decided), WG meeting</li> <li>- Spring 2026: Grenoble, WG meeting + seminar/workshop (modal shift in 'vertical' public transport)</li> <li>- Summer 2026: (location to be decided), WG meeting</li> </ul>

## 4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits

The Working Group will work in close cooperation with:

- EUSALP AG4 (Mobility)
- iMONITRAF!
- Zurich Process
- Arge Alp
- Interreg Alpine Space programme
- Relevant Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention or other stakeholders depending on each of the objectives: local authorities, academics, associations etc.

The upcoming Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan of the Alpine Convention will seek concrete results by 2030 to preserve Alpine biodiversity and strengthen Alpine-wide cooperation on: monitoring, restoration, connectivity and conservation issues. Due to the impact of transport infrastructure on the ecological connectivity in the Alps, the Transport Working Group will cooperate with the Alpine Biodiversity Board and WISO Working Group, and identify relevant experts to jointly reflect on the various solutions and recommendations available for reconnecting spaces, and how ecological connectivity could be better included in infrastructure planification. A workshop to exchange best practices on restoring Alpine connectivity is tentatively scheduled in the first half of 2026.

Following up on the joint meeting between the Transport and the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (SPSD) Working Groups in September 2023, an exchange on the Alpine Spatial Development Perspective is envisioned.

The Chair will, as far as necessary, represent the group at high-level meetings (Alpine Conference, Permanent Committee, TWB Chairs meetings, Alpine Climate Board, MAP follow-up etc.). The group's activities will be compliant with the orientations drawn by the Alpine Climate Board.

## 5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures

Work by the group will mainly be communicated to relevant stakeholders via the organisation of workshops and the publication of written reports, including on the website of the Alpine Convention. For each report, executive summaries and infographics targeting a broader audience will be issued.

## 6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)

**MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems:** *Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention's own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies*

The group will contribute to the biodiversity and ecosystems area through its contribution to the upcoming Alpine Biodiversity Action Plan, and exchanges with the Alpine Biodiversity Board where needed. The often-neglected issue of ecosystem fragmentation in transport will be considered where relevant in other activities of the group.

**MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action:** *Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector*

The group will mainly contribute to the climate action priority area through topic 1, in which the promotion of low-carbon mobility is addressed, topic 2, as the conference will have a strong focus on the decarbonisation of transport, topic 3, which promotes cycling as a climate-friendly transport alternative, and topic 5, which aims to accelerate the decarbonisation of road transport through better coordination on charging infrastructure.

**MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life:** *Further the Alpine Convention's knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels*

The group will mainly contribute to the quality-of-life priority area through topic 1, as the availability of reliable and clean public transport plays an important role for difficult-to-access mountain locations, topic 2, that aims to enhance quality of live through better access to cycling infrastructure, and topic 4, which addresses issues of overtourism and congested roads due to unsustainable guest transport.

## 7. Chair

The Chair will be held by France.