

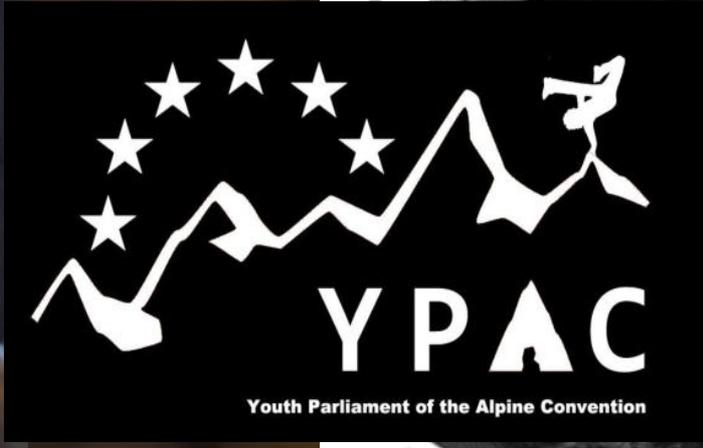


# Flying Facts

29<sup>th</sup> march 2011

# YPAC

Youth Parliament  
of the  
Alpine  
Convention



## Dear Reader...

Dear reader,

we welcome you to the 6<sup>th</sup> Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention in Herisau, Switzerland.



We shortly want to introduce ourselves, the press group 2011 and the Flying Facts.

We are 24 people from seven countries and 10 different schools. All of us are really glad to write for you every day. Our newspaper „Flying Facts“ will be handed out freshly printed by the „Appenzeller Zeitung“ every morning and we hope to offer you a good summary of the day.

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, students from the seven Alpine Countries arrived in Herisau, Switzerland, all with the vision to discuss current topics concerning all of us and trying to find resolutions for the 4 different subjects all relating to the umbrella topic 2011 „traffic and transit in the Alpine Countries“.

The Youth Parliament took place in Innsbruck, Austria, in 2006 for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. Since then, a lot has changed. But the aim to find resolutions for topics concerning environmental issues in Alpine Regions by involving the youth is still the same.

For the next couple of days, delegates will meet in 4 different committees to discuss about the topics and to find resolutions to present at the General Assembly and then send to the governments of the participating countries.

Today, the YPAC started with the Welcome Address from the Host & Alpine Europe in the Einwohnerratssaal and was followed by the Expert Meeting.

After Lunch, the 1<sup>st</sup> Committee Meetings took place and the day ended with the Opening Ceremony at Mount Säntis.

We hope you'll enjoy reading the Flying Facts,  
yours press team.

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## Welcome Address From the Host

The first meeting of the YPAC 2011 in Herisau, started with the salutation of the three presidents, Anna Eugster, Olivia Rauchegger and Michael Andergassen.

Afterwards, each delegation had to introduce their home town, themselves and finally they had to explain us how the traffic situation works in their area. Everybody had its own way of presenting:

movies, power points, sketches or even jokes!

In the following, we will give you some examples.

The Austrians are jokers, they started with 'who wants to be a millionaire' so now we know that a Tyrolean is able to whistle like a marmot. As a punishment for the right answer you won a sweet headshot. In Bassano del Grappa they have a really weird and different way to wake people up, indeed they just drink a grappa shot...

Did you know that Rosenheim has the second biggest drug market in Germany? And this mostly because they are so close to the Austrian border? And moreover this town, they are shoe fanatics... All this sounds crazy right?

In Liechtenstein, the smallest country participating at the YPAC, they have great flashy yellow buses. Their train station made big laughter in the public...indeed two trains per

day...

The delegation from Kamnik presented us a nice clip of their region where they showed us a bit of the landscape in Slovenia. In the video they 'climbed' a mountain with a... gondola!

Between the presentations, there were speeches of important people who have a crucial function to set up the YPAC in Herisau. Nicolai Kozakiewicz welcomed us and explained the aim of the YPAC. Furthermore Dr. Eugster, headmaster of the canton school, added some nice words. In an interview, the local council president of Herisau Paul Signer gave us a good advice: 'If you work hard you will be successful', this is why the YPAC can be a major actor in the sustainable development in the Alps. **'Let's go for it!'**



30 March Wednesday	31 March Thursday	1 April Friday	2 April Saturday
0°- 14°	2°- 12°	4°- 18°	5°- 21°



Freight/Industrial Transport

## EXPERT MEETING



**More rail – less road** How should we handle freight and industrial transport in the alpine regions? Is a new solution possible? What are the advantages and disadvantages?

These were some of the most important questions for the delegates from committee number one. At first, Catherine Huguenin showed the delegates a presentation about the traffic situation in Switzerland. She was giving different information and she showed an interesting film about the NRL (NRL is a huge railway line in Switzerland). After the presentation of the expert the delegates and the presidency had time to ask the expert some questions. The

delegates purred the question about the money to finance different railway projects. An important argument in the discussion was the situation of the

economy in the Alpine countries, because a change of the traffic system would be a change for the people and the local economies as well.

## Committee Meeting:

Committee 1 spent a lot of time in searching a definition of the issue: after a quite long discussion they decided to focus on two aspects of the public transport problem. On the one hand, they discussed about the need of having more rails and less roads but after a little while the problem shifted away. In fact, they all agreed on the fact that there are too many unnecessary means of transport and they proved it with some curios examples. Then they kept on talking about the economical side of the issue: they recognized, indeed, the importance of supporting national prod-ucts in order to avoid the con-gestion of traffic and help local business. On the other hand, they

focused on the lack of communications between countries, that is strictly connected to the first part of the discussion. Every member of the committee was interested in the problem and took part in the dialogue. They had very different ideas but the presidents did a great work as moderators. It was a great discussion and it only was hard to find out a definition of the problem, because of the variety of opinions. Finally they managed to give a satisfying definition of "unnecessary transport" (e.g. empty lorries, excessive import and export of products) and resolutions started to be developed.

Public Transport

**Committee 2**

**'How should we handle public transportation in Alpine regions?'**

In committee 2, Toni Aschwanden, a member of the 'Alpine-Initiave' Switzerland held a lecture about the public transports in

the Alps. He gave examples of public transport and depicted possible measures to reduce individual transport and to extend public transport (so for example car sharing, implantation of travel plans for

## Expert Meeting

workplace and school). He said that people are often not well enough informed about the timetables of trains and busses and therefore do not use public transports. Besides, Mr. Aschwanden tried to explain the delegates that good interconnections and close walking distances between trains and busses are much more important than high speed. Another very important topic he mentioned is 'transport in climate change'.

In the last part of his presentation the expert referred to Hermann Knoflacher, an

Austrian professor who invented the so called 'walkmobile' (Gehzeug) to show how much space a car needs in a city. While and especially after the presentation the delegates had the possibility to ask the expert some questions. (for more information just write an email to: [toni.aschwanden@alpeninitiative.ch](mailto:toni.aschwanden@alpeninitiative.ch))

What we should not underestimate is one question: Could massive investment in public traffic cause the same problems that we nowadays have and now want to reduce by expanding public transport???

## Committee meeting:

No time for embarrassing silences in committee 2: as soon as we entered their room we felt that it was the perfect environment in which discuss about the problems of the public traffic in Alpine regions. Almost everybody was participating to the dialogue which often ended up with a relaxing lough. In the morning they met an expert, whom they followed with interest and questions were a lot. However, the power point of the group seems to be the sense of

humor, accompanied by responsibility the theme needs. Competition is not excluded, we noticed a division between the Italian and Slovenian committees but only in order to bring a wider area of ideas in the discussion. Actually the division was behold on two different points of view, the economical and the eco friendly one, while the rest of the committee was working on balancing the situation, therefore ending the clash.

So, keep on working this way guys!

Individual Transport and Tourism

## Expert Meeting

The Committee 3, which is specialized on the individual transport, started right away with an expert meeting. Firstly, the expert Peter Schild, who is active at the "Federal

Office for Spatial Development ARE" gave an informational introduction to the committee members about the subject sustainable mobility and leisure traffic.



**Committee 3**



The last few years the environment was polluted more and more not only because of the leisure traffic that makes up 44.7 % of

the daily travel. This made the “Service Center for Innovative and Sustainable Mobility” look for new and economic ways. So they are supporting several projects that have exactly this aim.

One project, which impressed the committee a lot, is the “Bike Rental System” in Biel. A magnet card can be bought with which you are allowed to take a bike from a bike station and bring it after the ride back to any of the stations spread out in the city.

Another supported project they liked is the “[www.e-covoiturage.ch](http://www.e-covoiturage.ch)”. Anyone who looks for a drive to some place can sign up on that homepage. Departure and arrival times can be inserted so that the Internet searches someone who is travelling the same way like oneself and informs you via text message with his/her phone number and you can call for a ride.

After the introduction the second part of the meeting, the discussion, started. Everyone was dedicated and constructive and there was a really good atmosphere in the meeting room.

The main projects they talked about were the two projects “Bike Rental System in

Biel” and “[www.e-covoiturage.ch](http://www.e-covoiturage.ch)”. Quickly they saw advantages and disadvantages of these projects. For example not everyone is willing to sit in a car with a stranger.

Another point was the lack of buses in small villages that are far away from the city.

The problem is that only very few people need a bus ride. On the other hand there are crowded buses in the cities during rush hour.

A good aspect was that there has to be changed something in mobility but also about the schools and the working schedules.

Why do all the schools start and end at the same time so that everyone needs to get home when everyone does? Or is it not possible that some people do more of their work at home so that they do not have to use a vehicle all the time?

These questions encouraged the delegate to a vivid discussion.

Also the expert Peter Schild mentioned that in the interview. He sees the group as very “vivid and constructive”.

In an interview we had the pleasure to get some information about him. As we already know, Mr. Schild works at the “Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE”. But how did he get in there? He went to a professional school of tourism where he first got in touch with individual traffic and their problems. After that he had a internship at the “Traffic Club”. Inspired by the work there it led him to the “Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE”.

## Committee Meeting

After the Expert meeting in the morning, the delegates of committee 3 started to work on their topic "Individual Transport". But first of all they began to collect their ideas, about the layout of a postcard, which they had to design. Afterwards, the postcards should be sent to politicians or other important persons interested in the YPAC. They discussed actively different suggestions, mainly made by Yannis Hoch from Liechtenstein and Patrik Gubelj from Slovenia who, sometimes, missed to talk English .. So in the end they democratically voted to make a collage composed by the slogan "8

countries, 1 region" with the message "why so lazy?" and a picture of the Alps. About one hour later, the committee president Jan Kovačič reminded the delegates to work on the main topic. Their expert had suggested them to subdivide their topic into special themes. They concentrated on a possible network for bike renting but most of all discussed how to improve car sharing and the new idea of a call taxi instead of using buses. This idea of a call taxi is like using buses only within the rush-hours and apart from that call a service to pick them up.

## Committee 4

Environment, health and traffic

### Expert Meeting



Although the expert meeting of committee 4 was planned to take place in the morning, it actually started after lunch in the casino, because the expert Toni Aschwanger from the organization CIPRA couldn't be there in time. Through power point presentations, he helped the delegates to gain an insight to their topic "Health and Environment". He informed the attentive, listening committee about negative effects on human beings' health, such as physical diseases like

asthma or cancer and psychical ones like stress or sleep deprivation. He named a couple of possible policy instruments like night driving bans, noise protections, sectorial transport bans or heavy vehicle fees, which have already been launched in Switzerland. At this, negative arguments of the economic sight could be disproved, because since there are approached fees, the companies have to fill their trucks completely up and invest in new environment-friendly engines. The expert warned, that transport is still growing, in spite research new offers and better developed technologies. With the given information, especially because the committee was able to receive some of

the documents, the delegates will be able to have interesting discussions the next days.

## 1st Committee Meeting:

Due to the missing of the expert for committee 4, this committee has already tried to start their discussions in the morning. Since the program couldn't be held as planned, the delegates made use of the spare time and started with introducing themselves to the group, followed by a brain storming concerning their topic "Health & Environment". It occurred a heated debate in which especially the delegates from Slovenia, Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Liechtenstein were involved. Issues like air & noise pollution or the traffic systems/public transport of the Alpine states (especially Italy's) have been named. The delegates showed the disadvantages and advantages of their

countries, after that they debated on solutions for the most important points of the previous brain storming. During the discussion, it became more and more obvious that our delegates have completely different points of view. When the time came to find a solution for the noise pollution, the Liechtensteiner delegate argued, that barriers can't be a solution for every country because there is no place to build them up. The French delegate – who had supported the idea of the barriers at first – changed her mind because the highways in Italy are too long to build these barriers. Besides this, there was the argument to raise the petroleum taxes. We are looking forward to follow this interesting debate in the upcoming days.

### Fun Facts

A J L I E C H T E N S T E I N  
 A D S E T H F S E G W S I L D  
 L E S A Q F V E A E Q W D E W  
 O M F T S W I Z E R L A N D J  
 E Y V N N L X L A M O W A I U  
 G P H A U S T R I A E C A N P  
 H S M L F R G K T N A D Z I R  
 T E K P F E L J A Y F S R B N  
 U S I S U H W D L S W L E H T  
 Q G H I K R E U Y H D O R J I  
 E Y P A C G S A H K T V E G I S  
 R K A E H O D C G O D E H D R  
 S L S W T E S H F R A N C E S  
 W T R A N S I T N M S I Q U E  
 L Y X R U V S E L I Z A J F L

Find the 10 words!

## HOROSCOPE:

## Delegates :

**Love:** Today you will meet a person, who will impress you a lot. If you dare, just ask him/her to go out with you.

**Health:** Do a lot of sport today and in the evening – take a bath and try to get a massage. Go to bed early and you will stay healthy.

**Career:** You will get a promotion if you work hard for the next week.

## Committee Presidents & Presidents :

**Love:** Today is a good day to break up with your boy/girlfriend!

**Health:** If you're a little bit ill, stay at home, have a nice day. Don't exhaust yourself. Hang around and watch a film or something.

**Career:** Work hard today, then you won't have much left for tomorrow!

## Press Group :

**Love:** Talk to your partner today. It's a good time to solve problems and find solutions!

**Health:** Try to do a lot of sport and then sleep a lot.

**Career:** The following days some exhaustions will trouble you in your job. But if you try hard you won't lose your job.

## Little Dictionary:

<b>English</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>French</b>
Hello.	Hallo.	Salut.
Please.	Bitte.	S'il te plait.
Thanks.	Danke.	Merci.

To get to know somebody:

What's your name?	Wie heißt du?	Comment tu t'appelles?
Where are you from?	Woher kommst du?	Où est-ce que tu viens?
How old are you?	Wie alt bist du?	Tu est quel âge?
My name is...	Mein Name ist...	Je m'appelle...
I'm from...	Ich komme aus...	Je viens de...

... will be continued the following days with the rest of the languages spoken in the participating countries!

## In comparison...



The first lunch we ate together at the YPAC 2011 was Spaghetti. In Italy you can find them in many different variations. There are spaghetti with *pesto*, which mainly consists of basil and cheese, *ragu*, made

of meat, with vegetables, with Carbonara (which is a sauce with milk, ham and eggs) or simply with tomato

sauce.

I think Spaghetti are favored because they are easy to cook and most of the time they are good, also the Spaghetti from the YPAC cooking team were delicious. Most of the participants had chosen the Spaghetti with meat.

In Italy we eat them 'al dente', which means that we don't let them in the boiling water for a long time.

## First Impressions

YPAC has always been a highlight of the school year, and so it is this year as well and I guess that everybody has been gladly looking forward to this event.

On Monday afternoon, after an exhausting 4-hour-trip from Rosenheim to St. Gallen my delegation finally arrived at the St. Gallen train station. But what would be the

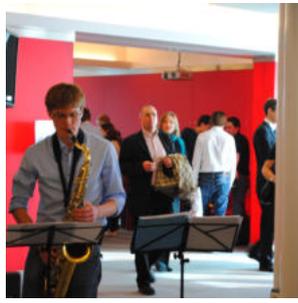
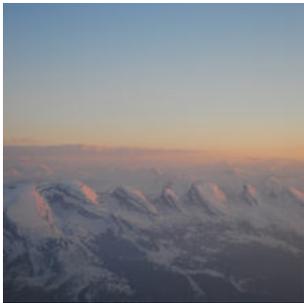
differences to our hometown? The first thing that comes to ones mind in this point is the cheerful language. By adding the syllable -li at the end of some german words, it sounds even more funny.

Although my host family is originally from Bielefeld, Germany, I was able to enjoy the special Swiss language skills, since the family was listening to a Swiss radio channel and the kids are also able to perfectly speak this special dialect. And although my delegation from Bavaria is used to listen to the strong Bavarian dialect, this one spoken here seems to be from another space...with its special sound

one just can't help but love it!!

Another fantastic thing to enjoy is the fascinating view of the unbelievably close Alps and their highest mountain, the Säntis. Fitting perfectly into the magnificent landscape of Appenzell, the typical wood-paneled houses are ever-present when driving or walking through the villages.

Collectively, all of us have been welcomed very heartily and can now relaxingly look forward to spending an awesome week in Switzerland! Thank you for the great organisation and for our wonderful hostfamilies!



## Mount Säntis

Our first evening was in the well known Säntis restaurant, there was a great opening ceremony with some honourable guests. We started with a fancy welcome drink and we truly felt like VIP's visiting another country. The first honourable guest which held a speech and that we are going to talk about is a politician, Rolf Degen. He is in the Kantonalrat. He talked a lot about the beauty of Appenzell to remind us that if we want to preserve it, we need to take care of it and that means the same for all the Alps. This is one of the reasons why the YPAC is truly important and can have a major weight in the political decisions. He thinks that we, the youth, are the future and that it is important that we find solutions that are not influenced by a certain party.

We had as well a little talk with Hans Höhener, he is the president of the council

management of Säntis. He said that the Alps are our home and that we need to preserve them and that the parliament is important because of the social network. "... the young people should show the elder people what they are able to manage and that they can take responsibilities." A truly kind and very important person for the Alpine Convention, Regula Inhof. She held a really interesting speech about sustainable development. And warned us that making resolutions is a really long way - the best step to start is to do actions on ones own! All of the guests we interviewed came to the same conclusion and told us : "Environment, water and energy are the most important topics."

**So participants of the YPAC work as hard as you can and we will save our mountains!**