



EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)

Joint Declaration

Milan, 28 November 2019

We, the representatives of the States and Regions who have come together as the General Assembly of the EUSALP in Milan today,

RECALLING the political commitments adopted by the General Assembly meetings on 20 November 2018 in Innsbruck (Tyrol), on 23 November 2017 in Munich (Bavaria), on 13 February 2017 in Rottach-Egern (Bavaria), and on 25 January 2016 in Brdo (Slovenia) as well as the European Parliament Resolution of 16 January 2018 and the Council Conclusions adopted on 21 May 2019 on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies;

ACKNOWLEDGING the milestones achieved by the former Slovenian (2016), Bavarian (2017) and Tyrolean (2018) Presidencies, and the activities undertaken during the Italian Presidency 2019 in particular in supporting green and circular economy, in promoting the historical-cultural and educational dimension of the Alpine region and in favouring youth and broad stakeholders participation;

RECALLING the major issue of climate change and the ambition of European Union to tackle it at the highest level of priority on both mitigation and adaptation sides by pursuing a greener, low carbon Europe;

CONSIDERING the EUSALP function as a laboratory for innovative cross-sectorial and multi-level governance as well as its potential to strengthen European cohesion and to deepen cross-border and transnational cooperation;

UNDERLYING the importance of the next generation of EU Cohesion Policy and other centrally and shared management EU programmes for EUSALP and the other macro-regional strategies:

Jointly agree to

1. REAFFIRM our strong political commitment to the implementation of the Strategy and engage to strengthen its ownership, ensuring appropriate political support while fostering the involvement of regional and local stakeholders, and in particular of youth;

2. WELCOME the efforts taken so far, focusing on concrete challenges and measures with clear added value for the Alpine Region, notably in the field of environment and climate change, competitiveness, jobs and connectivity, energy efficiency and renewable energy;
3. SHARE the need for further strengthening the governance of the Strategy and LOOK FORWARD to future proposals from the Executive Board aimed at enhancing the Strategy's continuity, effectiveness and financing as well as the sustainable involvement of youth in the EUSALP;
4. SUPPORT the development of the communication activities to promote the Strategy and its potential, focusing on effective and targeted messages at national, regional and local levels towards the stakeholders and citizens;
5. COMMIT to take into account the priorities of the EUSALP in the programming and implementation of EU 2021-2027 relevant programmes under shared management; AGREE to cooperate jointly, within the process of 2021-2027 programming, so as to give appropriate consideration to EUSALP macro-regional dimension and priorities within the programming documents under preparation; INVITE Programme Authorities and EUSALP key implementers to coordinate closely, in dialogue with the Commission, in order to identify how the priorities of the programming documents could contribute to the macro-regional dimension for the benefit of the Strategy and its territories;
6. SUPPORT a solid and a well-structured EU Cohesion Policy within the programme period 2021-2027, including an appropriate use of the resources concerning the Alpine Region;
7. EXPRESS appreciation for the support of the European Commission in the implementation of EUSALP and CALL on the Commission to keep playing a leading role in the strategic coordination of the Strategy so as to ensure that the latter is taken in due account in all relevant EU policies and instruments;
8. EXPRESS appreciation for the support of the European Parliament and UNDERLINE the importance of the Alpine Region Preparatory Action Fund (ARPAF) for the implementation and for the continuing financing of the Strategy also in 2020;
9. STRESS the importance of a coordinated action with the other macro-regional and sea-basin strategies in order to achieve the full embedding in the legal framework of the Cohesion Policy 2021-2027, with a view to exploring complementarities as well as exchanging best practices and lessons learned, including, where appropriate, with other relevant networks, such as the Alpine Convention;

10. ENTRUST France with the 2020 Presidency of EUSALP, reaffirming the shared priorities of embedding the Strategy within the 2021-2027 funding period and of enhancing its governance to increasingly deliver on the common engagement for the sustainable growth and prosperity of the entire Alpine Region.
11. ENDORSE the current leaders of the action groups and the implementation priorities for the year 2020 as laid down in the Annex of this Joint Declaration.