

25th November 2020 – Convention of Parties of the Carpathian Convention – Adrian-Radu Rey

(Vice-President of Euromontana)

Euromontana is the European Association of Mountain areas. Our goal is to improve the living conditions of mountain people. Straight from the beginning, the Carpathian mountains were at the heart of the creation of our association. Indeed, it was during a meeting in Krakow in Poland in 1995 when it was decided to officially form Euromontana as a permanent legal entity. A European dimension was given to the network, focusing not only on the Alps, but also on the Carpathians and other mountain ranges to cover the whole continental Europe.

Over the years, the Carpathians have played a key role in the network, notably with very active members in Romania. Every two years, we organise a large event, the European Mountain Convention gathering mountain stakeholders to discuss about a subject of key importance for our mountains. The last edition was organised in September 2018, in Vatra Dornei in Romania on “Cultural Heritage as an Engine for Creativity, Innovation and Socioeconomic Development of Mountain areas” during the European Year of cultural heritage. As a real asset rooted in the territory, a place-specific resource, cultural heritage requires better valorisation and gives future prospects to our youth and our mountains, so this was particularly relevant to organise this event in the Carpathians, with their very rich cultural and natural heritage.

We now have a new occasion to strengthen our collaboration with the Carpathians and more specifically with the Carpathian Convention.

As Vice-President of Euromontana, I would like to express our satisfaction on the work already done by the Carpathian Convention, but also share our wish to go further. This is the reason why, I am very pleased that we will sign this Memorandum of Cooperation on sustainable agriculture and rural development between Euromontana and the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

It will give us the opportunity to further exchange successful experiences and best practices, but also to exchange wider knowledge and experts and develop joint projects. It will strengthen our already good collaboration to organise conferences and seminars.

For instance, Euromontana is organising a series of webinars to prepare its next edition of the European Mountain Convention on Smart Mountains that will happen in Italy in September 2021. Each webinar is focusing on a strategic theme for the future of our mountains, and we hope we will be able to organise one edition jointly with the Carpathian Convention in the coming months.

So I am really pleased about this reinforced collaboration and I look forward to it.