

## Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention Merano '09

Time's running... It's the last edition of our newspaper of the YPAC this year. But dry your tears, because we will come again! The final edition appears normally around May. There you will find all important information about your meetings and the entire week, as well as a special containing useful facts about the provinces of the participating schools. But for now read the few lines in front of you and enjoy the day passing again your mind for a few minutes.

Unfortunately we don't have enough time and space left to deal with all aspects which happened during the day, but we hope you are once more pleased with the work we've done.

Friday, 20.03.2009	
temp. min.	1°C
temp. max.	13°C
morning	
afternoon	
evening	

### Yes, we can!

(Christina and Juana)

The big moment had come: Thursday morning – it was time for the General Assembly! All the presidents, committee presidents, delegates, members of the press team, teachers and guests gathered in the town hall to discuss about and vote for rather against the resolutions.

What an atmosphere! The participants hurried around in the big hall nervously and hectically and – especially – full of excitement. After everybody had found his or her seat, the president started to check the voting system.

Unfortunately the opening speech of the General Assembly by our president Veronika could be held after the 5<sup>th</sup> test of the voting system, which means with a delay of 30 minutes.

Veronika stressed accurately in her speech that the resolutions, which would be presented that day, will be a cornerstone in the history of the YPAC. As the future of the YPAC depends on us, teamwork and confidence is very important.

However, the presentation of the resolutions soon began. The delegates of the 1<sup>st</sup> committee were convinced that the youth can make changes which will affect the future of the YPAC and the Alps in general positively. To do so, they suggest networking with the state, the Alpine Convention and other organizations like the CIPRA and receiving more feedback about the resolutions of the YPAC.

Afterwards there was the opportunity to ask some questions, which were nearly only answered by the delegates of Austria and Slovenia, so that the president had to invite the other delegates to jump in. Nevertheless, Liechtenstein, a member of committee 2, held a speech in favour of the 2<sup>nd</sup> resolution and finally both resolutions passed with a majority in favour.

The ideas of the Committee 2 were more controversial: The topic they were handling with was networking and participating of young people living in the Alpine region. Therefore they planned a spreading of knowledge about the YPAC by selling newspapers on schools and sending newsletters. In the following there were two amendments, which were discussed in detail.

After a big discussion, where you could see the committee president busily writing notes on sheets and handing them over to his delegates or even speaking to them to tell them what to answer, both amendments finally passed.

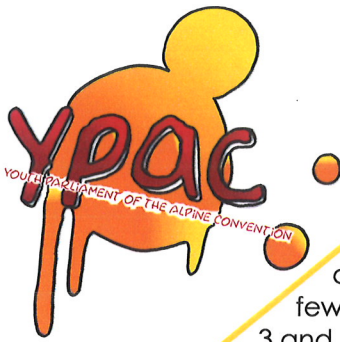
As an act of kindness, a member of the first committee decided to hold a speech in favour, followed by an excellent closing speech.

In the end, both resolutions passed with a narrow majority (one time even the votes of the committee presidents were required).

After all, the YPAC in Meran 2009 seems to have been very successful and maybe it is really a cornerstone in the YPAC's history. Again and again, it seems to be apparent that: YES, WE CAN! To deal with the resolutions of the first two committees apparently took more time as the presidents expected. So, there finished shortly before lunch and the General Assembly had to continue afterwards.







But at two o'clock, as finally all delegates arrived again in the town hall, few of them a little bit late, it was committee 3 and 4 who presented their work. It was the same procedure as before, talking about amendments, voting for resolutions and debating roughly, but you could notice that the concentration of the delegates had begun to fade. Some of them were not able to address our president in the correct form any more, maybe the different sex was a problem. So it happened that Veronika was often addresses either as Miss President, Mrs. President or even Mr. President. The third Committee talked about today's problems of "crossing borders" within the Alps, because nobody even notices that they still exist.

Committee four, which dealt with the issues of Alpine Identity, were about to show a video clip about Turkey, for an example how society could be able to present themselves and their region in order to get some publicity. The final highlight was the Committee reading out their zero resolutions- a big laugh at the end!

All in all, it was a great showdown for the Fourth Youth Parliament and everybody is proud about the work they've done!



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### Interview with Chantal Redavid

Today I had an interview with *Chantal Redavid*, a teacher here at the school and this is what she wants to say to you:

Have you worked for YPAC before?

*No, this is the first time.*

How did you get into it?

*Well, I'm a Volunteer. I heard about the parliament and so I asked if I can help.*

Did you have any expectations and did they turn out to be true?

*I didn't really have any expectations, but it worked out better than I thought.*

Were there any problems, which looked like they could never be solved?

*No, not really. There were some small ones, but nothing special.*

What did you like best?

*To see the youth being involved in this parliament and how serious they were. It's great to see the youth taking part of it.*

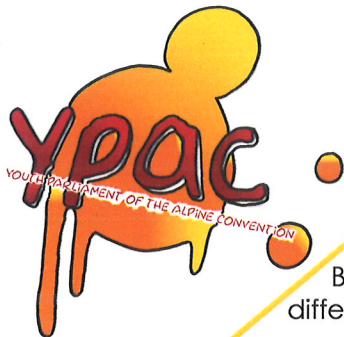
What would you change if you had the possibility to lead the YPAC next year?

*The time! ☺ I would like to see the YPAC being longer than 5 days. If it would be longer, the students would have more time for getting to know each other and more time for treating their themes.*

What's your motto?

*"Un giorno senza sorriso è un giorno perso."*

*It is from Charlie Chaplin and means „One day without a smile, is a lost day".*



What are your advises for young students?  
Be active, be involved, gather information, travel a lot, go out and get to know different cultures.

Are you going to participate at the party today?  
I don't know, if the teachers go there, but I think I will.

Are there any more important things that you want to add?  
Yes, I think the experience is very important for young people. And also if maybe your English is not be the best, try to communicate with other people and have fun! Oh, and form your own opinion!

And then something happened, which is not normal for an interview: I had to answer questions from Chantal Redavid. (Julian Runggaldier)

Do you want to become a journalist?  
No, not really.



What is different from last year?  
Well, last year I was a journalist, this year I am Editor in chief. As a normal journalist I had to write more, while now I have more responsibility and more stuff to organize.

Will you take part next year?  
I would, but then I am finished with school so I am not allowed. ☹

## Solutions from yesterday

### 1. Who is Who?

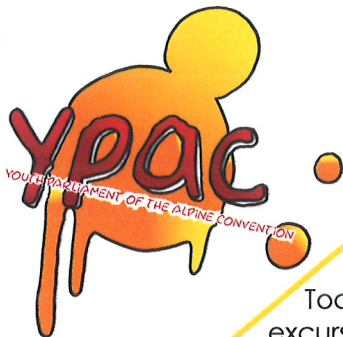
1a 2g 3f 4c 5d 6b 7h 8e

### 2. Alpine Countries:

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

Today is the day; all our efforts, the discussions, excursions and investigations ended in the official final ceremony.

After the last voting in the General Assembly, all delegates, committee presidents, presidents, teachers and the press team went back to school, hoping for an exciting finish. And we were not disappointed.

When we entered the room ... We immediately set our sights on an amazing buffet presenting any kind of sandwiches. But first we had to endure the final ceremony and therefore took our seats at the tables.

While the presidency and the teachers were trying to prepare everything for the ceremony, we started chatting with the other delegations, our new friends and read the new edition of the newspaper, which were very interesting and funny, of course.

As another few minutes had passed, Mr. President began his speech. He was talking very enchaining about our new experiences, the YPAC, because it would be our future and we had to understand politics and mustn't forget what's important for us.

After a big applause the tribute to the participants started, the teachers and the presidency honoured every single delegate, committee president, president and the press team by handing over the certificates. Afterwards much applause, much more photos and at least, special thanks to all participants followed. Past this formality we attacked- actually cleared- the buffet and enjoyed the remaining time together. During our stay in Merano, we all made new experiences and took a step forward. Everybody will agree if we state: There's enough reason to be proud of us!



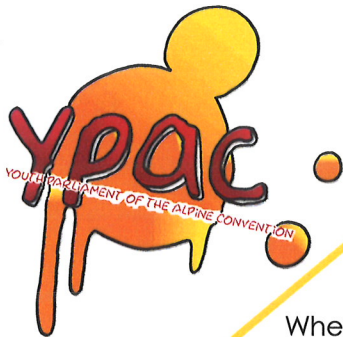
## A look on Ypac by an old stager

In my four years with the YPAC, I have gone through several changes in opinion about what the aim of the discussions really is; what will our resolutions do, what are we going to achieve? Every year our resolutions are read out at the Alpine Convention. The resolutions are like seeds- they seep in through the ears into the heads of the decision-makers, where they slowly settle to the bottom of their skulls, toward the fertile soil of change and decision that is lying there waiting patiently - but do they stay there? Do they grow, do they develop into official, ratified matters on the agenda of the Alpine Convention? Are they heavy enough to not be swept up and blasted out by whatever is discussed next on the Convention's agenda? Are they ripe enough so that when they hit the fertile soil, they grow roots there instantly and plant themselves firmly in the Convention's participants' skulls? At this year's YPAC, this is what we want to know. The time is ripe, we want feedback! Today, at the General Assembly, the very first resolution that we voted upon was a significant change to the resolutions that were accepted so far. Unlike our previous works, this one sends out a simple, bold message: we want feedback! After four YPAC sessions, after days of discussion, all participants have grown in many ways, but have we grown enough? In my opinion, this question and others that will be answered by the feedback we are asking for show clearly that in at least one consideration, we are ready to participate in deciding about our Alpine society. We are critical about our own work - we want to know: is it good? Is it good enough to be taken seriously? The change lies not only in that the resolution is stated simply and clearly, I think it is also a much more mature resolution in that it is focused and exact and, most of all, self-critical.

Through this self-critical approach, I think we have now reached a crucial point in the evolution of YPAC. Let me say once more: we want feedback! This statement has now been shouted at the world and we are waiting for the answer - the future development of YPAC, of us as responsible, socially critical citizens, as Europeans!, depends upon it.

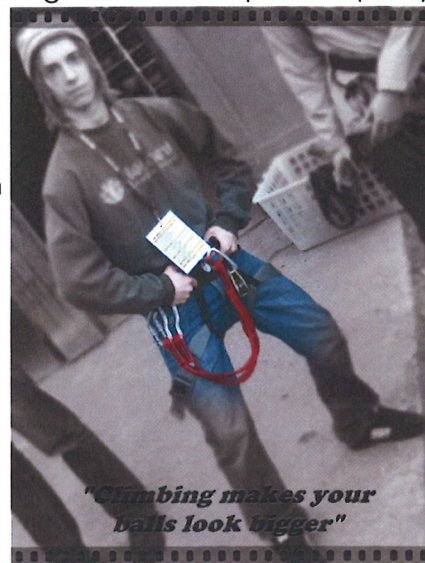
Yours completely (why wasn't this my idea?), Jan Savinc





## The Impact of the iPac By Daniel once again

When I sat in the General Assembly listening to the delegates, I came up with a pretty interesting idea. Why shouldn't we sell this "iPac" to Apple? As everybody knows, this company has got lots of money and we need to finance our event. All proposals such as the newspaper or the CIO would be easily realizable. Perhaps the firm already has the rights to the "iPac" product and we might have to face copyright problems. That would cost us even more than it does right now and the only possibility to avoid this is admitting that we stole their idea. Well, many of us are running around with the Mp3-player of the new generation, the iPod shuffle, iPod nano or the big ones with about 20 gigabytes. Do we really care about paying much money just for a name if we join the cool part of the population this way? It could also work with the iPac... just imagine the people wearing t-shirts with printings like "Yeah, I participated!" or even trendy bags. Well in fact, that leads to another name: what about "iBag"s? We could gather several things to a list of "iSpeeche"s, "iAmendment"s or "iSpeakInFavour"s. I am not sure if the guys from Apple will be happy about the competition, but I am very thankful for the funny pronunciation of several German-speakers (I don't do better of course!), because I was told that Slovenians obviously don't do this mistake. Who knows?



## Senhofer is searching Rauchegger

Mrs. Senhofer saw a beautiful guy and lost Mrs. Rauchegger  
during the shopping tour...  
Can you help them to find together?





## A South – Tyrolean Story

Dou treffn sich zwoa Kollegn und welln ausgian, sog dr oane zun ondrn: „Osche schun gezwougnit?“ „Ajo iats tate schu nöü ausgien“, onwortet dr oane. Gian se in Pub und segn glei a poor schneidige Gitschn. Moant dr oane zen ondrn, „Ma miar kanntn schuu zu sui ume gien“. Gien se holt ume und griabn se glei mit an Unmochspruch: „Ma hosch du schiane Augn“. Hou, hel woas di Tipa wol schu long. Ratschn se holt und nor mont di Gitsch, „Ma wia vierwitze bischn du, iats tats nor gach. Milchreisrocker du...“ „Liag it Madl, suscht gian mr in Schnea ausi.“

One day two friends meet and they want to go out, one of them says to the other one: "Have you already washed your hair?" "Yes, otherwise I would not go out", answers the other one. So they go into a pub and see some pretty girls... one of the boys says to the other one: "We should go over to this girls."

They go to the girls and they start talking with them: "You have beautiful eyes!" Yes, the girl already knows this. They chat a while and one of the girls says: "You are so curious. You're a Milchreisrocker (offence for children)..." "Don't lie or we go outside!"



## It's partytime!

Relieved about all the accepted resolutions and proud about their work, the YPAC participants were excitedly looking forward to the party on Thursday night.

This time, it took place in the Rafflkeller in Meran. Apparently everybody had a proper sense of orientation and so finally the cellar was crammed with motivated, good-humoured young people.

It was time for a celebration indeed! In the last few days, the YPAC participants were busily working from dusk till dawn or even longer – we were all persuaded that we had the right of an extensive celebration.

Firstly we were a bit shocked by the enormous prices in the Rafflkeller, though soon afterwards everybody was happily sipping at their delicious cocktails.

The DJ was playing the hits of the 70ies, 80ies and 90ies first and despite of our age (nobody if us was already making party in the 70ies, I guess), we all recognized the songs immediately and started to dance.

The atmosphere reached a climax when the DJ played the latest hits – We all felt like dancing, really! (Later on, some of us made boyfriends and girlfriends, like Mr. Onida expected us to do on Thursday evening.)

All in all, it was a worthy ending of the YPAC 2009 and we are all looking forward to another great party next year (after having carried out some work, of course ☺)





Well, the end of some amazing days has arrived. We had fun, we laughed, we did a lot of hard work, but most important of all, we achieved something! The resolutions, discussed and fixed during the General Assembly, are written down and will be soon transmitted to the Alpine Convention, who hopefully will use it as a base for further discussion. But for us, this is the final of a pleasant time in Meran.

It's hard for everybody to return back home, to farewell new friends, who they will not see for a long time. But I suppose, it's a little bit of relieve as well, all of us need some time for themselves after working hard over the last days and getting not enough sleep. The meetings and community has a great impact on participating students. A lot of people changed their mind due to their experience and see things now differently. Additionally it is an awesome opportunity to improve our skills in several ways, either in discussing, speaking fluently English, organizing or leading a group. Special thanks to all people who enabled this project, the teachers, the host families, the students, the Alpine Convention and of course the sponsors. They achieved that YPAC is unique and definitely unforgettable and everyone, who has ever been to, surely knows what I am talking about.

