

SEMAINE ALPINE 2008  
**INNOVER [DANS] LES ALPES**

ALPENWOCHE  
**NEUES DENKEN-NEUES DENKEN [IN DEN ALPEN]**

SETTIMANA ALPINA  
**INNOVARE [NEL] LE ALPI**

ALPSKI TEDEN  
**INOVACIJE [V] ALP[AH]**

ALP WEEK  
**INNOVATING [IN] THE ALPS**

**L'ARGENTIERE-LA-BESSEE / F**  
**11-14.06.2008**



**– MEDIA RELEASE No 1 – 10/12/2007–**



11 - 14 JUNE 2008 – ALP WEEK – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE HEART OF THE ALPS

**Innovating: today's challenge for us all for the Alps of tomorrow**

**Knowledge sharing** with regard to **innovations that have already emerged** and learning how to benefit from them, and **working together to solve problems and build on the know-how that already exists** in various places – those are the objectives of **AlpWeek 2008**, which will be held on **11 - 14 June 2008** for representatives of the **scientific community, local authorities, NGOs and protected areas**, as well as **mountain sports enthusiasts and interested individuals from the eight countries of the Alps**.

With its central location in Europe, the Alpine Arc will be one of the regions that will be affected most by the consequences of climate change in combination with the depletion of our reserves of fossil fuels. From trade and industry to biodiversity, from the landscapes to our ways of life, the impacts on the Alps will be significant. May local actors and representatives are now aware of the threat and see the importance of taking measures today to establish best practice solutions for tomorrow and shaping a future characterised by a better sense of equilibrium and consideration for the needs of future generations.

During the last century the Alps have been the scene of numerous inventions and achievements, which have shaped and changed the region. And today there are many men and women working in the framework of various initiatives from one end of the Alpine chain to the other to shape the future for and in the Alps.

It is fitting that this international event should take place in L'Argentière-la-Bessée. This small town in the Hautes-Alpes and the surrounding region of Pays des Ecrins have been working for some fifteen years on an innovative process of structural change with a twin focus on tourism and the natural environment and a commitment to sustainable development in partnership with the Les Ecrins National Park.

Based on the principles of the Alpine Convention, AlpWeek 2008 is a follow-up event to the first AlpWeek, which was held in Kranjska Gora in Slovenia in 2004. AlpWeek 2008 is being organised jointly by five pan-Alpine organisations: the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR), the Alliance in the Alps Network of Municipalities, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC), the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) and Club Arc Alpin. The conference is being held under the patronage of the French Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Regional Planning and is an official event of the French presidency of the Alpine Convention.

## **COSALP – THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR ALP WEEK**

### International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR)

ISCAR represents research organisations located in various countries of the Alps. It is one of the official observers of the Alpine Convention and supports the bodies of the Alpine Convention in an advisory capacity.

### International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA)

Founded in 1952, CIPRA is the international umbrella for seven national associations, one regional association and over a hundred member organisations active in the field of sustainable development.

### Alliance in the Alps Network of Municipalities

Alliance in the Alps has now been operating for ten years as a network for municipalities in seven countries of the Alps. The Alpine Convention serves as a guideline for sustainable development and the basis of their work for the 250 municipalities now affiliated to the Alliance.

### Alpine Network of Protected Areas (ALPARC)

The network comprises about a thousand large protected areas (more than 100 ha) created throughout the Alpine Arc for the protection of the flora and fauna and their biotopes, the promotion of sustainable development, visitor management and research. This network has now been working for twelve years on typical problems relating to big nature parks, nature conservation areas, biosphere reserves, quiet zones and other forms of protected area. Its activities are co-ordinated by the Protected Area Task Force at the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention.

### Club Arc Alpin (CAA)

Club Arc Alpin is an international federation of all Alpine clubs. It is also an official observer of the Alpine Convention.

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## **FORTHCOMING PRESS RELEASES**

- Media Release no. 3, March 2008: Innovation as a dynamic factor  
*Who should innovate and how? Why? Some examples from the Alps, from Slovenia to France...*
- Media Release no. 4, April 2008: Innovation in the Pays des Ecrins, an example of good practice  
*Fifteen years ago a process of structural change began in the Pays des Ecrins, leading to recognition as a "Pôle d'excellence rurale".*
- Media Release no. 5, May 2008: 11 – 14 June: AlpWeek Highlights  
*An overview of the event.*

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