

THE AEM CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNSG REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE

MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Recent months have been very important for the European mountains, the local authorities and the populations of our territories, especially thanks to **concrete actions for the recognition of mountain territories specificities, within European policies**. Therefore, the AEM claims for its objectives through various means: organisation of seminars and contribution to debates, drafting of positions, managing of projects and valorising of communication on sustainable mountain development.

Seminars

Conferences are one of the most efficient way to sensitise on mountain problematics and to bring together different involved actors. The most important conferences organised recently:

- [Water and natural resources in mountains : promote in order to preserve](#), the 1st September 2008 in Zaragoza

The seminar was organized in line with the International Exposition of Zaragoza, dealing with the “Water and Sustainable Development”, as a contribution to the debate focused on **the governance of the water as a highly strategic natural resource**.

Seminars in the framework of the French Presidency of the EU:

- [Innovation, growth and employment : what competitiveness for mountain regions?](#), the 6th November 2008 in Toulouse

The seminar pointed out **the ability of mountain regions to contribute to the Lisbon strategy objectives, as competitive and innovating regions, which can offer quality living standards to their habitants**.

- [A renew vision of the multi-level governance and the territorial cohesion : What future for a European strategy of sustainable development in mountain massifs?](#), the 11th December 2008 in Chamonix

In order to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, growth, employment and adaptation to climate change, **Europe should adapt its strategies to territorial specificities, through approaches which should be more integrated and more based on partnerships**. The policy for massifs, strengthening the solidarity between mountains, valleys and piedmont as well as territorial cooperation programs or International conventions (Alpine convention) are interesting reference points which could help European institutions, States,

local and regional authorities, supported by socio-professionals, Natural parks and NGOs, to define strategic orientations for different European massifs.

Positions and opinions on European policies

The AEM has drafted its **proposition for a green paper** and strongly contributed to the draft of the initiative opinion **“FOR A GREEN PAPER – TOWARDS A EUROPEAN UNION POLICY FOR UPLAND REGIONS: A EUROPEAN VISION FOR UPLAND REGIONS”**, by Mr. Luis Durnwalder, voted unanimously at the Committee of The Regions on the 19th of June 2008. This opinion underlines the necessity of an integrated approach adapted to mountain regions specificities, both assets and difficulties.

Concerning the EU Regional policy, the public consultation on the territorial cohesion: **“Turning the territorial diversity into strength”** has also been a great opportunity to valorise the sustainable mountain development and propose our vision of an equal and competitive development.

Besides these main issues, the AEM participates to various consultations and conferences on different topics, such as the adaptation to the climate change and biodiversity, regional governance in the global context and promotes the information on European mountains through **the EUROPEAN MOUNTAIN FORUM**.

Projects

European projects offer the opportunity to act in a concrete manner and exchange good practices between various actors, thus the AEM answers European calls for proposals of projects and so contributes to the territorial cooperation.

The most important are the submitted proposals within the Interreg program: **Vertical access** (Alpine space), **REEM** (a European network of mountain economies) or **IMMODI** (overcome the digital divide in mountain regions).