

**EUSALP PRESIDENCY. TYROL, NOW IT IS YOUR TURN!**  
**Last February 7<sup>th</sup> during a ceremony held in a sunny Innsbruck**  
**Tyrol took over the EUSALP Presidency**



“Cooperation offers the chance to shape the future”, said Günther Platter, Governor of Tyrol, when, in a very symbolic way, Michael Hinterdobler, Director of International Relations at the State Chancellery of Bavaria, on behalf of the Minister Beate Merk, handed the “Kolo wheel” over to him, illustrating that now the Land is in charge of giving direction to the implementation of the European Strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP).

“Under the Tyrolean Presidency, we will work on sustainable solutions for the Alpine region, in cooperation with our partners of the Alpine regions and according to our motto “shaping.future.together. – In the Interest of Alps!”, stated the Governor of Tyrol, Günther Platter, in his opening speech.

The kick-off event was attended at a very high level. Amongst others the Federal President of the Republic of Austria, Alexander Van der Bellen, the Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Sebastian Kurz, Walter Deffaa, Special Adviser to European Commissioner Corina Crețu, in charge of Regional and Urban Policy, the President of the European Committee of the Regions, Karl-Heinz Lambertz, as well as the Governors of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, South Tyrol and Trentino, Laurent Wauquiez, Arno Kompatscher and Ugo Rossi respectively.

The Tyrolean Presidency will focus on the thematic areas of Mobility and Connectivity. Other key topics include sustainable use of natural resources and disaster management, dual education and energy.

In the Alpine area, often interests are in competition over land use, which has been evident from an early date, due to the greatly reduced size of the permanent settlement area. “Therefore, during the Tyrolean Presidency of EUSALP, a series of activities for the sustainable use of soils will be implemented” emphasised Governor Platter. “Climate change will exacerbate natural hazards in the mountains. We therefore know how important it is to develop solutions for the future” he added. “We do not only want to react to disasters, but also actively design strategies, use new technologies and jointly prepare ourselves”. The aim is to develop a joint risk culture in EUSALP by continued cooperation with all those concerned. A step towards the energy of the future is the establishment of a common energy observatory in the Alpine region, which will collect, evaluate and share data. Governor Platter: “We want

to know which energy sources are needed and when to provide them at the right time. We aim to plan for the long-term and make use of the advantages of our homeland, the mountains”.

In his speech Dr. Walter Deffaa, underlined the importance of macro-regional cooperation by emphasizing that “macro-regional strategies have an evident European Value Added. [...] They should be modernized as the whole of Cohesion Policy”. Alexander Van der Bellen, Federal President of the Republic of Austria, in his closing speech reminded that “EUSALP is bringing all seven Alpine countries together at an equal footing aiming to tackle challenges through cooperation based on friendship and mutual trust”.

The Innsbruck meeting was also the opportunity to announce future Presidencies. Austria's Tyrol will be followed by Italy - under the coordination of Lombardy Region - in 2019. It was Giacomo Ciriello, Deputy Director of Lombardy Region's Presidency, who ensured the firm commitment of Italy and Lombardy Region in taking charge of the Presidency of EUSALP. France will follow in 2020.

The EUSALP is the fourth EU macro-regional strategy, adopted by the European Commission in 2015 and endorsed by the European Council in 2016. The Strategy covers a territory inhabited by 80 million people (16 % of the EU) and includes 48 regions in seven countries: Austria, France, Italy, Germany, Slovenia, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The EU Strategy for the Alpine region is a political initiative initiated by the regions and countries involved. It is thus much more than just a collection of individual projects: It is a strategic approach to achieve jointly agreed objectives to boost the development of the Alpine region.

**More information:**

[Work programme of the EUSALP Presidency Tyrol \(EN\)](#)

[Arbeitsprogramm der EUSALP Präsidentschaft Tirol 2018 \(DE\)](#)

[Programme de travail Présidence tyrolienne EUSALP 2018 \(FR\)](#)

[Programma di lavoro Presidenza tirolese di EUSALP 2018 \(IT\)](#)

[Program dela Predsedstvo Tirolske v EUSALP 2018 \(SI\)](#)

80 million people, 7 countries, 48 regions,  
mountains and plains addressing together  
common challenges and opportunities

