EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
Lindau DECLARATION

22 October 2026

We, the representatives of the National and Regional Governments of **Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia** and **Switzerland**, gathered at the General Assembly on 22 October 2026 in Lindau in the framework of the 11th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for Alpine Region (EUSALP):

REAFFIRMING our commitment to continue the joint implementation of the EUSALP for the benefit of more than 80 million people living in 48 regions in seven States, including five European Union Member States and two non-European Union Member States;

RECALLING in this regard the political commitments as outlined by the General Assembly meetings on 25 January 2016 in Brdo pri Kranju (Slovenia), on 13 February 2017 in Rottach-Egern (Bavaria), on 23 November 2017 in Munich (Bavaria), on 20 November 2018 in Innsbruck (Tyrol), on 28 November 2019 in Milan (Italy), on 4 February 2020 in Lyon (France), on 10 December 2020 in Marseille (France), on 14 December 2021 in Nice (France), on 24 November 2022 in Trento (Italy), on 19 October 2023 in Bad Ragaz (St. Gallen), on 14 November 2024 in Brdo pri Kranju (Slovenia) and on 25 November 2025 in Innsbruck (Tyrol);

THANKING Bavaria for the 2026 EUSALP Presidency, especially for the future and innovation-oriented approach, driven by tailor made formats and communication:

March 2026: Alpine Breakfast on the new Multi Annual Financial Framework 2028+ (Brussels), giving the Alpine Region a voice in Brussels on EU funding of EUSALP 2028+. The new financial period currently under preparation and with renewed European policy objectives shall provide the most relevant sources for financing the Strategy's implementation for EU Member States;

June 2026: EUSALP Alpine AI-Hackathon for young students (Kempten), boosting AI driven solutions for sustainable Alpine tourism - with a focus on young talents;

July 2026: EUSALP Digital Alps Conference (Brussels), exploring how digital technologies can unlock the full potential of rural and mountain territories in the Alpine Region;

October 2026: EUSALP Mobility Conference (Munich), addressing key challenges and future perspectives of Alpine passenger and freight transport, as well as cross-border infrastructure planning and

October 2026: EUSALP Energy Conference (Lindau) under the motto **"**The Future of Heat: Innovative Concepts for Sustainable Communities and Cities";

Also **THANKING** the EUSALP Youth Council, the INTERREG Alpine Space Programme, the Alpine Convention and the European Commission for the fruitful cooperation;

ACKNOWLEDGING the excellent work done by all nine EUSALP Action Groups and by the EUSALP Secretariat;

have agreed on the following »**three major EUSALP priorities**« of the Bavarian EUSALP Presidency to strengthen EUSALP's impact for the Alpine Region:

1. STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF EUSALP

To make the new political instrument »EUSALP Missions« a success, we

(1) WELCOME the initiative of the Canton of St. Gallen and Land Vorarlberg to launch the very first EUSALP Mission on „*Establishing the Alpine regions as key players in textile circular economy*";

(2) INVITE Lombardy Region to officially launch the EUSALP Mission on *„Young Entrepreneurs for the Alps: Empowering the Next Generation of Alpine Talents"* as well as France to officially launch the EUSALP Mission on „*Sustainability and Legacy of Major Sports Events in the Alpine region*";

(3) COMMIT to continue to provide strong political engagement as well as the resources needed for the further implementation process and to keep missions as an

inclusive transnational endeavour of cooperation for all Alpine states, regions and stakeholders;

(4) TASK the EUSALP Executive Board together with the EUSALP Action Groups and other stakeholders from the Alpine region to further strengthen the framework conditions for the preparation and the design of the missions and to support the relevant stakeholders in terms of implementation.

To give EUSALP and the Alpine Region a stronger voice in Europe, we

(1) INVITE ArgeAlp as a powerful Alpine multiplier to join political forces with EUSALP and are LOOKING FORWARD to a high-level exchange with ArgeAlp on 22 October 2026 – following up the pioneer work done under the Swiss EUSALP Presidency in 2023;

(2) ENCOURAGE the Alpine Convention to keep its role as key Alpine stakeholder and important partner of the EUSALP to jointly advocate for Alpine interests in Europe;

(3) APPRECIATE the persistent engagement of the Friends of EUSALP Group offering the Strategy a say within the European Parliament as EU co-legislator;

(4) APPRECIATE the initiative by the European Alliance for Mountains, with support of Euromontana, bringing together Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and Members of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) committed to protecting, empowering, and investing in Europe’s mountain areas;

(5) APPRECIATE the ongoing activities of the Youth Council within the Alpine region and in Brussels to spread Alpine matters and opportunities more prominently among young people in Europe.

2. STRENGTHENING THE OPERATIONAL IMPACT OF EUSALP

To keep EUSALP ready for Alpine challenges, we

(1) APPRECIATE the excellent work done by the former Presidencies of Switzerland, Slovenia and Austria / Liechtenstein on the revised EUSALP Action Plan as a thorough update of EUSALP`s major tasks in the coming years;

(2) CALL on all Alpine states, regions and all Alpine stakeholders to participate actively in the sound implementation of initiatives and projects within the new Work Plan Cycle 2026 – 2028;

(3) LOOK FORWARD to the implementation of the EUSALP Work Plans 2026 – 2028 - reflecting the revised EUSALP Action Plan;

(4) INVITE the Alpine States and regions already today to start first reflections in view to further improve the strategy and its political outreach;

(5) INVITE the EUSALP Action Group members to start discussions about new challenges and continuation of their works beyond 2028;

(6) CONTINUE to fully support the EUSALP Youth Council in their activities for the Strategy as dedicated partner of the EUSALP Executive Board and the EUSALP Action Groups, to ensure the successful work of the Youth Council.

3. STRENGTHENING THE FUNDING OF EUSALP

To keep the Alpine Region and EUSALP strong also beyond 2027, we

(1) ADDRESS the need to strengthen the Alpine Region, which represents not only a notable part of the innovative and economic power in Europe, but also remains particularly exposed to specific geographical, environmental, climate and social challenges;

(2) UNDERLINE the role of EUSALP as well-proven strategy of interregional, cross-border and transnational cooperation demonstrating a clear added value towards a stronger, more sustainable, more resilient and secure Alpine region;

(3) ACKNOWLEDGE the strategic role of the INTERREG Alpine Space Programme and stress the importance of the other EU, national, regional and cross-border programmes for the implementation of the Strategy also under the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028+;

(4) ENCOURAGE the Alpine states and regions, the European Parliament and the European Commission, in cooperation with other Macro-regional strategies, to further strengthen the embedding of the EUSALP in all relevant new policy programmes. This should be/ done in order to facilitate the Strategy's implementation and impact - having well in mind and acknowledging that EU funding does not imply legal or financial obligations for non-EU Member States and recognising that Switzerland and Liechtenstein, while fully committed partners within EUSALP, do not take positions on internal EU policy deliberations;

(5) SHARE the commitment that the design of the future EU financial period will continue to provide a solid basis for close and constructive cooperation between EU Member States and with non-EU Member States in the Alpine Region;

(6) THANK the EUSALP Presidency 2026, the Friends of EUSALP Group within the European Parliament, the European Alliance for Mountains, the EUSDR Presidency Bulgaria on behalf of the 4 Macro-regional Strategies (MRS) Trio-Presidencies Format and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region for offering various opportunities to advocate the legitimate interests of EUSALP and mountainous areas in Brussels in this regard.

The EU Member States and EU regions of EUSALP CALL to:

(1) REAFFIRM that art. 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union shall be applied in a complete, non-selective manner throughout the programming framework, including therefore mountains regions;

(2) SUPPORT that Macro-regional Strategies shall be considered during the National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPP) Processes within Member States in order to unfold the full potential of MRS in contributing to cohesion and other EU political priorities. For the same reason, funds and programmes under direct management by

the European Commission, such as the competitiveness fund, shall foresee appropriate interfaces with the MRS;

(3) SUPPORT that the EU programmes and chapters within the area covered by a Macro-regional Strategy shall be programmed and implemented under consideration of EUSALP and the other MRS and in cooperation between the MRS and the respective managing authorities and programming bodies.

Finally, we

(1) THANK all Youth councillors of the period 2025-2026 for their dedicated commitment, their valuable inputs, ideas and findings, ENDORSE the list of new EUSALP Youth Councillor's mandate (2026 - 2027), as laid down in Annex I;

(2) ENDORSE the three EUSALP Mission Notes referred to above, namely the Mission on "Establishing the Alpine regions as key players in textile circular economy", the Mission on "Young Entrepreneurs for the Alps: Empowering the Next Generation of Alpine Talents" and the Mission on "Sustainability and Legacy of Major Sports Events in the Alpine region", as laid down in Annexes II, III and IV;

(3) ENTRUST the EUSALP Presidency 2027 to France, offering our full support and wishing them every success in their work.