

OFFICIAL OPENING

Juanan Gutiérrez Lazpita, President of Euromontana; João Sobrinho Teixeira, President of IPB and Hernâni Dias, President of the Municipality of Bragança, Célia Ramos, Portuguese Secretary of State of Spatial Planning and Nature Conservation welcome the participants for the X European Mountain Convention organised in Bragança, Portugal.



Session 1 : Climate change in European and global policies

HOW MOUNTAIN PEOPLE CAN ADAPT AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE IN MOUNTAIN AREAS? JUANAN GUTIÉRREZ LAZPITA, PRESIDENT OF EUROMONTANA



The President of Euromontana explained why the X European Mountain Convention was organised around the theme of adaptation and attenuation of climate change. The purpose of the conference is to gain a **better understanding of the impact of climate change in mountain areas**, as well as a **better vision of all the integrated attenuation and adaptation strategies** already adopted in the different mountain chains, by presenting national, regional and local strategies against climate change, so that mountain people can prepare themselves better for the anticipated changes. This conference will also **explore the responses and actions by mountain stakeholders** to reduce the impact of climate change and to take advantage of opportunities. **Theme workshops will be held to share good practices and to discuss issues among the many stakeholders on hand** (farmers, researchers, environmentalists, representatives of SMEs, local and regional elected representatives, etc.). Finally, this Convention will help **develop the future strategy of Euromontana** to tackle the challenge of climate change.

COP21: THE SUCCESS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE ECONOMIC AND FOOD SECURITY CHALLENGES, GÉRARD VIATTE, FORMER DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE IN OECD AND FORMER SPECIAL COUNSELLOR TO THE FAO ([presentation available here](#))

Gérard Viatte presented **COP21** and why he considers the **Paris Agreement** which ensued as a success and as an example of an ambitious and successful international negotiation. He then presented the many challenges on the **economic** front, but also for the **management of natural resources**, with concurrently an environmental and a **food security** component. Finally, he presented the **preparation of COP22** by insisting on its importance for international negotiations, but also for national policies and private sector players.



According to him, the success of this holistic and differentiated agreement can be complete only if it has repercussions on the **national and regional policies** which must be **coherent** (to take account of all the economic,

social and environmental policies together), **participatory** (with public-private partners), and **linked to a territorial dimension** (of very strong importance for the mountain areas). They must moreover be supported by **institutional frameworks** so that policies can be implemented efficiently, based on solid evidence underpinned by **multidisciplinary scientific research**, and be **innovative**.

It is important to show how the mountain constitutes a key element in a certain number of identified problems (pasture management, agroforestry, management of natural resources, for instance) and Gérard Viatte recommends maintaining a cross-cutting rather than regionalised approach and **encouraging the States to include specific elements, in their national agreements, on how the mountain can contribute to adaptation to climate change**.

AMBITIOUS NATIONAL POLICIES FOR FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE, CÉLIA RAMOS, PORTUGUESE SECRETARY OF STATE OF SPATIAL PLANNING AND NATURE CONSERVATION



Célia Ramos explained the action of Portugal on adaptation to climate change. Her country has to sign the Paris Agreement in the coming days and an **adaptation strategy has been defined at national level** and implementing tools. This strategy is based on soil, risk and natural disaster management, as well as an increase in vegetation to adapt to such changes better.

As Portugal is particularly sensitive to **forest fires**, the adaptation strategy focuses also on improving fire management throughout better management of fuels, forests and abandoned areas to prevent the desertification of rural and mountain regions.

RUMRA: AN INTERGROUP AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO PUT MOUNTAINS AT THE HEART OF THE EU AGENDA” MERCEDES BRESSO, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND PRESIDENT OF THE RUMRA (RURAL, MOUNTAIN AND REMOTE AREAS) INTERGROUP) ([VIDEO AVAILABLE HERE](#))

Mercedes Bresso explained how the **European parliament and, in particular, her RUMRA intergroup** (Rural, Mountain and Remote Areas) can support mountain areas in general, and in particular so that they can adapt to climate change.

She presented how her **own initiative report on the EUSALP (macro-alpine) strategy** (adopted in September 2016) proposes solutions on how mountain communities can adapt to climate change, by relying on the work of players in the field, particularly in the regions.



Furthermore, the RUMRA intergroup supports the idea of an **agenda for rural areas** presented to the European Commissioner Corina Crecu. To support this idea better, a joint parliamentary initiative report by and between the REGI and AGRI committees is to be drawn up in the beginning of 2017 and a brochure by the vice-presidents of the intergroup will be finalised in the coming month to table concrete ideas that could be included in this agenda for rural areas.

TOWARDS AN EU AGENDA FOR MOUNTAIN AREAS, ILIANA IOTOVA, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
([VIDEO AVAILABLE HERE](#))

Iliana Iotova explained how the European Parliament adopted her **own initiative report on cohesion policy in mountain regions of the EU**, as well as a **specific strategy for mountainous areas in Europe**.

The European Commission has already given some feedback to Mrs Iotova to show its agreement on certain ideas, in particular as regards European territorial cooperation.



Session 2: Scientific approaches: evidence and scenarios of climate change in mountain areas

The moderator – Martin Price, University of the Highlands and Islands, UNESCO Chair for Sustainable Mountain Development – explained that, to better understand climate change in mountain areas requires solid research to provide evidence and data. To encourage this research, MRI (Mountain Research Initiative) published in April 2016 a [Strategic Research Agenda](#), 'Mountains for Europe's Future', explaining for different themes, including climate change, how research in mountain areas could contribute.

FROM THE LAST 100 YEARS TO THE NEXT 100 YEARS: WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THE CLIMATE OF EUROPEAN MOUNTAINS? EVIDENCE AND SCENARIOS; WOLFGANG SCHÖNER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ ([PRESENTATION AVAILABLE HERE](#))



Wolfgang Schöner presented the impacts of climate change in the Alps over the past century in terms of precipitation, snow coverage and temperatures. He explained that **mountains are more sensitive** to changes than other areas. He also presented model outputs of forecast changes in mountain areas for the coming century.

Over the last 30-40 years, **temperatures in the Alps increased more rapidly than at the global level**. However, some uncertainty remains regarding the future, due to the complex mechanisms causing the **Alpine amplification** of climate change. The most obvious and relevant impact of climate change in the Alps is for the **cryosphere (glaciers, snow, permafrost) and related changes of Alpine hydrology/water cycle**.

Climate model simulations for the next 100 years generally show **larger warming for the Alpine region** in comparison to the global level. In the light of the Paris treaty, a **doubling of the global warming is a preventive assumption**. There is still a high uncertainty in scenarios for precipitation. However, an **increase in the frequency and severity of extreme precipitation events is conclusive**.

STILL PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY? EVIDENCE FROM NORWAY ON THE LACK OF SUCCESS IN ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO MOVE FROM "ADJUSTMENTS" TO "TRANSFORMATION" IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION. CARLO AALL, HEAD OF RESEARCH AT WESTERN NORWAY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, PROFESSOR II IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE SOGN OG FJORDANE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ([PRESENTATION AVAILABLE HERE](#))

Carlo Aall explained that **radical measures** are necessary to change our society: the increase of CO₂ emissions obliges us to go further than adaptation and **to transform our societies** if we wish to achieve the objective of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C. In addition, according to the Stockholm Environmental Institute, some climate changes in developing countries have significant indirect impacts on developed countries, which should further encourage us to transform our way of living.

The transformation process is difficult to predict but the result, a **transformed society**, could be fossil-free at least at the beginning and adapted to a different climate. New technologies than can capture CO₂ from the moment it is released could be developed in the future, these could enable us to use fossil fuels again in a cleaner way.

He concluded that rural areas generally have more resilient social structures and that in the future, mountain areas will certainly be an **attractive place** due to their low capital food intensity production and housing capacity.



Session 3: Regional approaches: how are mountain ranges mobilised at political level?

The session presented how the different mountain ranges have developed political protocols, projects, observatories in and outside Europe to deal with climate change and more widely with sustainable development of mountain areas.

THE ALPINE CONVENTION: FROM A POLITICAL PROTOCOL TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS, TAJA FERJANČIČ LAKOTA, PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION ([PRESENTATION AVAILABLE HERE](#))

Taja Ferjancic Lakota explained how the Alpine Convention is organised. Implemented in 1995, the contracting parties of the Alpine Convention are the different States who have signed the treaty. They regularly signed **different political protocols**, including one on climate change, which are **legally binding for the contracting parties**. Working groups and platforms help to implement the actions decided.

In addition, every two years, the Alpine Convention prepares some **report on the state of the Alps** on different topics. The next one will be on the **greening of the economy**, subject of relevance for the adaptation to climate change.

Finally, the Alpine Convention is involved in the EUSALP strategy, on the axis on the **preservation and valorisation of natural resources, including water and cultural resources**, which focuses on soil preservation, mountain farming and sustainable water management.

CARPATHIAN REGION: FROM A STRATEGIC AGENDA ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE TO PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS, PROF. SZALAI, CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE, CARPATHIAN CONVENTION ([PRESENTATION AVAILABLE HERE](#))



The Carpathian Convention has prepared a **strategic agenda on adaptation in the Carpathians**, they have done a planning of adaptation measures with the implementation of three main preparatory actions supported by the EU, namely **CarpatClim** on the climate of the Carpathian region to have some harmonised databased on climate; **CARPIVIA**: an integrated assessment of vulnerability of environmental resources and ecosystem-based adaptation measures and **CarpathCC** with an in-depth assessment of vulnerability of environmental resources and ecosystem-based adaptation measures.

Prof. Szalai explained the different adaptation measures encouraged for agriculture, wetlands, tourism, grasslands and forestry.



Finally, he recommended for the Carpathians to develop **the green economy**, to strengthen the **cooperation with the neighbouring countries**, to develop the need for **adaptation at the local level** and to **strengthen the cooperation with other mountain areas**.

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PYRENEES, IDOIA ARAUZO, CLIMATE CHANGE OBSERVATORY OF THE PYRENEES ([PRESENTATION AVAILABLE HERE](#))



In the Pyrenees, climate change is a priority since 2010. **The Pyrenees Climate Change Observatory has been created**, as a cross-border initiative, promoted by the national governments. It allows to develop some networking work with the scientific community, but also with policy-makers and administrations.

Their work focuses mainly on **climate** (development of a unique database of high quality climate series based on precipitation, temperature), **biodiversity** (monitoring of species and populations of the vascular flora of the Pyrenees), **forests and natural hazards** (understanding the potential impacts of climate change on natural hazards) and **lakes and water**.

The Observatory communicates and disseminates the results, develops new publications, has done a geoportal gathering the data. It also works with other mountain ranges like the Alps and the Carpathians.

MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP: THE EXPERIENCE OF A NON-EUROPEAN MASSIF, MARTIN PRICE, STEERING MEMBER OF THE MOUNTAIN PARTNERSHIP ([PRESENTATION AVAILABLE HERE](#))



The Sustainable Development Goals for 2017 call for revitalizing the **global partnerships for sustainable development** and the 2016 UNSG report on mountains recommends to promote regional mechanisms for transboundary cooperation. This is also what the Mountain Partnership, a network of governments established in 2002, has promoted in the last years.

Martin Price, who represented Euromontana at the Steering Group of the Mountain Partnership, presented how three mountain ranges, outside Europe (**Hindu Kush Himalaya – Andean Initiative and Africa Regional Mountain Initiative**), have worked on climate change and more generally on sustainable development in mountains.

The Mountain Partnership recommends the development of **mountain policies** based on **integrated and precise data** which include only mountain areas without lowlands. The decision-making of these processes will have to be based on the mountain communities.

Finally, to further advocate for the role of mountain areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation, the Mountain Partnership will organise two side events in November 2016 during the COP22 in Morocco.

Session 4: Interlude

TERRITORIAL COHESION AND POLYCENTRISM: ITALIAN STRATEGY IN FAVOUR OF REMOTE AREAS: A PROMISING METHODOLOGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTAIN AREAS, SABRINA LUCATELLI, COORDINATOR OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR INNER AREAS, DEPARTMENT FOR COHESION POLICIES, ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ([PRESENTATION AVAILABLE HERE](#))

Sabrina Lucatelli presented a strategy for the development of Italy's inner areas. Inner areas are areas that have an inadequate provision of essential services, are rich in natural assets and cultural resources, have a low population density, and often have an aging population and high risk of seismic activity. In Italy, inner areas account for almost 60% of the territory and contain 23% of the Italian population. 65% of mountain municipalities are classified as inner areas. The Inner Areas National Strategy puts actions behind the EU Cohesion Policy Territorial Objective and seeks to overcome the rural-urban dichotomy, empower territories and people to revitalize and promote well-being in marginalized areas, and recover currently under-valorized natural and cultural assets in so doing reducing depopulation and the costs associated with rural abandonment. The strategy brings together stakeholders at all levels and uses a participatory approach to local development.

The strategy recognizes that there are several pressures that are acting against success. These include the challenge of balancing the risk of destabilizing or even legitimizing local, conservative elites and disrupting the local order in irreparable ways; the lack of high level technical assistance and local administrative capacity, especially for designing projects; the pressure to provide a quick fix which puts the long-term strategy at risk of being hurried or discontinued; and the difficulty of using local result indicators in policy design and implementation in other areas.

The strategy has the potential to especially benefit mountain areas in Italy and, over the long term, may be able to produce good practices that can be applied in mountain areas across Europe.



Session 5: Designing the way forward for adaptation and mitigation of climate change

The moderator Thomas Egger, Director of SAB, the Swiss centre for mountain regions, led the discussion between four panelists, all policy makers and managing authorities, to gather their reactions on the afternoon's workshops and the support they could bring to initiatives working towards adaptation to climate change in mountain areas.

PANELISTS:

- FABRICE PANNEKOUCKE, AUVERGNE-RHONE-ALPES REGION (FRANCE)
- ROGER RYBERG, BUSKERUD COUNTY COUNCIL (NORWAY)
- ISABEL ELIZALDE, NAVARRE REGION (SPAIN)
- AMÉRICO PEREIRA, INTERMUNICIPAL COMMUNITY OF TERRAS DE TRÁS-OS-MONTES (PORTUGAL)

Is adaptation to climate change the priority for policy makers?

Adaptation to climate change needs to be a priority for policy makers, notwithstanding their political opinions, and the regions have an important role to play in the implementation of territorial programmes or action plans. However, the economy is also a major driver and should be involved in the adaptation process.

In reference to the provocative presentation during Session 2, has Norway transformed its society?

Two Norwegian regions depend entirely on the tourism industry so diverse solutions have been implemented to deal with climate change adaptation, such as snow storing, hydrogen power, etc. thus strongly involving the scientific world and the research community. Concerning the energy thematic, smart grids and green energy sources are the next step.

Research activities have mainly focused on mitigation up until now, what about adaptation?

More dialogue is needed between the politicians and the researchers to reach consistency between the policies being discussed and the reality of what could be done. Organizations such as Euromontana give an opportunity to those two distinct worlds to meet each other.

Is the economy undergoing transformation? Are some sectors beginning to move forward?

It is the role of the citizens to ask for transformation, but people need to be informed to support change and new policies. It is partly the role of institutions to pass on the information. Policy makers also need citizens to be aware of the issues to become involved.

In the case of tourism, tourists are attracted to particular landscapes which must be preserved for the activity to continue. In this case, the economy is a driver for the implementation of sustainable destinations.

Between markets (and market instruments such as labels, local products with added value, green economy branding, etc.) and public policies, which is the main driver?



The decision maker must be transversal, be able to take initiatives. It is possible to evolve towards a green economy without labelling it. It is not something you proclaim but you try and weave it into the market. If the consumer asks for it, the market will regulate itself. Companies should then try and find their niche.

Maladaptation? If we generalize adaptation measures, what are the risks for mountain areas? What special adaptation measures for mountain areas?

There is a special commission within the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region in France to deal with the specificities of mountain territories so there shouldn't be any generalizations made and less risks of maladaptation.

Politics are made from the urban perspective; they must now see the innovation and the future lying within rural areas. Maladaptation is part of the adaptation process, an obstacle to be overcome.



Why is climate change in the hands of the Ministry of the Environment when it is about people and about economy?

Climate change adaptation is a transversal theme, developed in each Ministry in specific plans and programmes. Ex: forestry, water treatment, etc.

Should there be a special financing scheme for climate change adaptation measures or greening over of all policies?

There should of course be integrated measures in every sector and it is already being done at the European scale through the different funds for through RDPs, LEADER, FEADER, Interreg, H2020, etc.

One wish for Euromontana?

Continue creating opportunities for discussions among stakeholders from different geographic origins, professional backgrounds and levels of involvement. Carry out the voice of mountain expertise. Create a brokerage and dissemination platform.

CONCLUSION:

The conclusions of the round table concerning adaptation to climate change in mountain areas were that climate change is a reality. But the effects may differ from one mountain range to another and even within the same mountain range. Therefore, a bottom-up approach is needed as well as a change not only in social behaviours but also of the economy. More dialogue between researchers and politicians is needed. A research agenda on climate change adaptation should be elaborated. Moreover, managing authorities should implement better communication for the general public on one hand and on the other, climate change adaptation should become a cross-sectoral priority if it isn't already.

As mountain areas are especially affected by climate change and need appropriate adaptation measures, it is now up to Euromontana to push for a Mountain Agenda on climate change adaptation based on the final declaration of

Bragança. Euromontana should continue to provide a platform for the dialogue between public authorities, researchers, the civil society and all other relevant stakeholders on this very topic.



Official closure of the X European Mountain Convention

DECLARATION ON EUROMONTANA'S STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION IN MOUNTAIN AREAS, JUANAN GUTIÉRREZ LAZPITA, PRESIDENT OF EUROMONTANA AND MARIE CLOTTEAU, DIRECTOR OF EUROMONTANA ([DECLARATION AVAILABLE HERE](#))

The President and the Director of Euromontana presented the final Bragança declaration: **“Face the challenge of climate change: adaptation for future generations”** which takes into account the results of the two days of discussions of the X European Mountain Convention.

This declaration insists on the need and capacity of mountain people to adapt to climate change by presenting directions for agriculture and forestry, water and energy, biodiversity and protected areas, sustainable tourism, transport and Information and Communication Technologies (ITC) and finally for the management of natural risks.

It insists notably on the necessity to **take into account territorial specificities** and to **recognize the key role played by mountain areas in climate regulation**, calls upon the institutions to implement a **European strategy specific to mountain areas**, to **implement efficient grant programmes and funding opportunities**, to **redirect research and innovation towards adaptation processes** in mountain areas and, to **encourage a virtuous circular economy**.

It also calls upon to **mobilize actors at all levels**, specifically European political decision makers at the national, regional, and local levels, through a **participatory approach**, to encourage the **exchange of good practices in adaptation** and to **raise awareness among mountain actors**, especially among young people, of ways to mitigate climate change including through daily behaviour and activities.

Finally, we, Euromontana, commit to contribute with our activities to develop a **clean, competitive, resilient and low carbon economy for live mountains in Europe** through:

- The development of **European projects** on the theme of adaptation to climate change;
- The stimulation of **multidisciplinary scientific research** through the development of new research projects on the impacts of climate change in mountain areas, and effective communication between researchers and the many local stakeholders;
- The **dissemination of options for adaptation to climate change and good practices** in different European territories;
- Proposals to **better integrate the mountain dimension in the national contributions of the countries** following the Paris Agreement;
- **Lobbying** in the European institutions to encourage them to take into account the **specificities of mountains** in the development of policies and programmes;
- The possibility for our members to have a **platform for dialogue and advice on adaptation to climate change in mountain areas** and support for their local efforts;



- The adoption of **daily behaviours** to fight against climate change through exemplary good practices concerning the consumption of local products, use of adapted mobility, recycling, etc.

EUROPE, A WAY OF HELPING MOUNTAIN PEOPLE TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE: HENRI MALOSSE, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, MEMBER OF THE SECTION OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Henri Malosse brought the event to a close by highlighting the very precise, concrete, and meaningful conclusions of the final Declaration.

After stressing the values and meaning of the community in mountain regions, he made three concrete proposals for mountains and mountainous islands:

1. “On the financial front, we can support the idea of a **“road map or Agenda for mountain regions”** as recommended by the European Parliament’s Mountain Intergroup. 2017 will be the year of preparing new European programmes for the period beyond 2020. Reserving a substantial part of aid for mountain regions, organising global action, giving a bonus to cross-border actions of massifs between different countries, and focusing support on sustainable development, the local economy, facilities for young people, and access to digital technology could constitute priority lines of action.
2. On the legislating front, without waiting for the revision of the Treaties, the European Union could rely on Article **147 of the Lisbon Treaty** which stipulates that ***particular attention shall be paid to regions with very low population density and islands, cross-border and mountain regions.*** European regulations such as those concerning **state aid or public contracts** could be adapted. And above all, experiments in terms of tax exemptions or adaptations of policies and regulations could be initiated.
3. Finally, this new ambition for European mountains can be meaningful only if it relies on a **close partnership with the local elected representatives and local stakeholders of social and economic life:** a new “governance” of some sort, close to the ground, but also very open on cooperation with other territories and regions of Europe. **It is in this respect that Euromontana, which brings together local elected representatives and socio-economic officials from mountain regions in a European framework, is an example for us to follow!** A new democratic fillip for Europe in a manner of speaking one that is sorely needed for that matter.”



He then closed the convention by wishing Euromontana a happy twentieth anniversary and many happy returns.

