

COP4 - FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARPATHIAN CONVENTION

26 September 2014

Proposed Speech on behalf of EURAC

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the European Academy of Bolzano, let me please express my gratitude, in particular to Mr. Harald Egerer, Head of UNEP Vienna Office – Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, for having been invited to participate to this important event.

As most of you know, EURAC has a long term strategic cooperation with the Carpathian Convention that starts already before the “Birth” of the Convention. This cooperation has its profound roots in the long term cooperation with the Alpine Convention.

EURAC is a private research center headquartered in Bolzano, Alto Adige, with almost 400 employees. The center has eleven institutes organized into four research areas: autonomies, mountains, technology and health. EURAC has around 200 partners spread across 50 countries, cooperating also with different international organizations.

These diverse branches of research share one thing in common: the researchers, coming from different backgrounds, cooperate in a flexible, interdisciplinary way in the pursuit of fundamental research that is both relevant and sustainable.

As Mr. Egerer already expressed in his presentation during the opening of the meeting, EURAC provided fundamental support to the process of the establishment of the Carpathian Convention: some of the preparatory meetings for the elaboration of the Convention took place in the EURAC building in Bolzano, Italy, (that hosts the operational branch office of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention)

and were organized by EURAC together with UNEP and the Italian Ministry for the Environment.

Since then the cooperation between EURAC and the Convention has continued through the support of EURAC in the organization of several important Carpathian Convention events and the development of implementation of important common activities and projects in the Carpathian Region in which the EURAC Alpine Convention Coordination Unit and several EURAC Institutes have been involved and have provided their expertise.

In order to further strengthen this cooperation in November 2009 the EURAC Representing Office in Vienna has been established and now EURAC is considered an integral part of the Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.

On behalf of EURAC, I'm glad to notice that we have contributed to the development and the implementation of this successful Convention and to the achievement of the important results of these years.

I would like also to underline that this consolidated exchange of experiences between the Alps and the Carpathians has fostered a multi stakeholder dialogue that contributed to the development of important activities and projects in both regions. This shows that despite the different challenges, transnational dialogue and cooperation can bring strong benefits and solutions to both regions.

Please let me re-assure the intention and strong support of EURAC to continue to provide strategic support to the Carpathian Convention and its implementation and to strongly cooperate with its strategic partners.

The European Academy of Bolzano is very looking forward for future cooperation with the Secretariat, the Carpathian Convention Parties and all the Partners. I wish to all of you a very nice time today and a successful closure of the meeting.