

Third Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention

Economy versus Ecology

Should economic growth in Alpine countries be put on top of the priority list even if the environment and cultural heritage are thereby harmed?

With a focus on the Alps as a whole and local aspects.

IC's

- A. Aware of the fact that car traffic caused by tourists is one of the most significant reasons for the ecological destruction of the Alpine regions.
- B. Alarmed by sky-rocketing levels of road transportation, while the levels of train transport are plummeting; we need a solution without disturbing the local economy.
- C. Taking into account high emissions of exhaust fumes caused by unnecessary goods transportation through the Alps.
- D. Taking note of high prices for railway transportation, which leads to low usage of railway systems.
- E. Alarmed by the fact that tourists are unaware of how they pollute the environment.
- F. Takes into account that tourists exploit nature, its beauty and resources.
- G. Is alarmed by the huge pollution in these periods, knowing that winter tourism is concentrated on a few months
- H. Realises that there are laws on pollution (tourists expect fresh air), but that different countries implement them differently and that the implementation is often insufficient.
- I. Convinced that big ski resorts and high-class hotels need an enormous amount of energy, the committee believes that mass tourism is responsible for a wasteful use of energy which could be used in a more proper way.
- J. Deep concern about the effects of glacial melting and about the lack of snow in winter and the future of water resources.
- K. Regretting that the Alps are seen as an attraction rather than as natural heritage, which causes mass tourism harming the Alps.

- L. Emphasising that “clean’n’green” summer tourism is not popular enough.
- M. We think that there is not enough research done on renewable energy.
- N. Referring to the fact that geo-thermal energy could be an example for renewable energy, the committee thinks that it could pose a high financial risk for private households.
- O. Recognising the potential of renewable energy sources and further realising that present energy production harms the environment to an enormous extent;
- P. Seeking new energy sources that will provide enough energy for all needs.
- Q. Alarmed by the fact that resources are getting more and more privatised.
- R. Having considered the studies on CO2 emissions, we are concerned about the great increase of these emissions.
- S. Realising that Alpine forests can be used in a sustainable way.
- T. Further, recognising that low taxes offer an economic benefit but present an ecological catastrophe

OC's

1. - Draws attention to ecological means of transport (trains, buses, charter flights,...) in tourist areas.
- Recommends special discounts for those who use ecological means of transport system.
2. Further requests that lorries, through higher taxes, are forced to use the hop-on-hop-off train system for trans-Alpine routes, giving personal vehicles the possibility to use them as well.
3. Requests more promotion of local products.
4. Supports the lowering of prices for railway transportation.
5. Recommends more information on how to contribute towards the protection of the Alpine regions.
6. Encourages the introduction of obligatory, environmental taxes for tourists in the whole Alpine region to strengthen the tourists' awareness of environmental conservation and to enable new projects.

7. - Emphasises that we have to find ways to make winter tourism more ecological.
 - Suggests making other more ecological activities more attractive for tourists.
 - Considers that we have to advance summer tourism as well.
8. Further requests passing uniform laws and penalties for every Alpine region. - Emphasizes that we have to improve enforcement and control systems.
9. Reminding that the Alpine region is still famous for its winter tourism, the committee draws attention to the efforts to make the region more attractive in, thus making tourism present throughout the whole year.
10. Calls upon the states to reduce CO₂ emissions by enhancing, for example, renewable energy sources, hybrid cars, public transport systems, recycling and energy conservation.
11. Bearing in mind that sometimes transportation is necessary, we have to concentrate on alternative transport systems (trains instead of planes and cars), if possible
12. Endorses the promotion of clean Alpine tourism inside and outside the Alpine regions.
13. Further requests that lorries, through higher taxes, are forced to use the hop-on-hop-off train system for trans-Alpine routes, giving personal vehicles the possibility to use them as well.
14. - Furthermore, our committee requests the government and the private sector to invest more into alternative energy for transport.
 - Furthermore, our committee points out that, in the case of solar energy, much more is to be done to arrive at a positive outcome.
15. The committee requests more governmental support.
16. Approves to encourage renewable energies such as solar and wind by reducing the taxes & supporting research.
17. Support new technologies, that develop new alternative energy sources, such as nuclear fusion.
18. Suggests a complete prohibition on selling water sources and limiting the selling of forests to any private organisation or people.
19. - The committee urges the government to offer cheap and comfortable public transport with frequent connections and to encourage people to use public transport.
 - The committee draws attention to small villages. Our committee suggests offering lower prices for public transport, especially selling low cost tickets for certain periods of time.

20. Encourages the use of wood as a local building and manufacturing material.
21. Endorses the promotion of clean Alpine tourism inside and outside the Alpine regions.
22. Suggests that there special laws should be passes on the conditions of sustainable usage of forests.
23. Further requests to apply biomass for heating and energy production.
24. Emphasises that companies should raise the ecological awareness of their employees and, further, support the workers who arrive at work in an ecologically friendly way wherever possible.
25. Further requests establishing internationally recognised “Alps quality“ labels for high-quality local products.
26. Promotes marketing policies and financial support for high-quality regional products to be applied to industries and local producers, such as farmers.