



RESOLUTIONS OF YPAC 2015 KAMNIK, MARCH 2015

COMMITTEE 1: Soil

POSTULATION 1: Wise soil management

This postulation is about dividing the Alpine region's soil into three groups based on its quality in order to regulate the soil usage and thus protect it.

Observing the agricultural process in the Alps, we have noticed that the number of urban areas built on productive soil is increasing. In order to stop that development, it would be useful to make soil analyses and create three zones according to definite criteria, e.g. the amount of nutrients or the biodiversity.

Areas in which the soil is rich in nutrients should be allocated to zone 1 where farming is likely to use soil minerals as best as possible. Zone 2 includes a moderate amount of nutrients and biodiversity, so it is more suitable for forestation and school projects. In areas classified as zone 3, where there is a low quality of soil, houses and factories can be built to keep the waste of valuable soil minimal.

Concerning climate change, green areas should be implemented in order to reduce soil damage.

POSTULATION 2: Real estate management

Seen that the Alpine region is in deep need of space due to the arising problems of climate change and population growth, we propose not to permit "virgin soil" to be built on.

While a lot of soil is wasted by building new facilities in the suburbs of the cities, the already existing real estate is often going out of use (empty factories, old skyscrapers). Urbanization affects soil quality and ecosystem services in a negative way. Furthermore, it induces climate change. In order to stop it, we propose subsidies to put old and unused buildings back in use. To provide subsidies we suggest taxing building on "virgin soil". This postulation helps revive cities and it especially focuses on preserving the natural environment.

POSTULATION 3: Soil Awareness

By educating students and raising people's awareness about soil, we would like to reinforce soil protection.

It is a necessity to change people's attitude towards this topic because this could contribute a lot to future climate stability. Our ideas are about innovative possibilities to make a change. To educate younger generations, we propose the inclusion of this topic in school curriculum in subjects like geography or biology with the help of experts that could organize project days for example giving children the opportunity to plant trees. To make people feel more conscious about it, we also want to start public campaigns. Basic messages like reducing meat consumption can have positive effects. Furthermore, we want to propose a law that forces enterprises to put a grey sticker on food, which was produced in a disrespectful way to soil.

COMMITTEE 2: Food production and waste assimilation

POSTULATION 4: Improvement of local farmer conditions

We want an agreement between local farmers and supermarkets under state conditions.

One of the main problems of mountain farmers in the alpine region is that they aren't able to compete with the big food producing companies. Consequently, many farmers have to give up

their farms, which implies the loss of cultural alpine identity. Our countermeasure is to install a trade system that includes an agreement between local farmers and supermarkets. This agreement requires, that the local farmers deliver their food in reusable or recyclable packaging. This is where the state intervenes by giving subsidies to the supermarkets in order to encourage them to sell local products. Afterwards, the supermarkets would sell the food in special areas in the shop devoted to local products. Firstly, this system would be a benefit for tourism, because nearly all tourists have the desire to get locally grown food. Secondly, it would reduce pollution as a result of short transport. Thirdly, this agreement could be connected to the eco-point system if the supermarkets give eco-point system mentioned in postulation three. Finally, the government would improve the conditions for local farmers, secure their position and, last but not least, it would help to preserve the local culture.

POSTULATION 5: Eco-point system

We want to reward people who buy ecological products with our so called “eco-point system”.

An eco-point system would be adapted to an already existing point system, which supermarkets are currently using. These systems all have in common that they reward people who collect points while constantly shopping at certain supermarket companies. Those rewards can be in the form of discounts, presents or even money. Additionally to the already existing points, you can receive extra points because of the eco-system if your purchase contains regional products or if you are eco-friendly. Regional products are, in most supermarkets, already marked as such, either by adding a local brand or with an identifying symbol. It would be the duty of supermarkets to sell regional products, encourage the producers to adapt to ecological standards and especially promote them. The initiative for defining and founding regional product placements is mainly the task of private investors whereas the government should only be a helping hand in the background by implementing legislation concerning ecological and regional products and giving subsidies in special cases. Being eco-friendly means lowering the amount of waste produced by plastic bags and packaging. Eco-points would be given to customers, who bring their own bags or are buying products with biological or efficient packaging. The goal behind this postulation is to make a slight change in people’s habits. By grabbing an ecological product instead of other products nearby without a regional symbol people get rewarded for changing their behaviour.

POSTULATION 6: Reduce food waste by helping people

Companies waste edible food, which could be given to needy people.

We already know that some people take food out of waste bins and use it, but some companies are trying to avoid this. This is why we ask that supermarkets have to sell their food with a discount of 50% on the day before or on the date of expiry. The second condition is that if the product hasn't been sold by that time the company has to give it to charities or “soup-kitchens”. Things which expire faster (such as fruits/vegetables and dairy products) should be given to “soup-kitchens” to be used quickly. Packed products will be given to charities where people can take the food that is still edible even though it is over the expiration date. There are conditions for the people who receive the products from the charities. They will have to get a license for using this opportunity by writing applications to the charities. With this postulation we automatically help decrease the rate of waste in supermarkets and at the same time help people in need.

COMMITTEE 3: Importance of forests as the source of renewable energy

POSTULATION 7: Encouraging the use of biomass as a source of energy

This postulation aims at encouraging the use of forest biomass through an information campaign and making this source of energy more attractive for consumers.

Forest biomass is fuel that is developed from organic materials that come from wood, a renewable and sustainable source of energy used to create electricity or other forms of energy . Unfortunately, this kind of source is not very common and according to experts it could be exploited much more. Although it is both economically and environmentally convenient, a range of people is still afraid to invest in “forest power”. For these reasons, our committee would like to

improve people's awareness through an information campaign, using media such as a new website that could be a reference point for those (both individuals and companies) who want to find reliable data about its advantages and disadvantages. The website would supply public facilities with contacts to and information on biomass power plants such as pellet boilers: looking up the website would give you further technical information (for instance a “saving-money calculator”), opinions, advice and experience. In addition, in order to encourage using forest biomass even more, taxes would be lowered for those who choose to invest in it (e.g. private citizens, companies, regions).

To sum up, these solutions would make people aware of all the improvements that forest biomass can give us. So, why should you keep polluting and wasting money when we have a better alternative?

COMMITTEE 4: Recreation and cultural aspects of Ecosystems

POSTULATION 8: Promotion of local markets

This postulation is about the promotion of a local market, which considers cultural aspects such as an improvement of social life in certain communities and also the production of goods and food. Every region has got its special products, which represent its local identity. We are convinced that these products must definitely be promoted. Therefore we suggest the introduction of a weekly market in the streets where these products can be sold. Thus regional farmers and processing chains would be supported and tourists would have the possibility to be informed about local traditions. The term “local products” does not only refer to seasonal and fresh food but also to manufactured goods. At the same time the local markets can be used as a platform to meet new people.

They would be a cultural and also a commercial enrichment for every single Alpine region, inhabitant and visitor.

POSTULATION 9: Raising awareness of Alpine population

This postulation is about the awareness problem solved by education.

Nowadays many people, who live in the Alpine region, do not feel connected in terms of culture. The main reason is that they are not educated in a way that they can understand the value of the place they live in and the current challenges to the ecosystem.

Our countermeasure aims at improving the educational system so that children can grow up knowing that they belong to the Alpine region as well.

We request that in every school in the Alpine region young people are taught its fundamental values.

We emphasize the importance of projects to implement it:

1. “Planting a tree”: Once in your school life it should be mandatory to do something for nature, for example planting a tree in the context of a school project. This includes going to a forest with a sapling and planting it as a symbol of care for nature.
2. “Cultural exchanges”: We demand an online platform where young people from the Alps can do an exchange. It would offer a wide variety of opportunities to meet new people and discover the feature of cultures.

POSTULATION 10: Involvement of young people in cultural heritage

This postulation is about increasing the involvement of youth in cultural heritage.

Our goal is to improve the cultural awareness of the Alpine youth through encouraging tourist agencies in cooperation with local companies to develop a tour guiding programme led by youth representatives. The target group is young foreign visitors searching for available, cheap and interesting tours that will offer them the information they seek, not only about the tradition or past of a certain place, but also about current possibilities concerning accommodation, social events, where to eat etc.

The tourist agencies are supposed to assure proper training for young guides (aged between 15/16 and 25 years old) in order to provide them with knowledge necessary for tour guiding of a specific area e.g. town, city or natural reserve.

It is important to set the guide wages in a suitable manner and our proposition is to set the price between fifteen and twenty-five Euros per hour (15 - 25 Euros/h). The amount of profit that the tour guide gets is decided by each agency's working contract. The promotion of this youth programme could be ensured through website, social media etc.

With that we will simultaneously encourage international collaboration among young people and improve awareness of cultural heritage of those who guide and of those who are guided.