

# FLYING FACTS

## Kamnik 2024

Dear readers,

The YPAC week is sadly slowly coming to an end. Today was a very important day. Not only because of the general assembly, but also because it took place in the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia. It's truly a great honor. Having presented the postulations, the committees voted on the top 8 postulates. They all truly did a great job. After a long productive day, the delegates went sightseeing in our beautiful antique capital city -Ljubljana.

**Žan Gerič, Editor in Chief**



## EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Today the General Assembly took place, YPAC's biggest and most important event. This year it even took place in the parliament of the Slovenian government, accompanied by the vice president of the National Assembly. It's an incredible opportunity for all delegates and the YPAC presidency to hold the General Assembly in the political headquarters of the country the YPAC week takes place, bringing the YPAC as close to politics as it can be.

The General Assembly is what makes the YPAC so important. It is a symbol of democracy and youth participation, showing that young people are in fact able to participate politically and discuss important subjects to make life in the Alps worth living.

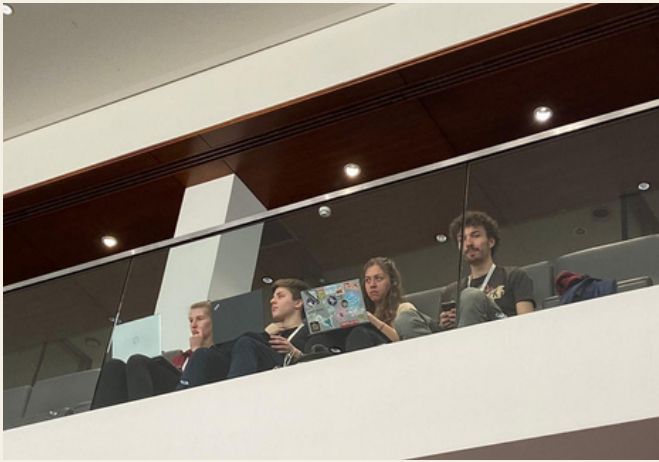
Even if the GA is often very exhausting and requires a lot of concentration, everyone managed to pull through five and a half hours of discussions, speeches and formalities.

Thank you to all of you who have made the General Assembly possible and thank you to all the delegates who participated so enthusiastically. Also a huge thank you to the press group, who stayed in school and prepared everything for tomorrow's discussions with EUSALP and CIPRA.

Hopefully you all had the opportunity to relax and have fun in the evening and will be well rested for tomorrow!

**Best wishes,**

**Franziska Schroeder, Editor in Chief**



Delegates from CIPRA YC at the GA

For the first time in the history of YPAC, the Young Council of the European Union Strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP) and the Youth Council of the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) collaborated directly with the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention (YPAC). The organisations are involved intensively in protecting the biodiversity and cultural heritage of the Alpine regions. Moreover, they are proposing to improve the climatic conditions and quality of life in the Alps.

Here is a quick overview on EUSALP and CIPRA:

## EUSALP

EUSALP represents a forward-thinking initiative encompassing 7 countries and 48 regions at the heart of Europe, since its establishment in June 2015. EUSALP addresses common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to member states and third countries located in the same geographical area, and is supported by the European Council and, among others, the European Structural and Investment funds. Fostering Synergies is one of the core missions of EUSALP.

Additionally, at the core of the EUSALP's strategy, it actively involves all stakeholders, governments, businesses, academia and citizens in shaping policies and solutions that promote balanced and inclusive growth, economic stability, support for the ageing population and energy sustainability.

-Huq Md Tasin Ibn



YPAC delegates in the parliament

## CIPRA

CIPRA is a non-governmental organisation, devoted to the protection and sustainability of the Alps. Since its founding in 1952 CIPRA has become an important Alpine-wide network. With the executive office located in Liechtenstein, CIPRA is able to install cross-border cooperation and a legal framework. CIPRA's goal is to make the Alpine region an environmentally friendly and climate-neutral area to live in, ensuring an economic mindset which respects nature.



**CIPRA**  
**LIVING IN**  
**THE ALPS**

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*How it all started?*

## YPAC'S HISTORY

YPAC was founded by an Austrian secondary school in Innsbruck in 2006 (Akademisches Gymnasium Innsbruck). In cooperation with the Alpine Convention, its Permanent Secretariat and the European Union, YPAC soon became an indispensable organisation in the Alpine region. It started with only six participating schools, but shortly after its establishment, the project was expanded and currently includes ten participating schools from seven countries in the Alpine region.



Meran 2009

## WHAT IS THE SO-CALLED GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

The General Assembly is known as the summit of YPAC. It is YPAC's main event and its main role is to symbolize democracy and teach our future politicians the formal protocol. This is where the simulation of the parliamentary process takes place. The first two days of YPAC are meant for committees to write their postulations, which are then later presented at the General Assembly. With speeches in favor or against, individual delegates can voice their opinions and find a compromise. At the end of the General Assembly, all delegates vote the eight best postulations.



Maribor 2008

However, the General Assembly has changed over time. The modern General Assembly is navigated by the Presidency, who sets time limitations and gives the floor to speakers. The so-called »GA« used to be much longer without any limitations. After time, the postulations started developing. They became more concise and rich. After 18 years of YPAC, some postulations have started to repeat themselves. Some of the postulations weren't presented well in the previous years, so some of the delegates wanted to revive an interest in them.

After 18 years of evolving and learning from the experience, we can finally congratulate YPAC on becoming of age and entering adulthood.

*A special anniversary flying fact edition*

# The Resolutions of 2024

## Committee 1

### 1. Invasive (f)laws: The Human Aspect

Invasive species cause big problems for nature by disturbing its normal ways, which can't be fixed once it's damaged. It is important to understand that some reasons for their spreading are natural and hard to stop, while others come from what people do, which can be controlled better. Our plan is to use ideas from experts and park rangers to stop invasive species from spreading. Instead of trying to control big areas, they want to focus on small but busy parts of parks. Park rangers will work closely with locals like fishermen and hunters to watch out for invasive species. This plan helps to focus on what we can do locally to protect nature and stop invasive species from harming it.

### 2. Habitats beyond borders

Protected natural areas are at risk because habitats can be split apart, harming biodiversity. The committee wants to protect the entire habitat, not just the designated areas, by creating ecological corridors. These corridors connect habitats across borders and follow natural features like rivers and mountains. Local authorities should work with landowners to identify at-risk areas and enforce rules for these corridors. It's important to educate people about protecting habitats through workshops and events and work with NGOs to spread awareness across borders.



Arrival at Ljubljana

### 3. Edustations

Many people visiting protected areas don't know much about the plants and animals there. Sometimes, they don't even know they're in a protected area and might accidentally harm the environment. To fix this, the committee suggests making fun and educational hiking trails called "Edustations" in protected natural areas. These trails will have signs and tasks to motivate people to learn about nature and follow the rules in protected natural areas. The committee also wants to create a website for more information and publish quizzes about the trails. With this they want to connect with other natural parks across Europe. Groups like NGOs will help take care of the trails and offer tours for schools and tourists. This way, we can protect the environment, build a community that cares about nature, and teach people more about biodiversity.

## Committee 2

### 1. Alpine Plan - Same Region, Same Rules:

The second postulation proposes the division into three different zones to control and regulate the infrastructure in the Alpine region. In zone A, there won't be any regulations regarding the infrastructure. In Zone B, infrastructures will be strongly regulated to protect natural life. Zone C, however, will have the strictest laws. There won't be any infrastructural development allowed at all so nature can recover. Their idea is that the zones are the same in every Alpine country, because some protected natural areas extend across the borders of a country. This idea should be promoted and adapted by the Alpine Convention and the national Ministries of the Environment .

### 2. Quality over Quantity - a new way of managing mass tourism:

The committee wants to create a ticket system to control mass tourism. Before entering a protected natural area, you have to buy a ticket at the visitor centre with which you can control the number of tourists that come into the area so there are less crowded areas and nature won't be harmed so badly. Additionally, public transport will be implemented in those areas to ensure peaceful travelling. The goal is to create new jobs for locals through the establishment of visitor centres that need employees all year round.



YPAC's Presidency



Vice president Meira Hot

### 3. Retirement homes in protected natural areas:

The third postulation is based on making new retirement homes for older people in protected natural areas. The delegates propose that older buildings in protected areas should be renovated for new retirement homes. Older people like peace and nature, and with better infrastructure it will also be more attractive for younger people. The committee also proposes intergenerational exchange with the help of school visits, preventing loneliness for the elderly people. With that, new job positions will be available to locals. This will improve the quality of life for elders immensely, while also including benefits for the younger generation.



## Committee 3

### 3. Climate Consciousness in the Alps: Empowering Young Minds

The idea is to organise in a sustainable way week-long school trips to protected natural areas, which would differ depending on the age of the students. This week would happen once in primary school and then a second time in secondary school. The aim is to raise awareness about climate change among children and influence them to pursue a more sustainable life and tourism from a young age.

## Committee 4

### 3. 8 countries, 1 label

This postulation is about proposing a label which incorporates sustainable and traditional products in protected natural areas and connects all Alpine countries. The emphasis is on the local farmers in the protected areas. Additionally, promoting their traditional way of farming which includes ecological sustainability, improves their living conditions. Due to stricter regulations regarding agricultural work, the prices of those products may be higher than the ones of industrially produced products but by making agriculture and farming more sustainable, the price justifies itself. Therefore, social support for the farmers will be initiated. As an approach, the advertisement via social media promotes the production of commodities in the protected areas. By labelling the products of Alpine farmers, the sellers learn about the importance of sustainable farming.



Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia

## **An attempt is always better than doing nothing.**

Laurin Specht is one of the delegates from Vaduz, Liechtenstein, and CP of Committee 2. In the interview he talks about his past YPAC experiences and his plans for his future in the organisation.

### **Overall, how did you experience the work in your committee this year?**

*I really liked it. This year, I had the opportunity to lead a committee and it is a big responsibility for me. We need to make sure that we draft three good postulations and I have really enjoyed that task this year. I think we worked well and I am excited to see what the outcome of tomorrow is.*

### **What worked well and what didn't work as well as you would have wanted or expected it to?**

*The start worked pretty well. We have to do opening and closing speeches with which we had a bit of a struggle but with good teamwork we managed it well.*

### **How has this changed from the last two years you participated?**

*It has constantly been brilliant. Especially last year, the year before was online and that was a bit of a problem for the teamwork but we did good work back then as well. In person, I believe it is even easier to do a good job.*

### **Do you think your Committee's postulations have a chance in the GA tomorrow?**

*From what we have heard from the Presidents and other Delegates, I would not rate our chances for passing a resolution as too low.*

### **Do you have a personal favourite?**

*As a CP, I obviously really like all our postulations. We have got three very exciting postulations about the quality of life in natural protected areas. I think we have an interesting postulation about a new retirement system and a cool one about the "Alpenplan". Additionally, we have a pretty cool proposal about visitor centres in the natural protected areas to avoid mass tourism.*

### **Are you planning on participating again next year? If not, why?**

*I am definitely planning on it, and I hope that I will be delegated the responsibility again.*

### **How did you like your job as a CP and would you like to give it another go next year? Did you prefer it over your role as a delegate in the past years?**

*Next year, I would either like to be a delegate again because there I can really discuss with the others, or I would like to be a President. Then I would organise the whole thing. As a CP it's a bigger responsibility that we have a good committee and are not ripped apart in the General Assembly. I want the delegates to have fun and that they feel comfortable in the committee. As a delegate I had a very different task. I really liked that I was able to discuss and talk.*

### **Why would you like to be President?**

*I actually like having responsibilities. With my experience from the past years as a delegate and as CP I would do good work with a good team.*

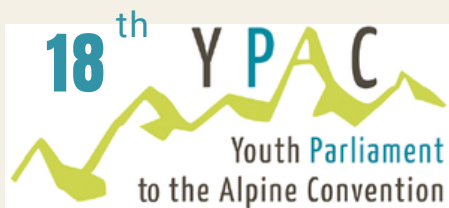
### **Why do you think the YPAC is important?**

*I find youth participation extremely important, young people really need to realise that it is about their future and that they need to participate. It is also important that all these things that we do here are implemented. I would like to make an appeal to those responsible, to the visitors and to the experts, we really want to put our postulations to use. We have been working on the propositions for a week now and I would love to see them implemented.*

### **Are you confident in that regard?**

*That's a good question. Some propositions are more practical than others. As politicians you need to accept that not everything is realistic, that's part of the process. I wish for a few things to be implemented or at least tried to realise. An attempt is always better than doing nothing.*

Thank you for reading, see you tomorrow :)



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