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Ständiges Sekretariat • Secrétariat permanent • Segretariato permanente • Stalni sekretariat

CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE "EU 2020" STRATEGY Position Paper by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention endorses the process towards the EU 2020 strategy and the need of designing and implementing a bold policy response to global challenges that no individual Member State can successfully address alone. Cooperation across national borders for a common future is also the main driver of the Alpine Convention, the international agreement for the sustainable development of the Alpine area, to which the European Community is one of the Contracting Parties (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland and the EC).

In addressing the three priorities identified by the paper, good governance shall act with solidarity and responsibility. Areas with specific characteristics, such as mountain areas, need specific instruments and policies addressing their needs. The geomorphology of mountains impacts strongly on land use and land care, on the construction of infrastructures and on the provision of services. **Market failures hinder the supply of certain basic services.** Also from the economic point of view, providing these services is much more expensive than with providing them on the flat land. Maintaining mountain area settled and cultivated plays a very important role also for surrounding urban areas. In this context, policies should support mountain agriculture and its synergies with tourism.

The Permanent Secretariat also supports the need of **rethinking the transport policy**, as stated in paper. Fostering a better integration of transport networks, developing alternatives to road transport, promoting clean technologies and upgrading infrastructures are essential elements. The **Transport Protocol of the Alpine Convention** (already ratified by Member States Austria, France, Germany and Slovenia) identifies these elements as the basis for an integrated transport policy.

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