



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAND TAKE AND SOIL PROTECTION

Innsbruck, 26-27 September 2012

Organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention
in cooperation with Environment Agency Austria and supported by

the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water
management,

State Government of the Tyrol,

the University of Innsbruck, research priority “Alpine space - man and environment”.

Additional partner: European Commission

Soil degradation affects our capacity to produce food, to prevent droughts and flooding, to stop biodiversity loss and to tackle climate change. Erosion, soil sealing and acidification have all increased in the past decade globally and in the EU. This trend is likely to continue unless challenges such as increasing land take, the inefficient use of natural resources and the preservation of organic matter in soil are addressed within different policies playing a role in working towards the goal of sustainable use of soil.

The conference intends to draw the attention on current developments in the field of land take and soil protection and to make local and regional stakeholders aware of sustainable soil and land management. It will give a picture of the ongoing activities at EU level and of the implementation of the relevant legal provisions on the Alpine and on the national levels.

Three workshops dealing with pertinent regional and local initiatives, spatial planning in the field of energy and with challenges for sustainable settlement growth will allow to deepen the picture of the state of affairs and to discuss critical issues.

Speakers are expected to hand in their presentation by 23 September 2012 at the latest.

Simultaneous translation from English to German and vice versa will be provided.

as of 17.07.2012

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY 1 : 26 SEPTEMBER 2012

12.00 -13.00 Registration

13.00 - 13.30 Opening Speeches

Anton Steixner (Deputy Governor, State Government of the Tyrol) **tbc**

Marco Onida (Secretary General, Alpine Convention)

Ewald Galle (Austrian Federal Ministry of the Environment)

Martin Schamann (Environment Agency Austria)

Kurt Kapeller (Office of the State Government of the Tyrol)

Roland Psenner (Vice Rector, University of Innsbruck)

Session 1: Soil protection and land take – Activities on EU level

Chair: Ewald GALLE (Austrian Federal Ministry of the Environment)

13.30 - 13.50 – Luca MARMO (European Commission, DG Environment)

The implementation of the Soil Thematic Strategy and the Soil Sealing Guidelines

13.50 - 14.10 – Arwyn JONES (European Commission, Joint Research Centre) tbc

The State of soil in Europe

Session 2: Soil protection and land take in the Alps

Chair: Ewald GALLE (Austrian Federal Ministry of the Environment)

14.10 - 14.30 – Wolfger MAYRHOFER (Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention)

The provisions of the Alpine Convention regarding soil protection and land take and their implementation

14.30 - 14.50 – Georg LEITINGER and Ulrike TAPPEINER (University of Innsbruck)

Land take in the Alps – Past and Future Environment

14.50 - 15.10 – Panos PANAGOS (European Commission, Joint Research Centre)

The delimitation of areas at risk of soil erosion in the Alps and related data and information systems within the European Soil Data Centre

15.10 - 15.30 – Open Discussion

15.30 - 16.00 – Coffee Break

Session 3: Soil protection and land take – Policy implementation at national level

Chair: Kurt KAPPELLER (Office of the State Government of the Tyrol)

16.00 - 16.20 – Georg JURITSCH (Office of the State Government of Salzburg)

Soil protection and land take - The case of Austria

16.20 - 16.50 – Frank GLANTE (German Federal Environment Agency)

Soil protection and land take - The case of Germany

16.50 - 17.10 – Roland VON ARX (Swiss Federal Office for the Environment)

Soil protection and land take - The case of Switzerland

17.10 - 17.30 – Open Discussion

17.30 - 17.45 – Introduction to the workshops and their topics

DAY 2 : 27 SEPTEMBER 2012

09.00 - 10.30 – Parallel workshops on the following topics:

- Regional and local initiatives
Moderation: Christian STEINER (Office of the State Government of Lower Austria)
- Spatial planning in the field of energy
Moderation: Werner THALHAMMER (Austrian Federal Ministry of the Environment)
- Challenges and perspectives for sustainable growth of settlements in the Alps
Moderation: Gundula PROKOP (Environment Agency Austria)

10.30 - 11.00 – Coffee Break

11.00 - 12.15 – Continuation of workshops

12.15 - 13.15 – Lunch

13.15 - 14.00 – Continuation of workshops

14.00 – 14.30 – Coffee Break

Session 4: Conclusions

Chair: Sigbert HUBER (Environment Agency Austria)

14.30 - 15.15 – Presentation of the workshop results in the plenary

15.15 - 16.15 – Open Discussion

16.15 - 16.30 – Wrap up: Marco ONIDA (Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention)