

EUSALP – EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

EUSALP ANNUAL FORUM 2023

19th October 2023, Bad Ragaz

Background:

The Annual Forum will be an occasion to review the Swiss Presidency in 2023 together with the political representatives of the four guest cantons and to discuss the new cross-cutting priorities developed jointly by the EUSALP action groups.

The cross-cutting priorities concentrate on digitalisation, energy transition, water management and the circular economy. Extreme weather events, the energy crisis and the global competition facing the Alpine region are daily reminders of just how crucial these issues are.

These priorities enable action groups to intensify their cooperation and to be more creative and innovative by adopting a cross-disciplinary approach. Lastly, there will be opportunities to elaborate on how the EUSALP should move forward so that the strategy can be consolidated and streamlined in the longer term.



Kanton St.Gallen



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CONFÉRENCE DES GOUVERNEMENTS CANTONAUX
CONFERENZA DEI GOVERNI CANTONALI
CONFERENZA DA LAS REGENZAS CHANTUNALAS

AGENDA

Wednesday, 18 October

Venue: Mehrzweckgebäude, Fläscherstrasse 10, 7310 Bad Ragaz

From 19.00 **Welcome Dinner and Reception, Mehrzweckgebäude Bad Ragaz**

Thursday, 19 October

Venue: Hotel Grand Resort, Bernhard-Simonstrasse 20, 7310 Bad Ragaz

Moderation: Roger de Weck, former Director-General of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation

8.30 **Welcome Coffee**

9.00 **Welcome Address**
Markus Dieth, President of the Conference of Cantonal Governments and State Councillor

9.10 **Review and outlook by the political representatives of the host cantons**

- » Marc Mächler, State Councillor Canton St. Gallen (CH)
- » Sylvie Bonvin-Sansonens, State Councillor Canton of Fribourg (CH) tbc
- » Martin Bühler, State Councillor Canton of Grisons (CH)
- » Norman Gobbi, State Councillor Canton of Ticino (CH)

9.30 **Promoting Digitalisation for the Alps**

Introduction with facts and figures: Prof. Tobias Chilla, Universität Erlangen (D)


followed by a discussion with:

- » Luciano Caveri, Councillor for European affairs, innovation, NRP and national mountain policies (IT)
- » Ulrike Domany-Funtan, *fit4internet* (A) tbc
- » Cassiano Luminati, Polo Poschiavo (CH)
- » Konrad Kienle, Mayor Balderschwang, Digitale Hörnerdörfer (D)



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10.00 Accelerating the Energy Transition for a Carbon-Neutral Alpine Region

Introduction with facts and figures: Prof. Tobias Chilla, Universität Erlangen (D)

followed by a discussion with:

- » Chantal Eyméoud, Mayor of Embrun, 2nd Vice President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region (FR) tbc
- » Arno Kompatscher, State Governor South Tyrol (IT)
- » Davide Marconi, Co-Founder and Partner Mobitrends SA (CH) tbc
- » Helen Lückge, Climonomics (D)

10.30 Break

11.00 Promoting a Joint Water Management Transition

Introduction with facts and figures: Prof. Tobias Chilla, Universität Erlangen (D)

followed by a discussion with:

- » Markus Dieth, President of the Conference of Cantonal Governments and State Councillor (CH)
- » Alenka Smerkolj, Secretary General Alpine Convention
- » Youth Council representative
- » Miro Kristan, Soča valley development centre (SI)

11.30 Boosting Circular Economy

Introduction with facts and figures: Prof. Tobias Chilla, Universität Erlangen (D)

followed by a discussion with:

- » Jean-Nicolas Aebischer, Director HEIA-FR (CH) tbc
- » Sonja Eser, Sinnenwandel (A) tbc
- » Clarissa Rhomberg, Stiftung Lebenswertes Liechtenstein (FL)
- » Aleš Pevc, Technology Park Ljubljana, University of Ljubljana (SI) tbc

12.00 Political Answers! Call for cooperation and streamlining of EUSALP

12:30 Lunch



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