



Innsbruck Joint Declaration on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) 25 November 2025

We, the representatives of the Alpine states and regions who have come together as the General Assembly of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) in Innsbruck today,

- **COMMEMORATING** a truly extraordinary Alpine year that marks not only the 10th anniversary of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region - a decade of unprecedented macro-regional cooperation - but also the 25th anniversary of the Interreg Alpine Space Programme, which has fostered cross-border innovation and partnership, and the 30th anniversary of the Alpine Convention's Framework entry into force, establishing the cornerstone of Alpine environmental and sustainable development cooperation,
- **RECOGNISING** the necessary transformation processes in the Alpine region in relation to climate change adaptation, such as mobility transition, energy transition and the transition towards a circular economy, and the need for cooperation to successfully accomplish them,
- **AWARE** of the mounting challenges confronting our macro-region in an era characterised by increasing geopolitical insecurity, climate change impacts and loss of biodiversity intensifying across Alpine territories, increasingly scarce resources requiring more strategic allocation and sustainable management, changing legal and financial framework conditions at European level that demand adaptive strategies and strengthened coordination, and growing societal expectations for tangible results from macro-regional cooperation,
- **RECOGNISING** the need for resources, political support and ownership for the implementation of this strategy,
- **WELCOMING** the fifth EU Commission report on implementation of EU macro-regional strategies and **ACKNOWLEDGING** the EU Council Conclusions on the same report which recognize the need for the strategies to constantly adapt to a changing environment and to new emerging needs and challenges in their respective area,

RECOGNIZING the role that civil society can play in promoting common approaches to address the challenges that concern the Alpine region and **UNDERLINING** the importance of increasing cooperation with municipalities, local communities and civil society with a view to strengthening the effectiveness of the strategy,

- REMINDING the considerations made in the last General Assembly declaration in Brdo that the upcoming Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games offer a unique opportunity for cooperation in the Alpine region as they can contribute to achieving the objectives of EUSALP, notably in terms of green transition, sustainable mobility, economy and social development,

agree on the following:

- (1) AGREE on the revised Action Plan;
- (2) WELCOME the introduction of a mission-oriented approach therein, with the aim to increase the relevance and political steering of the strategy;
- (3) TASK the Executive Board in collaboration with the Action Groups and other relevant stakeholders to start the work on designing mission proposals without delay, based on today's General Assembly's discussion;
- (4) COMMIT to provide strong political engagement as well as the resources needed for the implementation process;
- (5) THANK the European Commission for supporting the revision of the Action Plan and CALL European stakeholders to raise their attention for the Alpine strategy;
- (6) THANK the concerned EU MEP for their commitment and interest in the Alps' matters and needs, that brought to the reviving of the Friends of EUSALP Group of the European Parliament;

on coherence of Actions and effectiveness of Action Groups

- (7) THANK the Action Group members and their Leaders for their continuous commitment and engagement in bringing the implementation of the strategy forward;
- (8) WELCOME the elaboration of policy recommendations by the Action Groups and ENCOURAGE all the strategy stakeholders for consideration in their instruments and activities;



- (9) ACKNOWLEDGE the relevant work done by the Action Groups in view to develop proposals in the areas of the Cross-Cutting Priorities established under the previous presidencies, namely digitalisation, energy transition, water management and circular economy, which has been paving the ground for the new mission-oriented approach;
- (10) ENTRUST the Executive Board and the Action Groups, supported by the strategy secretariat, to renew their efforts for the strategy's implementation, and take appropriate measures for monitoring and impact assessment, also in order to better communicate the added value of the strategy;

on ensuring technical support and mobilizing resources

- (11) THANK the partners of the 4Support EUSALP project as well as the Interreg Alpine Space Programme for jointly ensuring a seamless continuity in the technical support of the Strategy beyond 2025;
- (12) THANK the regions of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Lombardy and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes for taking on the role of the EUSALP Secretariat hosting regions for three more years;
- (13) THANK the EUSALP Secretariat for their support to all stakeholders, thereby contributing strongly to the implementation of strategy on an operational level;
- (14) EMPHASIZE the importance of providing sufficient funding to ensure financing for the technical support beyond June 2029, and ENTRUST the Executive Board to start exploring about future financing options to ensure seamless continuity of support beyond this date;
- (15) UNDERLINE the importance of continuous improvement of governance support structures and administrative capacity at both national, regional and local levels, and of the continued support to the governance and administrative capacity by the Commission and its relevant services;
- (16) STRESS the importance of supporting and accelerating the implementation of Macro-regional Strategies by exchange of good practices and mutual learning between them;



on youth participation

- (17) WELCOME the establishment of a Youth Support Group with dedicated Youth Participation Mentors in each delegation, in order to increase the level and quality of youth participation continuously;
- (18) THANK all youth councillors of the period 2024/2025 for their dedicated commitment for their valuable inputs, ideas and findings, and ENDORSE the list of EUSALP Youth Council members for the period 2025/2026, wishing them every success for their upcoming mandate;
- (19) WELCOME the ongoing exchange of the strategy's Youth Council with other youth participation bodies in the Alpine region to further strengthen youth participation in the Alps;
- (20) COMMIT to fully support the youth councillors in their activities for the strategy to ensure the successful work of the Youth Council and to stay a front runner and source of inspiration for other macro-regional strategies in terms of participation of young persons;
- (21) THANK the region of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté for leading and coordinating the EUSALP youth activities;

on close cooperation with the Alpine Convention and the Interreg Alpine Space Programme

- (22) EMPHASIZE that both, the EU Strategy for the Alpine region and the Alpine Convention are synergetic and complementary in many ways and can be truly transforming the Alpine region towards the better by coordination and cooperation;
- (23) ENCOURAGE strong cooperation between EUSALP implementers and the Alpine Convention working bodies on all areas of common interest with a view to developing synergies among them and strengthening the overall efficiency of both;
- (24) THANK the Interreg Alpine Space Programme for continuously supporting the implementation of the strategy with its projects, WELCOME the Commission's intention to continue the programme starting 2028 and OFFER our availability to jointly shape such a future programme;



on capitalising on the thematic Co-Presidency achievements and legacy

- (25) RECOGNIZE the importance of the thematic priorities of the Austrian-Liechtenstein Co-Presidency of EUSALP and CALL on all EUSALP stakeholders to continue contributing to their implementation, CONSIDERING in particular
- (a) In the field of mobility transition:
- (1) SUPPORTING initiatives on the efficient use of the existing infrastructure for modal shift from road to rail and on sustainable mobility;
 - (2) UNDERLINING the importance of guaranteeing a resilient transport infrastructure that enables the flow of people and goods within and crossing the Alpine region, notwithstanding increasing risks, such as natural hazards, accidents or external security threats;
 - (3) CALLING ON the relevant stakeholders to strengthen their cooperation with a view to taking into account the policy recommendations “Setting an ambitious framework to improve energy efficiency in freight and passenger transport” which shall contribute to achieving the emission reduction targets in the Alpine transport sector and to reduce the final energy consumption, in line with the Avoid-Shift-Improve principle;
 - (4) ACKNOWLEDGING the impact that the EUSALP AG4 “Project labelling” can give in identifying particularly sustainable mobility solutions in the Alpine region with a high cross-border, macroregional and European relevance;
- (b) In the field of energy transition:
- (1) WELCOMING the contributions to the development of approaches aimed at resolving conflicts of land use among various renewable energy sources – such as water, wind and solar power – in cooperation with civil society and other regional stakeholders;
 - (2) ENCOURAGING actions to raise awareness of the importance of water as a sensitive and limited resource, which must be carefully considered in all aspects of the energy transition;
 - (3) CONSIDERING and jointly DEVELOPING transnational electricity grids in the EUSALP area, to enhance energy security, grid stability, resilience and digitalization, while



SAFEGUARDING the interests and needs of the inhabitants of the affected areas and
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the value of nature and the ecological sensibility of the Alpine
arc;

- (4) ENCOURAGING a strengthened cooperation between relevant players in the Alps in
order to share knowledge and coordinate future joint actions related to the energy
transition, including the role of hydrogen;

(c) in the field of transition towards circular building and renovation:

- (1) UNDERLINING that enabling a circular transformation in the building sector, especially
material reuse, requires not only technological progress but also supportive regulatory
conditions and the possibility to test innovative solutions within flexible legal
frameworks;
- (2) ENCOURAGING the exploration of pioneering models that promote material reuse,
climate-adapted design and long-lasting building strategies – aiming to strengthen
regional value chains, reduce environmental and socio-economic impact and foster a
shared Alpine understanding of circular construction;
- (3) ENDORSING initiatives to communicate the advantages of circular construction and
renovation to the public, administration and politics in the Alpine area;

(d) In the field of the territorial dimension of the strategy:

- (1) WELCOMING of the elaboration of a “State of the Territory Report” by the Austrian-
Liechtenstein Co-Presidency which delivers important insights on major challenges of the
Alpine region;
- (2) ENCOURAGING cooperation at the level of Working Bodies of Alpine Convention and
Action Groups of the Strategy in the process of developing an Alpine Spatial
Development Perspective, ENCOURAGING relevant Action Groups to participate in this
process, where useful;
- (3) CONSIDERING that the socio-economic and territorial peculiarities of the Alps might
need a tailor-made approach by identifying appropriate actions to sustain and develop
the economy on the Alps;



on the future of European territorial related policies and strengthening cooperation

- (26) UNDERLINING the role of the Alpine region as a core area in Europe, which contributes decisively to Europe’s cohesion, sustainability and prosperity, and remains particularly exposed to specific geographical and environmental challenges;
- (27) WELCOMING the aim to ensure a continuous and comprehensive role of European funding instruments for implementation of the strategy beyond 2027, which has been brought to attention by France through the work initiated this year and will be further developed under the Bavarian Presidency in 2026;
- (28) CALL ON the European Parliament, European Council and European Commission to consider the following aspects in the re-designing of territorially relevant EU Policies, to
 - (a) CONSIDER the strategic significance of the Alpine region for Europe, as essential natural resource, as a sanctuary of water, biodiversity, a territory with numerous culture assets and a competitive and innovative economy, including with its agropastoral, forestry, energy, industrial and tourism dimensions;
 - (b) ENSURE that mountain-related challenges should be taken into account across the board and across sectors in the EU and national policies;
 - (c) SUPPORT and ENABLE EU and national policies for projects with an inter-regional, cross-border and transnational dimension and also with a view to the specific characteristics of mountain areas as natural and human living spaces and landscapes that stretch beyond physical and administrative borders;
 - (d) ACKNOWLEDGE the significant contribution of EU Cohesion Policy to a stronger, more resilient, and secure Alpine region, and to ENSURE the strong role of EU Cohesion Policy and the Interreg programmes, as the most important instruments for implementing macro-regional strategies and strengthening cross-border and transnational cooperation — both within the European Union and with partners beyond its borders;
 - (e) EMPHASIZE macro-regional strategies in legislative proposals for the period 2028–2034, recognising the key role of macro-regional strategies in place-based approach, encouraging coordination of national and EU financial Instruments, fostering cooperation, addressing

common challenges and objectives, and strengthening social, economic, and territorial cohesion;

closing remarks

- (29) THANK the Austrian-Liechtenstein Co-Presidency for their achievements in successfully steering and finalising the process of revising the Action Plan, based on the prior results of the Swiss and Slovenian Presidencies' achievements, and for the attention given to promote strategic cooperation on issues of great relevance for the future perspective of the Alpine region;
- (30) WISH the incoming Presidency of Bavaria every success for its presidency in 2026.

