

Flying Facts

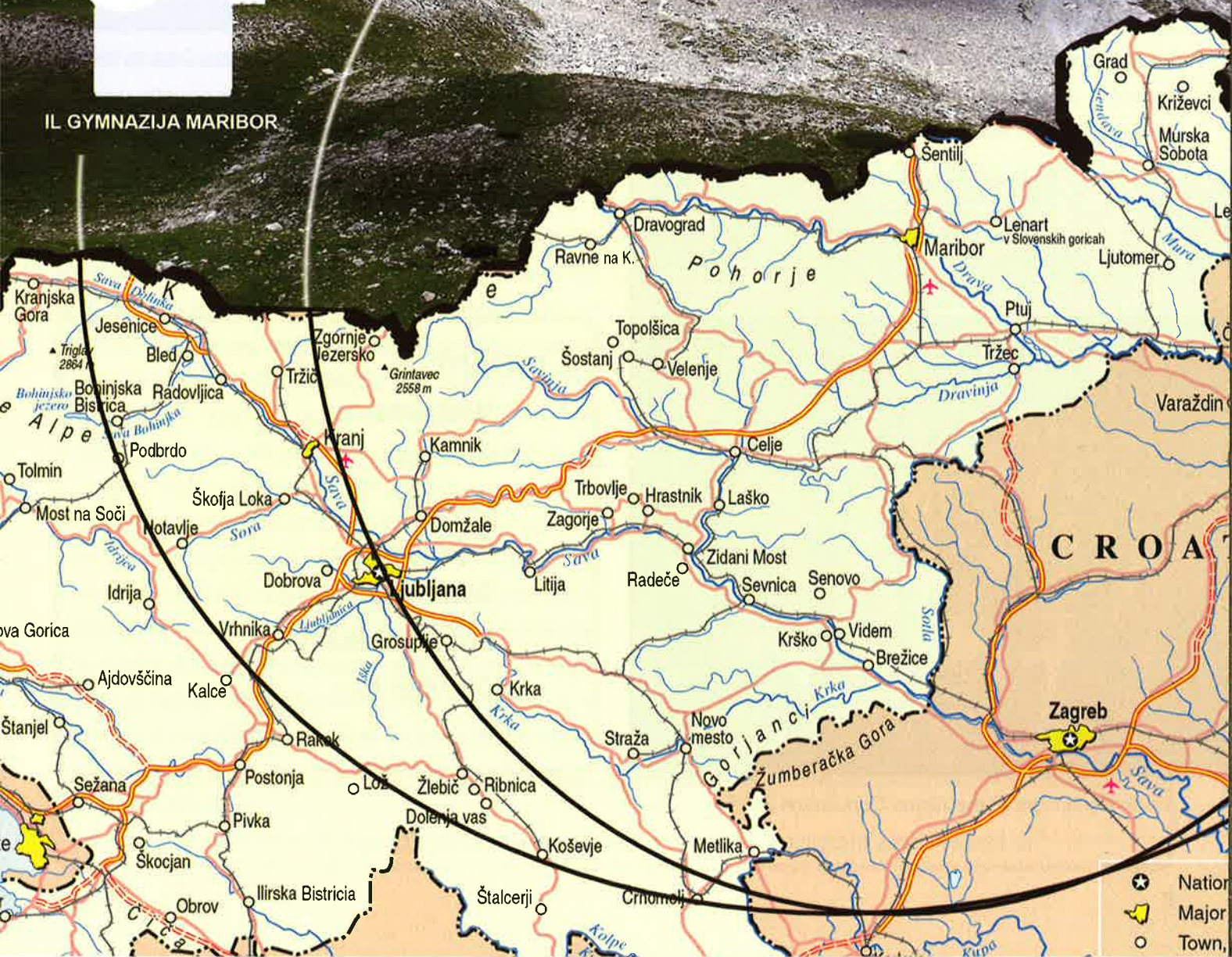
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION 2008



alpenkonvention • convention alpine
convenzione delle alpi • alpska konvencija



IL GYMNAZIJA MARIBOR





Dear Reader,

on the evening of March 4th 2008, students from seven different Alpine countries (Slovenia, Austria, Italy, Germany, Liechtenstein, France and Switzerland) met in Maribor, Slovenia, after a long journey with the train or plane. Their mission? To save the Alps.

The Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention (YPAC) was founded by two Austrian teachers, Mrs. Rauchegger and Mrs. Senhofer. The main target of this organization is to discuss environmental issues within the Alpine region, to find solutions, and address them by simulating a real parliament. However there is one difference and that is that the members are not adults, but young people aged from fifteen to eighteen.

Over three days, the group of students experienced a lot. After the first night with their host families, they received a warm welcome by the mayor of Maribor and the three presidents of YPAC in the Town Hall of Maribor. After a tasteful lunch at a pizzeria, the work began.

The delegates for the General Assembly were divided into four different committees to discuss the topic of "Economy vs. Ecology." On the second day they received some help from an expert who joined them to provide first hand knowledge. Finally, on Friday, the General Assembly, the final meeting, was held in the Town Hall of Maribor. There resolutions and suggestions were further discussed in long and difficult debates, but in the end the majority of the resolutions were accepted by all delegates.

We, the Press Group, accompanied them all along. The journal you are now holding in your hands illustrates the whole progress of the third Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention and intends to remind you of the achievements, the topics under discussion as well as the funny sides of the event. We hope to offer you a good summary of what the YPAC resulted in and to encourage you to take part again next year - we all had a great time and we have learned that this is our best chance to change and improve things!



Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention 2008

Content

- Welcome
- Politics
- Culture
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How things started

The first day after a short, but freezing walk through Maribor, we finally reached the town hall where we had to wait a couple of minutes until the doors were opened for us. Another couple of minutes later - but at least this time we did not freeze to death - the opening ceremony began.



Marco Onida - Secretary General (Alpine Convention)

Compare and Contrast

During the first committee meeting of March 5th I observed what was going on in two different committee rooms. The first committee I sat in on was at the very beginning of the section. There was a lot of brainstorming going on and a bit of commutation on the topic Economy vs. Ecology. The second committee I sat in on was later in the afternoon and they had already chosen a single topic to discuss and were having an open conversation about this.

What I found most fascinating in the two classrooms was the atmosphere. To me, one of the classrooms seemed a bit out of control. I didn't feel that the delegates were respecting each other or their presidents. There was a lot of talking out of turn and the delegates were being very competitive with one another. It was very interesting to me that in the second class-

We heard encouraging words from President Lukas Thöni, Austria. Following that were never ending bouts of thanks, welcoming and almost identical speeches of some special and important guests. Although all types of participants, from delegates to teachers, were honored more than once, there was no need for anybody to mention the attendance of the press group, who were totally excluded. Like last year, there was a person who did not give his speech in English. This gave us the chance to get to know the Slovenian language, and fortunately, he brought a translator with him who made his point perfectly clear.

Beneath many words of appreciation and regard, we got an insight into the personal viewpoint of the politics concerning some topics of the third Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention. They compared future problems concerning the prices and sources of water and oil, respect of nature and different projects to protect it.



room I made the exact opposite experience. In this classroom, the presidents were in full control of the class. The delegates paid total respect to their presidents and each other. They were also completely focused on one topic and had a very good decision about it.

I do not know what caused these extreme differences, but there are many different reasons I could come up

Quote of the day:

"You have to think about the good sides of Global Warming, e.g. we could plant wine in Bavaria."



with. However, this was purely my observation and opinion.

I think there was actually nobody who had a clue what they had to do at the beginning. The preliminary assembly started with a five minute break, because not all the delegates of the Slovenian delegation were present. They had to send one of the presidents to look for the missing one, to convince him to join the group in the end.



Each committee sent one or two speakers to present the topic and work, which they had already done, to the auditory. It was an opportunity to ask factual questions, but not a place to discuss or debate about the resolutions, the president told us more than once. I had the impression that it was pretty hard for some

people not to start a discussion; you could see their brows rising and their eyes rolling. Nevertheless, it actually happened between two delegates, they misunderstood each other and they started a debate, fighting each other with arguments, for at least two or three minutes.

The ambiance was a little rough. You could hear laughing while others were talking - simply ridiculous. One delegate felt offended as there was giggling in the back row, so, as he wanted to say something he added a silent "Shut up!" to the formal "Thank you Mr. President!" into the microphone which seemed to help for a few minutes. Among other people, who could not restrain themselves, some people from the Austrian delegation really acted in a childish way as they could not refrain from uttering stupid, senseless nonsense. One obtrusive delegate refused to give an answer, with the apology that this was not a functional question, but in the end he did answer, after throwing a meaningful comment concerning the function and behavior of the presidents. During his time to ask questions, he was quite rude.

In the end, they all had similar thoughts and resolutions to different questions. At the end there was the possibility for everybody to change OC's or IC's if they wanted to do, e.g. to make it clearer or to bring a new point in.



Committee 3



Committee 1



Showdown- General Assembly

On the last day of YPAC, the General Assembly took place at the Mayor's House of Maribor. Here, delegates debated in order to form the most appropriate conclusions of previous committee meetings. All the committees selected speakers to give speeches to represent a summary of their conclusions, that they had been formed during past committee sessions.

First, *Committee 1* gave its presentation on tourism, to which no objections were made, so no open debate took place. All delegates agreed with the committee and accepted the basic assumptions. Presentations of *Committee 2* opened a debate about tourism and energy. Also some textual changes were made to improve the commit-

tee's OC's. After the third committee had presented their speech, a long debate was opened, in which delegates negotiated on the topic of natural resources. Also some amendments were made to improve and reshape the committee's resolutions.

After the break, *Committee 4* discussed their IC's and OC's on migration. Some stories aroused like the life story of a mother with a nine-years-old daughter and a nine-months-old baby. Then, *Committee 4* went on with the discussion and suddenly the question came up, if we really wanted another dictatorship in Europe. This was expressed as a fear if we close our cities for everybody except for those who have permission to enter. Although the debate

went on for at least an hour, it were always the same topics which were discussed. Each delegate kept their points and actually they did not answer questions directly. As the General Assembly ended, all delegates were desperate for lunch and everybody was glad that the assembly was over and conclusions were made.



Resolutions

The topic which was discussed in this year's YPAC was "Ecology versus Economy". 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 aspect. Some key aspects which were worked out are traffic and infrastructure, tourism, and energy. Should traffic be banned out of the Alpine cities and are road transports through the Alps really necessary? Solutions which are provided are hop-on-hop-off trains that are providing a better working system of railway transportation. Other questions were, for instance, should the prices for the use of the trains be affordable for everybody?

Tourism should not just focus on the cold time of the year. A better spreading throughout the year might

lower the high environmental pollution. Tourism can also be promoted in regions other than the alpine ones of each affected state.

The high CO₂ emission can be lowered by making hybrid cars, public transportation, recycling, and energy conservation more attractive. People should be encouraged to use alternative energy sources by getting state subsidy. It is also very important to use wood as a local building and manufacturing material. Biomass can be used as an energy and heating resource. Furthermore local and internationally recognised labels should be further established and people should be encouraged to buy local products instead of imported ones.

All in all the YPAC 2008 formed 20 IC's and 26 OC's. They did a great job!



Land Without Locked Doors

Yesterday when we arrived at Maribor, we were all really excited: how would it be, living in an unknown family? How could we live without understanding one single word of the language? What would it be like without our daily routine? Staying not even 24 hours in Slovenia, we already gained some very interesting experiences. The next morning we had some unusual stories to tell: one of us sleeps in a room with three girls (he's a boy...), one of us lives in a family who doesn't know how to switch off the TV and one of us isn't allowed to let the dog out, because the gypsies could eat it (we don't know if there has been a mistake in communication, but our informant will try to check this). All Slovenians seem to have a special relationship to bathroom doors: if there is a door and you can close it and there is a lock and a key, it can still happen that you stumble across your host father taking a shower...

Nevertheless we are very thankful that so many families agreed to take care of us. They are so friendly and helpful and they are really trying to make us feel comfortable. Thank you very much!

"Women reigning the world?!"



"Where is your wedding ring?" -
"It's at home, my wife looks after it"
This was the central message of the guided tour through the inner city of Maribor. Sounds strange? Well, here's the story...

At 10:30 a.m. the delegates started the guided tour of Maribor and were split into the four committees. It led them to different interesting places, buildings and monuments with cultural background and importance.

While the guide tried to attract attention, a tall Slovenian native

distracted the delegates with his lecture about the topic: "Who reigns the world". His attitude was simple but clear: "Women reign the world". With this sentence he took over the guidance of the delegates. He showed them the oldest grape-vine of the world, talked about god and the world and spread the rumor that men can't do anything without women. This statement polarized the group and the tour turned into a big discussion about that topic.

We experienced the variety of the historical buildings of Maribor, we were totally impressed by the beauty and monumental architecture which was shown to us. We passed by the eldest church of the town, but unfortunately, had not enough time left to have a look inside to enjoy the brightness of past times.

The most pleasant experience we had occurred when we rested our slightly hurting feet and numb hands (it nearly snowed) with a cup of coffee or the Slovenian kind of "hot chocolate", which turned out to be hot, liquid vanilla pudding. When we wanted to pay the bill, we were happily surprised that the whole thing only cost about ten euro, which included drinks for eight people - in Austria we would have paid about twenty Euros for the same.





Slovenian for beginners



Common phrases

Hello!	Zdravo.	I love you	Rad/-a te imam.
How are you?	Kako si?	I will miss you	Pogrešal/-a te bom.
Thank you	Hvala	Give me a hug	Objemi me
Please	Prosim	Stay in touch.	Oglasi se kaj.
Good afternoon	Dober dan	It was nice meeting you	Lepo te je bilo spoznati.
Good morning	Dobro jutro	I had a really nice time.	Imel/-a sem se zelo lepo.
Good night	Lahko noč	I would stay if I could	Ostal/-a bi, če bi lahko.
Good bye	Adijo	I enjoyed my stay	Užival sem.
Where are you from?	Od kod si?	Hope to see you again	Upam, da se spet vidiva.
How old are you?	Koliko si star?		
Have a good meal	Dober tek!		

Yummy Time

I'm hungry.	Lačen sem.
Beer	Laško
How much does it cost?	Koliko stane... ?
I want to eat...	Jedel bi..
I want to drink..	Pil bi..
Check, please.	Račun, prosim.
I'm a vegetarian.	Sem vegetarijanec.
Where's the toilet?	Kje je wc?



Committee 2



Standing Ovation

After clearing a big buffet of amazing home-cooked food, everyone was very full. But we didn't have a lot of time to lie around with our full stomachs, because it was time to do our committee presentations of our home countries. The delegations had thought out very creative presentations to introduce themselves. After we were nearly shocked to death by the sound of the film of the French delegation, we got an insight into the Austrian scenery with some background music, but that was the end of background music on that evening, because one guy of the Austrian

delegation managed to break the cables.

After that, we saw some talents from different countries: in the delegation of Sonthofen there was a boy who did a performance of "Schuachplattln", and one boy of Switzerland sang and yodeled - we all were impressed and he got standing ovations! South Tyrol had a transvestite with apple boobs because they apparently had no attractive girls to wear the dress. They also stole Andreas Hofer from Austria - but in return, Austria stole Ötzi from them. Liechtenstein showed us a presentation with common rumors about their country, but after going on about how unknown their country is, they called themselves "the small country between Australia and Sweden" - hey! No kangaroos in Austria! Italy told us about "Monte Grappa" where dead soldiers are buried; Slovenia showed us how to bake "potica" and there were a lot of



jokes, but most of them only the Slovenians understood; and last but not least Rosenheim gave us some advices for drinking games like "Finger hackeln" and "Arm-drücken". We all had a good laugh, but afterwards all were pretty tired after a long great day.



Chicken and Beer

After a long working day we went for dinner at Meso Nikel. We were invited by the mayor who didn't even show up! Everybody was excited to have a great dinner. We started with a vegetable soup, which was very exciting. So was the salad and the chicken which we already knew from lunch ("good to see you again, chicken"). We finished with an apple strudel. After the overwhelming experience of a Slovenian dinner we were looking forward to a night of fun in a Slovenian club.

So of course the first club which was recommended by our hosts was already too crowded and we had to move a few meters further. More than fifty students overran the club and were partying until early morning. One of the most fascinating facts was that beers in Slovenia costs not even half of the price as it does in other participating countries. After a night of dancing and screaming all members were glad to have the General Assembly today - sort of!

Interviews with tough guys!

President Lukas Thoeni

Lukas Thöni participated in last years YPAC as a delegate. He decided to become president because he likes the work and was recommended by the last president of the Alpine Convention. He says that he gained new experiences in leadership and management. Lukas looks forward to the general assembly because of the modern location which is provided by the city of Maribor.

He likes to work with the other two presidents and is content with their work. The three presidents split the work so everybody will have enough to do. The two Slovenian presidents were responsible for the preparation and Lukas will do his best to help the committee presidents and delegates. He even has two favorites. His favorite delegate is Veronika Rauch from Austria (how patriotic) because she seems to be well prepared and he knows her from other events she has participated in. His favorite committee president is Nicholas Pleschko from Liechtenstein because he seems to be quite nice and steady.

His impression of Maribor is good and everything seems to be well organized although he would suggest a better communication during the preparatory work. While he walked the floors, he got a first picture of the committees work and is really comfortable with it. He says that the work has to be serious to become successful and there is enough time provided to hang out with old and new friends from each participating country.



Hard name, Soft core

Some moving facts about president Rok Hrzič



Preferred eye colour of your partner for life?
Whichever my partner for life will have.

Is there a need to learn Latin?
We don't really need it... It makes you sound impressive though...

Movie that moved you to tears!
E.T. when I first saw it.

Three reasons for being a woman!
Well, I can't really think of a reason why it wouldn't be good.



Cats and Dogs

Some hardly achieved facts about president Jan Savinc

Greatest fascination?

Cats. And the unconscious.

Favorite travel destination?

There and back again?

Worst injury?

I broke my leg while snowboarding.

Or perhaps some shit that happened to me in my childhood and I don't remember it now.

Craziest experience?

Tool concert. Or maybe when I was in Scotland and I got food poisoning and I kept vomiting for two days.

Who is your idol and why?

William Bennett, Mahatma Gandhi, Jim Jones, Douglas Pearce, David Tibet, Genesis P-Orridge, Timothy Leary, Albert Hoffmann... Because all of them managed to make something special of themselves.

Best family memory?

When I was three, I traded my baby-bottle for a Lego castle. I only regretted the trade the day after.



YPAC - Organizers



The Ridiculous Plan of Committee 4

The vibe of the committee meeting is completely under control. All members try to look nice while a journalist is sitting in the room. But what if the journalist leaves? What happens then? Does the work stay as serious as it is when he stays in the room or does the mood become more party like? Well we won't ever know what really happens when the delegates are without a visitor from outside. Does the formal "Thank you Mr. President" disappear? It's a complot. The Austrian representative does not want to spend her whole life in Austria; she wants to go to Asia. Maybe she and the other delega-

tes of Committee Four are planning to leave Europe and flee to Asia because they don't want to feel the sterile surrounding of the Alpine Convention any longer. Maybe they plan to take over any Asian state to build and set up a new enterprise for tourist. They plan to bring the mass tourism away from the European Alps and move it to the Japanese Alps. A Slovenian delegate said that all shops in Cortina are ran by Asian people; so maybe the delegates of Committee Four will go to Japan and take over the Asian shops. It will become a kind of cultural exchange. I personally think that it

would be a great conclusion to make our problem to a Japanese one. Of course we know that these things are not true and that our delegates are working like hell to get a great and serious solution and aren't planning to take over any Asian countries.

Most attractive



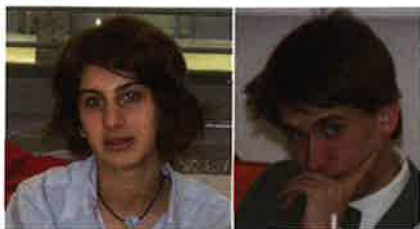
Christian Annika

Smartest



Eva Domen

Best Debater



Arianna Albert

Biggest Partier



Zala Lukas

Funniest



Lara Daniel

Know-it-all



Julia Florian

Survey

We asked several people about their personal favourite of six different categories

Here are the winners:

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

To our new
YPAC- Celebrities
2008



Don't say anything!

What kind of music do you listen to?

Beat Ospelt, Liechtenstein



Christian Wirtensohn, Germany



Daniel Kratschmayer, Germany



You see a pretty girl/boy and you want get her/him. How do you look at?

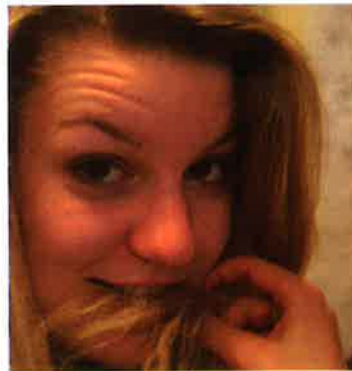
Eva Nike Cviki, Slovenia



Beat Ospelt, Liechtenstein



Stella Ana Valek, Slovenia



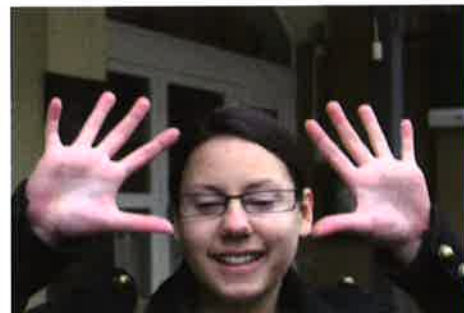
What do you think about the dress code?

Christian Wirtensohn, Germany



How many cups of coffee did you drink?

Eva Nike Cviki, Slovenia



How did you sleep?

Florin Hasler, Lichtenstein





Résumé

The third YPAC in Maribor finished with great success! Every single participant enjoyed his time in Slovenia. Everyone was delighted by the great hospitality of the Slovenians; especially within the host families. After two days of open discussion and working very hard in committees, everybody made new friends and gained new experiences. As highlighted Friday evening at the farewell party where everybody was dancing and enjoying his last get together with all

YPAC participants. It was great fun and thanks again to the Austrian delegation for their tunes. Unfortunately the Swiss and German (Sonthofen) delegations had to leave the next day so they couldn't participate in our field trip through Slovenia. We all had a great time due to our terrific guides. I personally am really looking forward to the next YPAC and I hope I will meet a lot of familiar faces.

Who we are - Pretty Press



A democracy is based on four columns: executive, judicative, legislative and the fourth is the press. Without the press there would not exist any real democratic system. If people are not informed what is going on, they cannot make up their mind and therefore the freedom of opinion, an important requirement for a democracy, would not be possible.

So obviously there has to be a press at a simulation of a political meeting like the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention. This press group - we prefer the

expression press delegation - consists of members from three different countries, Austria, Germany and Slovenia. We are editors, journalists, photographers, filmmakers, webmasters and the heads: the editors-in-chief.

Our job is mainly to observe all actions which are going on at the parliament, like committee meetings, and to report about it afterwards. Our task is to clothe information into attractive articles. So in case, our newspaper is not always that pleasant for everybody to read, bear in mind that it is also our task as the press team to be critical. Nobody should take that personally, but sometimes there is no way to avoid annoying people a little bit. Besides criticizing, the press wants to entertain their readers with funny articles about things which never happened or are slightly changed into more entertaining facts.

Letter to the Editor

I have a dream...

Today was the Preliminary Assembly. As a spectator without the permission to debate with them, it is already hard to be at a delegation meeting and say nothing, but today it was almost impossible.

There are some dreamers in the delegation, with ICs and OCs far beyond comprehension. Things without

any realistic or suggestive background, which makes me think about the preparation of the delegates. Things like, "We have to spread tourist from just the winter to throughout the whole year because they damage the nature." makes me ask the question: "What's the difference between the same amount of tourists only in winter or spread over the whole year?"



but not one of the about 40 delegates thought the same as I.

"We take the money from the economy and invest it in ecology." are things that make me shake my head. When somebody asked where the money should come from they gave answers like "We raise the taxes" yes, and everything going to be alright. Which enterprises would stay in the Alpine Region when they could produce their product somewhere else much cheaper?

I am anxious about the general assembly tomorrow, because if there are no changes, the people at the



real Alpine Convention will laugh about the unrealistic proposals of the YPAC.

My First Time...

...at a YPAC committee

You have to know, this is my first time at the YPAC as a press delegate, so I didn't know what expects me. I volunteered to observe a committee meeting of the delegation 2. It was also the first meeting for them at YPAC. Under the guidance of the two Committee-presidents, students from Austria, South Tyrol, Italy, Liechtenstein, Germany, Slovenia, Switzerland and France debate about the topic of the YPAC "economy vs. ecology". The aim in this meeting is to find IC and OC. But what the hell are these, you will ask. I will describe it to you: IC means introducing clause and OC operative clause. The IC is a concrete problem they try to agree about and the OC is a solution for it. They try to find as many OC for one IC as possible to achieve something at the General Assembly.

The first big surprise for me was that the participants had to raise their cards, if they want to say something, and then the president chooses them. When he does that, they have to say "Thank you Mr. President." Without that, there is no talking. After that little surprise and a short introduction of themselves the debate starts or not. Nobody was brave enough to start talking about where economy and ecology clash. But Germany saved the day and guided the discussion in the direction of winter tourism and his influence on economy.

And not much later they had their first IC.

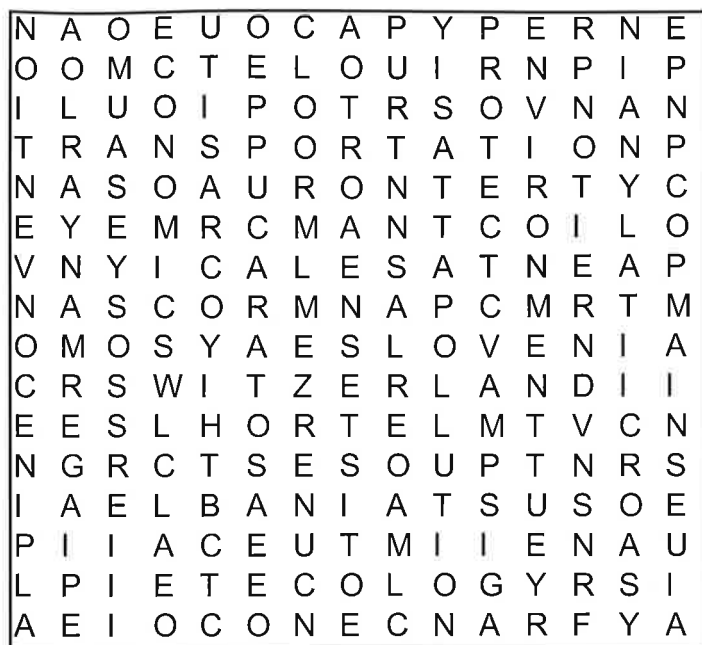
Austria brought out a second IC by debating with itself. Yes, you read right, Austria was debating with itself, because no other had to say something. Then they had two IC's, but for the presidents it was not enough, so Germany tried to direct them in the direction of summer tourism within the Alps, but it wasn't the right topic for the group. So a new topic had to come up, before the people fell asleep. And now it was Liechtensteins turn. It asked about the influence of emissions on all living beings. It had a good response from the others but the discussion was really heated on by the comment of Germany: "You have to think about the good sides of global warming, e. g. we could plant wine in Bavaria"

When the expert came to join their meeting they had a lot of questions, and for the first time, after about four hours, Italy said something for the first time. And if you believe it or not, after the expert went off they said something again. At the end they found a three IC's about the research for renewable energy is to less. This was my first day at the YPAC and the committee meeting of the Delegation 2. It was quite interesting but also hard to hear people debating and not to be allowed to say anything. Maybe next year I will be a delegate.

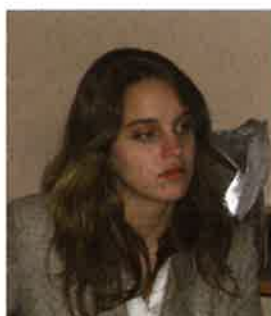


YPAC Word Search

Find all the words having to do with YPAC in all directions.



Alpine Convention	Switzerland	Tourism
Germany	Economics	Pollution
YPAC	Ecology	Transportation
Environment	CIPRA	Parliament
Protect	Sustainable	Alps
Slovenia	Italy	France
Liechtenstein	Austria	



Body Quiz

Match four of the bodies with the heads. One body has to stay head-less.



Time to say goodbye

And this is the end of YPAC 2008 - we all achieved a lot of new and interesting experiences, we all got to know a lot of new people and last but not least we had a lot of fun. Unfortunately it always ends at the best point, but those of us who are going to participate again next year are certainly looking forward to it. So we

THANK YOU



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MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCOLOGIE,
DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
ET DE L'AMÉNAGEMENT
DURABLES

swarco
The Link Between Road And Driver



Europa



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and of course:

Parents

Teachers

and

Host families

FLAG

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flying facts