



FLYING FACTS



OFFICIAL NEWS PAPER OF THE "YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION" 2007

Y our Participation ...

Press Group was Checking You Out!

P resent Your Opinions ...

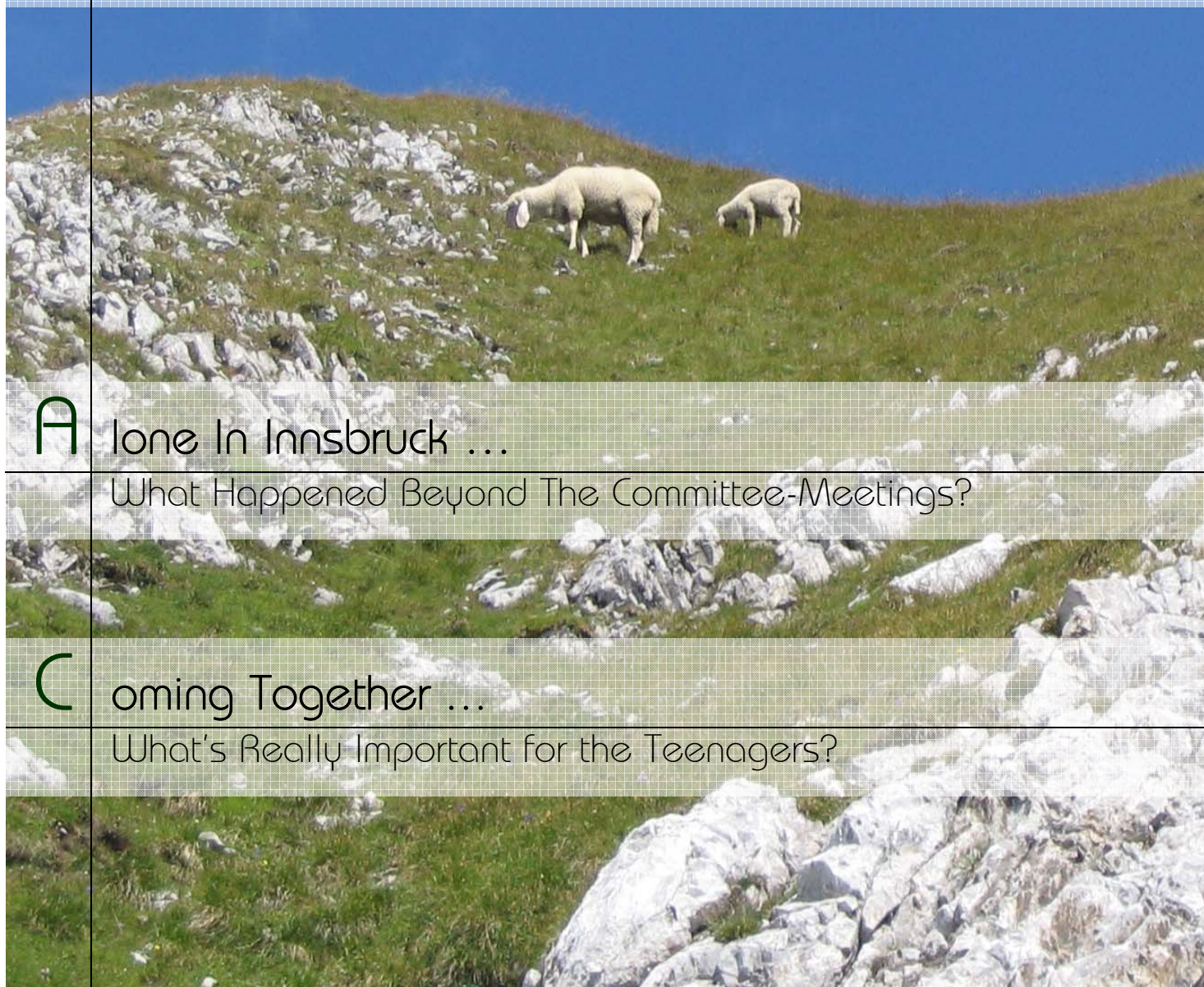
How Does The "Youth Parliament" Work?

A lone In Innsbruck ...

What Happened Beyond The Committee-Meetings?

C oming Together ...

What's Really Important for the Teenagers?



Dear reader!

In the morning of Wednesday, March 21, 2007, students from seven Alpine countries – Slovenia, Austria, Italy, Germany, Liechtenstein, France and Switzerland – first met in Innsbruck. Their mission? To save the Alps.

The Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention, YPAC in short, was founded by two Austrian teachers, Mag. Rauchegger and Mag. Senhofer. The main target of this event was to discuss problems of the Alpine countries, to find solutions and address them by simulating a real parliament – with one difference: the members are not grown-ups, but young people from sixteen to eighteen years.

In the following three days, the group of students experienced a lot. On Wednesday, they first divided into two different groups to do excursions to the Hafelekar, the “top” of Innsbruck, and Hall, a typical salt-town. In the afternoon of Wednesday and Thursday, the basis for the General Assembly was elaborated in four different committees – two of them discussed on the issue “Urbanisation” and the other two worked on the topic “Tourism and Climate Change”. On Thursday, they got some help from experts, who joined the groups to give them some first-hand-knowledge about their issues. Finally on Friday, the final official meeting, the General Assembly, took place in the Raiffeisen-Säle of Innsbruck, where the resolutions and suggestions were further discussed, in long and difficult debates, but in the end, the majority of the resolutions was accepted by the delegates.

We accompanied them all along, and the journal you are now holding in your hands illustrates the whole progress of the second Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention and intends to remind you of achievements, the topics which were discussed 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 this is our best chance to change and improve things!

Index

Introduction	2
About Us	2
Excursions	3
Presentations	4
Speeches	4
Committees	5
Dress code	6
10 Things	6
General Assembly	7
Resolutions	8
Statements	10
Crossword	11

The Ones Behind



Every one of you got our newsletter, read the reports and

laughed about the jokes and games. But who are we? The Press delegates. We are eight young people attending the Akademisches Gymnasium Innsbruck, 7th class (11th grade). We tried to give you a survey to remember these wonderful, interesting and unique three days; something you can take home with you and show your friends, family and classmates. We created a promiscuous overview and hope you liked how it turned out, because it was a lot of work for us. We'd like to thank everyone who helped us in any way with interviews, statements, feedbacks and photos.



Ice Age

March 21 – first day of spring. This normally means sun and warm weather in Innsbruck, but not this time. A fact learned by the Tourism-Group at the first day. First they went on a short but interesting sightseeing trip through Innsbruck's old town. It was freezing cold when they began their excursion to the top of Innsbruck, the "Hafelekar". Although it was snowing heavily and the wind was blowing, the group took the cable car to enjoy the beautiful and famous view on Innsbruck.

Mr. Schuckert, a member of the University of Innsbruck, enlightened the students about the development of Tourism in the Alps and showed them the "Life Cycle Concept" in an excellent presentation. Special thanks to the flexible students who assisted him with his documents while presetting!

While the majority of the group "defrosted" in a typical "Schihütte", two delegates couldn't resist the ONE meter high powder and spend their lunch break going skiing. The others enjoyed their free time to socialize and relax.



Medi-Evil trip to Hall



At 8 o'clock in the morning we had a meeting in the Alpine Convention Headquarters with all the delegates, press members, committee presidents and presidents. After hearing the obligatory speech by Marco Onida half of the participants went to Hall to visit the marvellous city. But it was actually pretty cold and wet.

A man called Franz Klaus or Klaus Franz (nobody knows the right order) guided us through the wet city, and we had to absolve lots of beautiful sights. After three and a half hours outside we arrived at the "Geisterburg", a restaurant where we enjoyed fine meals, for instance pizza, pasta or onion soup. And we didn't have to pay for it, which is definitely the most important reason for participating in the YPAC.

After returning to snow, water and ice we went back to Innsbruck, looking forward to dinner.

Delegation Austria



Grill Philipp
Sock Kathrin
Thöni Lukas
Turkonje Alexandru



Lederhosen and Grappa

Wednesday evening, all the delegations from the different countries presented themselves in the "Stadtturm", well observed by the faces of mayors. Some countries showed a PowerPoint-presentation; others had technical problems and spoke freely.

Italy, France and Germany are obviously quite proud of their alcoholic inventions. Their presentations stressed the meaning of alcohol in their countries: Grappa, Chartreuse and Beer. Next drinking, the Germans also enjoy food, such as Weißwurst, Brezeln und süßen Senf and are fond of their traditional clothing. The delegation from Meran showed us a short video clip. In the clip we could admire a young, athletic guy who spent an action packed day in Meran.

The Austrians thought that watching professional snowboarders would be better than celebrating at the beach or at the Oktoberfest. They also showed us the Tyrol film (you should know which one) and emphasized on our beautiful nature. The Slovenians



(not Slovaks!) sang for us some really interesting songs and gave us important information about their country.

Liechtenstein offered some frightening facts about their size and population which can fit twice in the Allianz Arena. They also talked about their mighty army.

After this we had to listen to one more presentation about another youth parliament and watch an exciting film about the urbanisation of the Tyrol, during which even the teachers started to chat.



Delegation France



Ah-kiem Lidwine
Arnaudon Emmanuel
Chaise Hugo
Louison Andrea



Some Blabla

Second day, 8 o'clock: Sleepy but ready for action the students met in the 'Bürgersaal' of the 'Stadtturm'. Just the impressive speeches were able to awake the delegates.

The general mood started to fall when a representative of Tyrol's school council held his speech in German, because he "didn't want to embarrass himself in front of all those great English speakers." At least half the delegates understood his excuse. Thank god Mr. Neumann, our sponsor from the company Swarco, delighted the attendees with his multilingual introduction.

Further important members of YPAC's Organisation team complimented the last year's parliament and then the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention was officially opened.

Although everybody enjoyed these speeches very much, the students were really happy about the coffee break, which unfortunately passed without any coffee. Instead they settled for Prosecco in plastic cups.



Work in Progress

The second day, an expert met with each group to answer questions and help with his knowledge.

At the beginning the delegates were quite critical about the help in the tourism groups.

"Without the expert it worked very well", some of the delegates stated at lunch time. The problem was that the expert thought in too global a scale, but the topics of YPAC should only affect the Alps. "We as Alpine delegates can't tell the USA to stop driving their SUVs. We have to concentrate on our regional problems."



But after lunch the opinions changed. The delegates began to understand what the expert meant with his suggestions and they began to implement what he was saying.

But all agreed that next time the experts should attend the meetings from the beginning because otherwise they tend to mess up the achievements of the group.

The comment by some member of the organisation committee "The experts know many details and they're really good at giving new aspects to the committees to discuss."

Delegation Germany I

Hefele Laura
Nägele Claus
Sanftl Benedikt
Wiesener Sabrina



Delegation Germany II

Berthold Janina
Engeser Anselm
Hofmann Dominik



Tourism and climate change

... was the title of one of the Austrian groups, which worked out the main aspects of this topic.

Since December 2006 a group of young students spent their time trying to find out something about tourism and ecological connections, especially in the Tyrol.

First they did a brainstorming and split off the different aspects, so that every person could concentrate on a certain topic (eg. "What are the alternatives to tourism in winter?").

The second step was to look for information and sources, which they got out of books, mags and the internet.

Another aspect was the entire organisation, to communicate, to help each other and, of course, to solve problems. One interviewed member of the group, for instance, complained about the difficulties getting that very special information about a subpoint.

Still, the end product seems to have turned out very acceptable.

YPAC Goes Formal

During the whole procedure of the parliament all participants had to be dressed nicely: Girls, or should I better say, Madams had to wear dresses and boys, or again Misters, had to wear suit and tie. But is this really necessary at an occasion like this or is it just way over the top?

Some say it is important to wear clothing that would be also acceptable in a real parliament to make sure that the simulation is complete and that the youth parliament will be taken seriously. Others say that it is exaggerated to wear suits and dresses also in the committee meetings; some agree, they would feel much more comfortable in their own clothing and they consider that it is essential for a good working climate.



Some of the interviewees said that a nice dress is perfectly fine for them and that they like to be elegant. Others say that it was weird wearing that kind of stuff, because they don't wear it usually since it is not their style. But girls, don't worry about that too much, you all looked pretty!

All in all everybody was contended with the "Dress code". In fact it didn't matter what clothes people were wearing, because it was the people themselves, who made this parliament a real parliament and they would have completed their resolutions with or without tie.



Delegation Italy



Mazzonetto Vittorio
Stragliotto Monica
Tosetto Francesca
Zonta Marco



10 Things You Needed...

1. Hunger and Thirst – after all you get loads of free meals and drinks!
2. Fondness for ties – remember the dress code!
3. Strong nerves – Stress is pre assigned!
4. Warm clothes and swimming things – you never know what the weather will be like!
5. Sociableness – you have the chance to meet a lot of new people!
6. Igor – what would YPAC be without him?
7. Patience – if there are technical problems, endless discussions in the committees or if you have to wait in a crowded cable car...!
8. Humour – would be boring without, wouldn't it?
9. Endurance – working, talking, partying until the middle of the night.
10. The perfect press delegation – any questions?

Looking Forward

Though the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention in Innsbruck was twice a huge success, it's now time for the YPAC to change place: 2008 YPAC will take place in the beautiful Slovenian city Maribor. Most of us never have been to Maribor, but we, the press delegates of this year, will accompany you again! See you soon, we're all looking forward to it!

"Thank you, Madam President"



"Please don't forget to adress the presidency" was the most stated sentence of the General Assembly, the final meeting which took the whole third day and wasted our last resources.

Though the majority of the delegates tried to use the formal title, they often had to interrupt their comment with "I'm sorry, sorry, Madam President!" Of course it's understandable if someone forgets to call 18 year-olds "Madam"; they really don't look that old!

Despite those little mistakes the GA went off without a hitch.

After the official opening held by president Sarah Schwarz, every committee used the chance well to present their work, to show their expertise knowledge and win over the other delegates.

To avoid confusion, all four groups had to present their resolutions in the same way. First a representative of each committee read it out loud; further all delegations had voted, after factual questions and an open debate, for or against it. Tough discussions began!

The first topic on debate was 'tourism'. The group suggested actions against global warming or alternatives to winter tourism. Due to suggestions by the expert who had been invited, they divided the resolutions into long term and short term effects. To relax the situation, one very smart delegate informed us that the absence of snow didn't affect tradition, because in Africa there isn't snow and they still do have tradition. I guess we really couldn't have thought of this without his professional hint.

The suggestions of the second committee were similar; they proposed things consuming from the region or reducing waste.

In the afternoon the urbanisation committees presented their work. They basically discussed suggestions such as improving the communication between the Alpine countries, decreasing prices for bus tickets for youths or saving the traditions in the tourist resorts.

The second committee also criticized that transportation in the Alps could be better and the small villages often wouldn't offer enough education. In their opinion these problems are two of the reasons for urbanisation and requests to speak up followed off and on.



Delegation Italy II



Gasser Lisa Maria
Reiterer Elisabeth
Waldthaler Hannah
Werth Kathrin



Now we know that there is no topic on which a Slovenian doesn't know what to say.

They had especially a harsh argument with one of the German delegates which only could be stopped by our brave presidents. Generally the progress of the discussion worked very well, even the headmaster of the Akademisches Gymnasium Innsbruck said: "I didn't imagine that all delegates respect the rules so well!"

Anyway you can see that these young people act like real politicians: in the coffee-break (again without coffee) they shared nut nails and croissants in friendship, just after fighting each other in the GA.

What was it all about?

Three days of hard work - who needed this? Not only we, the delegates, learned a lot, had fun and felt like real politicians, but we also compiled something which will outlast the three days: the resolutions. Every resolution contained important aspects showing the current problems, called ICs (Introductory Clauses), and possible solutions for addressing them, so called OCs (Operatives Clauses).

Those resolutions had to be discussed and voted for in the General Assembly; three of them were accepted, but the resolution of the "Committee on Tourism and Climate Change 2" didn't pass.



The Committee 1 on Tourism and Climate Change

This committee worked on the question how climate change affects tourism. They divided their resolution into two parts: The short term effects of climate change, meaning the next couple of years, and the long term effects.



Short term effects:

The biggest problem of Alpine tourism is global warming, but the next few years' temperatures can't be predicted (Climate forecasts work only for a longer period, like 10 years). Occurrence of warm winters with less snow is almost certainly expected. In order to prepare for that, other snow-free tourist activities, which should have the same quality as those including snow, have to be elaborated and improved. Car-free resorts are proposed because if there is no snow, tourists can rent bicycles, for example, instead of going by car and, of course, to reduce CO₂ emissions. Another point the delegates wanted to achieve was that

every tourist-resort should specialize in different offers to complement each other.

Long term effects:

Although the temperatures for the next couple of years can't be predicted, the long term tendency towards a warmer climate is affirmed by scientists. The tourist problems in the Alps can only be addressed if the whole world is trying to change the actual system: In fact the states of our planet have to extend the reduction of CO₂ to zero. This movement requires promotion of alternative renewable energies such as wind, water, geothermic and the sun. Our consumption of this energy has to be reduced while its efficiency must increase. In order to fulfill these targets there is also a need of car-free areas.

Delegation Liechtenstein



Gassner Martina
Pleschko Nicholas

Schädler Fabio
Stelzel Melanie



The Committees on Rural and Urban Areas

One of the main problems showed by both committees was the public transport issue: The transport systems in some regions are unevenly distributed and insufficient. The delegates emphasized the importance of transport-systems, controlled by the government. The states should also guarantee the same prize-level of public transportation of rural and urban areas in the whole country. Using public transportation should also be cheaper. The cooperation between various transport companies should be improved as well.

One committee criticised the low public awareness of environmental and cultural issues. They wanted to introduce special environmental education in schools, more cooperation between the Alpine schools and putting more efforts into educating the public.

Some countries have a lack of execution and adherence to special planning. So the committees wanted to improve the systems of planning on a local, regional, national and cross-border level. Planning in a comprehensive way of direct development including economic, social and environmental aspects with coordinated infrastructure, land use and investments is obligatory. The delegates stressed a regional planning and cooperation between cities and their surrounding with an own administrative centre and special, super regional tax-laws. The reason for that is that they are a unity: Commuters come to the towns to work and their inhabitants want to relax in the surrounding nature in a way of green tourism. Suburbanization causes an economic problem, namely the uncontrolled shift of tax-money from the city centres into the suburbanized area which causes a lack of finances for further development.

The committees stated that a great loss of tradition occurs in the Alps and they drew more attention to this issue.

They also stated that there are too few opportunities such as education, employment and



Delegation Slovenia



Hržič Rok
Jaušovec Tim
Pukšič Miha
Sevšek Katja



education, for young people in rural areas. So many young people move into towns and the number of inhabitants of rural areas is declining.

Although the original question was just how rural and urban areas in the Alps complement each other, the two committees elaborated this much wider range of suggestions and wishes on many rural and urban issues, which is really commendable.

My Point of View

In my opinion the resolutions include a lot of good ideas which are convertible into action quite easily. Let us hope that some of them will reach this target, but if we wait too long they will become even worse and it might be much more difficult and complicated to get rid of them. Hopefully the responsible politicians will take their chance to help the Alps and protect our living space so that our dream of a world of nearly unlimited opportunities could go a step further into being realized!

Martin Fritz

The Green Solution

I would like to repeat what I tried to say in our last number of the "Flying Facts": During the three days I could see the will of the majority of the delegates to change something, especially in the environmental aspect. There are so many problems like global warming which has to be stopped, or CO₂ emissions which should be reduced, and - most important - there *are* possibilities.

So I was a bit surprised of the long and tough discussions on the last day (in the parliament): There were two different groups for each topic - therefore there were two different ways of solutions. My experience was that both groups tried to show that only their solutions are the way to go.

I could live with both solutions, because all of them were well structured and included some good ideas and often complemented each other.

Tobias Bertel

Evaluation

Towards the end of the General Assembly, a survey about YPAC was done. Surprisingly enough, every single participant took part and filled in the questions. In general, the results show that the second YPAC seemed to be more fun than the first one. According to another result of the survey, most of the delegates considered the discussed topics before their participation at the YPAC.

The number of students who were surprised by the results of the General Assembly equals the number of those who weren't. The first option probably relates to the members of the climate change groups - as Lukas Thöni from the Austrian delegation said during the General Assembly: "We are working the wrong way." After the discussion with the expert, they needed to change their resolutions completely.

Further, the majority of the delegates think that they personally benefitted from the YPAC, and a high number of students said that the second YPAC enhanced their awareness of democracy. Finally, at least eighty percent want to participate in further YPAC sessions. All those results show what the YPAC really is - a meeting of interested people from different countries, not only for some high level discussions, but also for having fun and learning something more about our home.

What's Going On?

A Comment by the Austrian Teachers

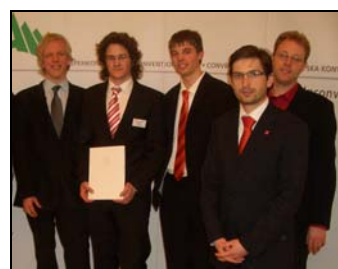
Students, who discuss for hour in workgroups and forget to make a break! Students, who improve their formulation and don't settle for common phrases! Students, who fight in a parliament for their arguments about the protection of historical buildings! Students, who bend forward to their laptops and search for fitting and funny formulations for their newsletter!

Is it school? Yes, but not really. You learn a lot through when you join the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention. Interesting, motivating, relevant for your own life. They are polite to each other, celebrate and go out - but you shouldn't forget the enormous work they achieve despite the language barriers and the cultural varieties. Guided by the presidents, two Austrian students and one from Slovenia, who control the assembly as if they had been cooperating for ages; they appeared like a well-rehearsed team.

And that's why we, the teachers, shoulder the work, the organisation and the preparation. When we watch these students, we know that it's worthwhile! They learn a lot, work enthusiastically and stand their men and women. For all these things we teach the youths, for all these the stress is profitable!



Delegation Switzerland



Schmid Samuel
Lutz Philipp
Müller Fabian

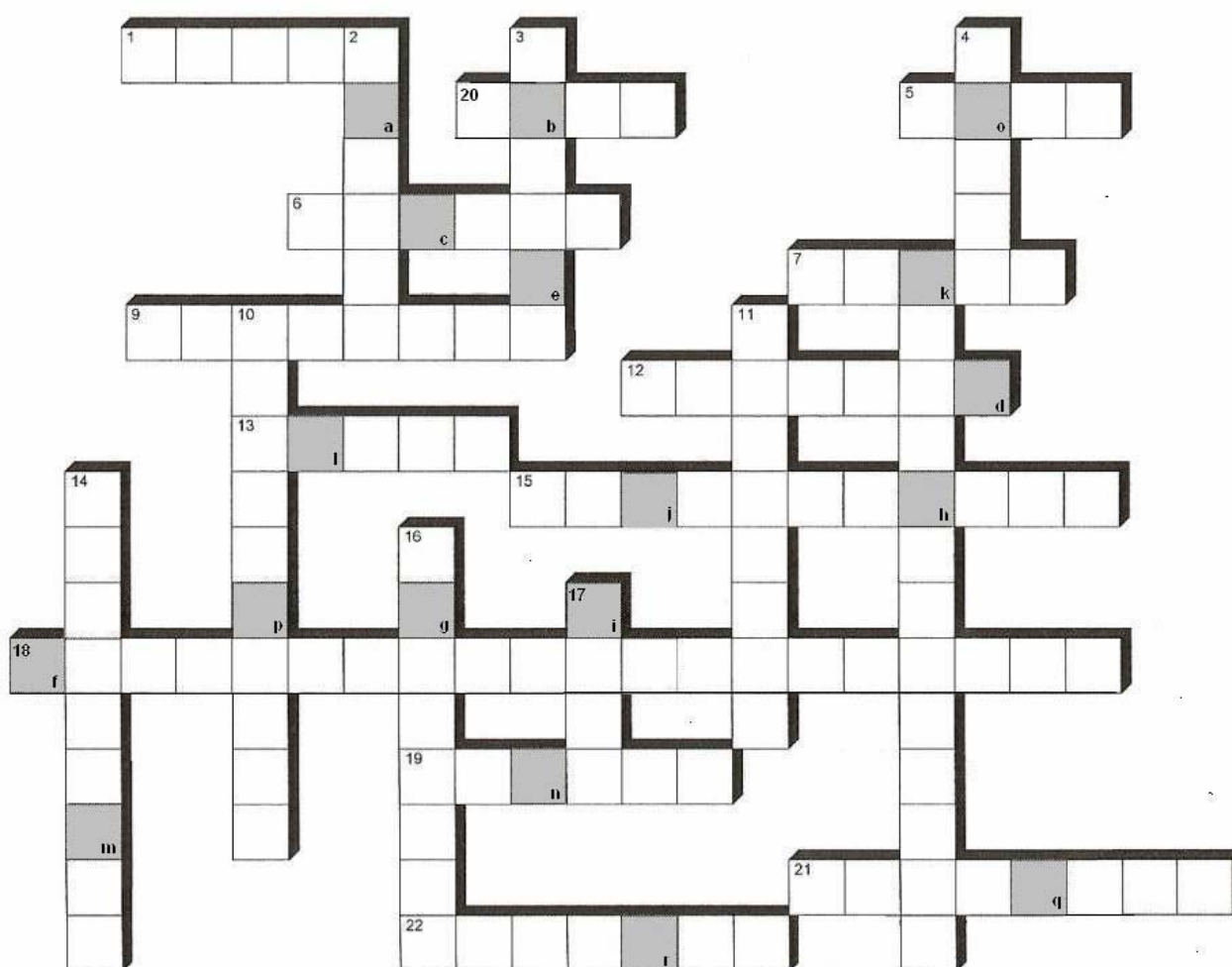
Good Night and Good Luck

the ultimate competition

Try it! Our unique quiz! It's difficult, but maybe you are one of the lucky people who can guess all things right. And don't forget, the first three people who send us an e-mail will get a DVD! Send the e-mail to:

(Deadline: 8-9-2007)

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	@	k	l	m	-	n	o	p	.	q	r
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QUESTIONS

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Beginning phrase for an OC | 11 | Name of a city (French school) |
| 2 | The sponsor company | 12 | Place, where the third YPAC will take place |
| 3 | Last name of one of the committee presidents (Hint: gave an interview) | 13 | How many countries are represented? |
| 4 | Month YPAC II took place | 14 | Person Teja would like to meet |
| 5 | Typical Tyrol Mountain- and Salt-Town | 15 | Name of the Daily Newspaper, written by this years Press Delegation |
| 6 | Tie colour of the president | 16 | Place where you can find president Philipp Sperner |
| 7 | How many members has the Press Delegation? | 17 | Committee president's resolution |
| 8 | An important topic, discussed by the YPAC committees | 18 | The Italian name of the Alpine Convention |
| 9 | Name of an Austrian teacher | 19 | YPAC would be boring without... |
| 10 | "Good Bye" in Slovenian | 20 | One of the presidents (first name) |
| | | 21 | Mini flag Igor wears on his suit |
| | | 22 | Food the Germans like |

THANK YOU



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alpenkonvention • convention alpine
convenzione delle alpi • alpska konvencija



and of course:
Parents
Teachers
and
Host families

FLAG

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