

X European Mountain Convention

Mountains' vulnerability to climate change: how can people and territories adapt and mitigate its effects?

3 to 5 October 2016

Presentation of the Speakers

Official Opening:

Juanan Gutierrez Lazpita, President of Euromontana, Chief External Relations Officer, HAZI



Geographer who studied at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and has a master's degree in geography, ecology and development of mountain areas from the University of Grenoble and an Interuniversity Degree in cartography and teledetection from the Universities of Louvain-La-Neuve, Liège and the Free University of Brussels. He has professional experience in spatial teledetection from his time at the laboratory, "Surfaces", of the University of Liège. Since 1989, he has been working at HAZI (public participation enterprise of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Basque Government), where he is currently Chief External Relations Officer. He is also a member of the Committee of Directors of the World Rural Forum.

Juanan Gutierrez has led Euromontana as president since 2012.

João Sobrinho Teixeira, President of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB)



João Sobrinho Teixeira has a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Porto and holds a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the same university. He has been Professor at the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB) since 1986 and researcher at the Mountain Research Centre. From 1992 to 1995, he was member of the Founding Committee of the IPB. In the period between 1996 and 1999, he was Vice-President of the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at IPB. From 1999 to 2005, he was President of the Scientific Council of the Faculty of Technology and Management of IPB and Vice-President of IPB. From December 2008 to January 2013, he was also President of the Coordinating Council for Polytechnic Higher Education Institutes (CCISP). In the period from January 2011 until January 2013, he was part of the Board of the European Network

for Universities of Applied Sciences – UASNet. He has been the President of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança since 2006.

Hernâni Dias, President of the Municipality of Bragança



Hernâni Dinis Venancio Dias has degrees in Portuguese and French Education (Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro - Vila Real) and Secretariat (ISLA – Bragança). He has been a teacher in various schools in the district of Bragança, in particular the Secondary Schools of Moncorvo, Vinhais, Miranda do Douro, Vila Flor, and Mirandela. From 2001 until 2009, he was elected President of the Sendas "Freguesia" (civil parish). In the period between January 2003 and June 2005, he was nominated regional delegate of the Portuguese Youth Institute. In the 2009 municipal elections, he was elected member of the Council responsible for Planning, Equipment, Social Housing, Youth and Sports. In 2010 he was elected president of the regional

Political Commission of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), reelected in 2012. He was a founding member of the Sports, Recreation and Cultural Group of Fermentãos and the Iberian Chestnut Confraternity. He is a member of several associations and clubs in the Bragança municipality. From 2009 to 2011, he was President of the Directorate of the Cybercentre Association of Bragança. From 2009 to the present day, he has been the Chairman of the Directorate of the Living Science Centre of Bragança.

Session 1: Climate Change in European and Global Policies

G rard Viatte, former Director of Agriculture for the OECD and former Special Counsellor to the FAO



G rard Viatte, Swiss citizen, studied both law and economics, with a specialisation in international economic law. He started his professional activity at the Ministry of Economics of Switzerland where he dealt mainly with international trade negotiations. He then joined the OECD Directorate of Agriculture and became the Director for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries in 1987. He occupied this position until his retirement at the end of 2001. In this capacity, he supervised all the activities of the Directorate, in particular on agricultural policies, trade and markets, environment, fisheries, relations with non-OECD countries, etc. From 1972 to 1987, he was also a part-time lecturer at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. Since his retirement in 2002, he has worked regularly as a Special

Advisor to FAO and as a consultant to the Swiss Federal Office of Agriculture. He also fulfils specific tasks for other international organisations (OECD, EU), countries (eg Morocco) and NGOs (eg Euromontana).

C lia Ramos, Portuguese Secretary of State of Spatial Planning and Nature Conservation



C lia Ramos has a degree in Geography and Regional Planning from the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences of the “Universidade Nova de Lisboa” and a post-graduation in Instruments and Techniques of Rural Development from the “Universidade de Tr s-os-Montes e Alto Douro”, Portugal. She has been in the North Regional Coordination and Development Committee (CCDRN) (Ministry of Planning and Infrastructure) since 1984 where she has served as head of the Planning Division (2001 to 2006) and head of the Spatial Planning Directorate (2006 to 2012). She has also served as Chief Project of Douro Mission Structure from 2012 to 2014. C lia Ramos is an author of several publications and presentations about spatial planning, valorization of land resources and protection and

promotion of protected areas.

Mercedes Bresso, Member of the European Parliament and President of the RUMRA (Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas) intergroup (video)



Mercedes Bresso graduated in economy and, since 1973, she has been professor of economic institutions at the Politecnico di Torino (Faculty of Engineering). Since 1989, Bresso has been a member of the provincial, regional and national party executives of the Democrats of the Left. In the period 1995–2004, she was the President of the Province of Turin, a Member of the Regional Council (1985–1995) and of the Regional Executive (1994–1995), and was responsible for regional planning in the Piedmont region. She was a member of the Committee of the Regions and its Bureau between 1998 and 2004. Between 2005 and 2010, she was President of the Piedmont region. Between March 2005 and October 2008, she was President of the Union of European Federalists (UEF). In

February 2010, Mercedes Bresso was elected the first female president of the European Committee of Regions. In May 2014, she was elected for a second time as member of the European Parliament and President of the RUMRA intergroup.

Iliana Iotova, Member of the European Parliament (video)



Iliana Malinova Iotova is a Bulgarian Member of the European Parliament. She sits on the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and is a substitute for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. In Bulgaria, Ms Iotova is a member of the Bulgarian Socialist Party and is one of its most prominent members. She also participates in the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament. She received her specialization at the  cole nationale d'administration (ENA, National School of Administration) in Strasbourg France, and the *Center for European Studies'* (CEES) of the University of Strasbourg. From 1990 to 1997, Iotova worked for Bulgarian

National Television as a reporter, editor, director and presenter of news and current affairs programmes. She then worked as the director of the press service of the Bulgarian Socialist Party and, in 2005, she was voted into the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Session 2: Scientific Approaches: Evidence and Scenarios of Climate Change in Mountain Areas

Wolfgang Schöner, Researcher at University of Graz



Wolfgang Schöner is Professor of Physical Geography at the Institute of Geography and Regional Research, University of Graz. His research topics include climatology and hydrology (particularly climate change in mountain areas), glaciology, climate impacts on snow and glaciers, impacts of climate change on hydrology/water management, and has a regional focus on Alpine and Arctic Regions. From 1982 to 1991, he studied Geography as well as Meteorology and Geophysics at the Universities of Vienna and Innsbruck. From 1991 to 1994, he was Assistant Professor at the Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics (Department of Environmental Meteorology), University of Vienna. From 1994 to 1995, he worked for the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics - Department of Climatology. In 1995, he presented his PhD thesis: "Pollutant deposition in a winter snow cover on the example of Wurtenkees and Goldbergkees (Hohe Tauern)" (University of Salzburg). From 1997 to 2009, he worked at the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics - Department of Climatology. From 2009 to 2014, he was head of the section "Climate Impacts" at the Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics.

Carlo Aall, Head of Research at Western Norway Research Institute, Professor II in Sustainable Development at the Sogn og Fjordane University College



Carlo Aall holds a Master's in Nature Conservation from the Agricultural University of Norway (1987) and received his PhD from the University of Aalborg in 2002. The title of his thesis was, "When is Change Change? From nature protection to sustainable development in Norwegian municipalities". He has been working at WNRI since 1990 and, since 1999, has been head of the environment research group at WNRI. From August 2012 to 2014, he acted as a visiting professor in Sustainable Development at Aarhus University Herning (Denmark) linking up with the Nordic Centre of Excellence for Strategic Adaptation Research (NORD-Star) and the Arctic Research Centre (ARC). Since 1 September 2016, he has acted as a professor II in Sustainable Development at the Sogn og Fjordane University College (HiSF) in Sogndal, in which he has the main responsibility for a master's course on societal transformation as part of a recently started two year international Master in Climate Change Management at HiSF. Dr. Aall has done extensive research on Local Agenda 21, local climate policy and sustainable tourism in both national and international projects. Prior to WNRI, Carlo worked as an environmental adviser in the small and rural municipality of Ølen (1988-90) and has, since 1996, been involved together with his wife in a farm restaurant specializing in organic and local food (www.henjatunet.no).

Session 3: Regional approaches: how are mountain ranges mobilised at political level?



Jon-Andreas Kolderup, Buskerud County Council, Norway

Jon-Andreas Kolderup was for eight years a member of the Buskerud County Council. He was an elected member to the Norwegian Mountain Regions Association and Euromontana, on behalf of the council. Today, he is member of the Hol Municipal Council and executive board. He is elected chairman of the political steering committee of the Water-region "Vest-Viken", doing work related to EU's water directive, which is under implementation in

Norway. He received his basic education from the Norwegian Military Academy, and pursued further studies in economics. He is living in Geilo, in Hol Municipality, a mountain municipality with two National Parks, in the midst of Southern Norway. He has 12 years of experience from the Norwegian army, 4 years as a political advisor and 25 years from the oil industry, mainly contracting and Public Affairs, in Norway and abroad. He is currently one Vice-President of Euromontana.

Taja Ferjančič Lakota, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention



Taja Ferjančič Lakota is the officer in charge of the Public and International Relations at the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention. She is a member of the Mountain Partnership communication group and leads the “We are Alps” project. She also leads a number of key projects pursuing sustainable development in the Alpine region and promoting the Alpine Convention. Taja Ferjančič Lakota holds a Bachelor’s Degree in International Relations and a Master’s Degree in Management from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Professor Sándor Szalai, Chairman of the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change, Carpathian Convention

Prof. Szalai is a meteorologist and program designer. He received his PhD from Leningrad (today Sankt-Petersburg, Russia) in climate modelling. He has long term experience at the Hungarian Meteorological Service on climate and agrometeorology. He has been working on climate change, impacts of climate change, data management and data quality, and applied climatology. He has been involved in several projects at the national and international level. He is associate Professor at the Szent Istvan University, where he works mainly on meteorology/agrometeorology and water management.

Idoia Arauzo, Manager of the Climate Change Observatory of the Pyrenees



Idoia Arauzo graduated in Chemistry from the University of the Basque Country with a MSc in Engineering and Management of Renewable Energy. She later studied Management and Business Administration of non-for-profit organizations at ESADE Business School. She has been working for over ten years on topics including energy planning, sustainable development and environmental education. In 2005, she co-founded eco-union, an environmental NGO based in Barcelona (Spain), created with the objective of capacitating, empowering and connecting change makers from all sectors of society to facilitate the transition towards sustainability. Since 2015, she has been in charge of the coordination of the Pyrenees Climate Change Observatory, within the public body Working Community of the Pyrenees. The Observatory is a cross-border initiative between Spain, France and Andorra in the field of climate change adaptation.

Martin Price, Director of the Centre for Mountain Studies, Perth College of the University of the Highlands and Islands



Professor Martin Price has been working on issues relating to sustainable development in mountain areas for over 25 years, particularly in relation to biodiversity/protected areas, forests, and tourism, and also using integrated approaches. He has been involved in the coordination of three major Europe-wide studies on mountain areas, for DG Regio, the European Environment Agency, and ESPON, and is also active at the global level, with strong links to international organizations (including acting on behalf of Euromontana on the Steering Committee of the Mountain Partnership). He has been vice-president of Euromontana from 2008 to 2016, and has participated in a number of EU-funded projects initiated and/or led by Euromontana.

Session 4: Good Practices of Adaptation and Mitigation to Make the Best of Climate Change

Agriculture and Forestry

Moderator: Dominique Fayel, President of the Chamber of Agriculture in Aveyron, member of FNSEA, President of the Mountain Commission and Less Favoured Areas



Dominique Fayel is a farmer and president of a mountainous departmental federation of FNSEA in Aveyron, France. He is a member of the FNSEA board and president of the Mountain Commission and Less Favoured Areas. He is also a member of the National Mountain Council and President of the working group "Agriculture, agri-food, forest, wood". He is President of the suckler cows section of the Bovine National Federation and he regularly takes part in the projects of COPA. Finally, he is a member of SIDAM, an organisation focusing on projects of the Massif Central. Representing Euromontana, Dominique Fayel is the President of the Civil Dialogue Group on Rural Development at EU level.

Rui Soares, Real Companhia Velha



Rui José Xavier Soares is Viticulture coordinator of "Real Companhia Velha", the oldest wine company in Portugal, in the Douro Valley. He graduated in Agricultural Engineering from UTAD- University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro. His experience at the "Real Companhia Velha" started in 1997, when he joined the company as Technical Officer. From 2002, he started the marketing of the Douro DOC wine from his family vineyards in Valdigem. Beginning in 2012, he also co-founded a touristic project in the Douro Region, related to local wine and product tasting.

Vincent Cailliez, SIDAM



Vincent Cailliez jointly conducts scientific activities on general climatology and agricultural development activities in the field of adaptation to climate change. He was awarded the André Prud'homme prize in 1992 for his scientific work and has specialized in the observation of climate change and conceptualization (or redefinition) of the climate. He spoke on this topic at UNESCO in July 2015 at the international climate conference "Our common future under climate change". Concerning agricultural development, between 2012 and 2015 and on behalf of the Chamber of Agriculture of the Creuse, he led a pioneering project about the use of actual observations of climate change in designing agro-climatic indicators and projecting them in the near future. Since late 2015, he has extended this methodology to the Massif Central territory on behalf of SIDAM (AP3C project) and to the French Atlantic arc on behalf of the Chamber of Agriculture of New Aquitaine (Agri-Accept project).

Sustainable Energy and Water



Moderator: Danut Gitan, Director of the Training and Innovation Centre for Development of the Carpathians (CEFIDEC, Vatra Dornei)

Danut Gitan is Director of the Training and Innovation Centre for Development in the Carpathians (CEFIDEC Vatra Dornei) and former Vice-President of Euromontana. Specialized in agricultural mechanics and agri-food economy, with more than 20 years of work experience, Danut Gitan has participated in implementing rural projects in the mountain area of Romania. These projects have been financed by the EU, the World Bank and the Romanian Government.

Ioan Agapi, Director of FAMD (Mountain Farmers Association of Vatra Dornei)



Ioan Agapi has been CEO at “Dorna” Mountain Farmers’ Federation since 1995. Graduate of the North University of Baia Mare, with a major in Mining, and of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Iasi, with a major in Rural Development, Ioan Agapi has worked for 10 years in mining construction and for 17 years in mountain rural development. The projects he manages are financed by the World Bank, the Government of Romania, the EU and Heifer International. He has worked on environmental protection projects for protected areas management, project management of manure and groundwater protection, and energy independence for isolated mountain farms. He provides training on environmental protection and green energy. He is one of the Vice-Presidents of Euromontana.

Miro Kristan, Soca Valley Development Centre



Miro Kristan is Head of the Environmental, Spatial Planning and Rural Development department at Soča Valley Development Centre in Slovenia and a President of the Soča River Foundation. One of his current tasks is the coordination of activities related to the title Tolmin – Alpine Town of the Year 2016, a task that has him working in close cooperation with the Alpine Convention. With experiences gained through past and ongoing projects, the vision is to help the region in its transition towards a low carbon economy and to better position it as a green destination.

Biodiversity and Protected Areas

Moderator: Thierry Percie du Sert, Deputy Director of ARPE, Regional Agency for Sustainable Development of the Pyrenees



Thierry Percie du Sert is Deputy Director at ARPE, an agency in charge of sustainable development. He is responsible for the Territorial Projects Unit, and manages in particular relations with protected areas (regional and national parks) of the Midi- Pyrénées Region. He has a wide knowledge of policies on mountain areas, especially regarding regional policies and natural parks.

José María Fernández-García, Biodiversity Project Manager at HAZI Foundation



José María Fernández-García’s professional career as a consultant and researcher has been mainly focused on the conservation of biodiversity and threatened species in Spain, with an emphasis on birds and mammals. He has worked on recovery plans, monitoring programmes, conservation status assessments and management of hunting species. He has also been involved in the identification and planning of protected areas and the Natura 2000 network, in the implementation of biodiversity indicators and in the development of coherent biodiversity information systems. He has worked for the private environmental sector, and, since 2003, has served the Hazi Foundation, a public agency of the Basque Autonomous Government. Currently, he is coordinating several projects co-funded by the European Commission and targeting the conservation of wildlife in mountain forest habitats. He likes to think that he is contributing to preserve biodiversity as a legacy for the next generations, because they have the right to live and experience natural – or at least healthy – landscapes.

Bruna Comini, ERSAF

Bruna Comini graduated in Forest Engineering and works at ERSAF (Italy) where she is responsible for the Unit working on the LIFE GESTIRE IP 2020 project and Knowledge on Forest and Natural Resources and



Mountains. Her areas of activity cover forest and natural resources management, Natura 2000's planning, management and conservation. She is responsible for technical coordination of regional public forests planning and management and cooperation in the development and implementation of cross-cutting activities in agroforestry. She is the scientific director/manager of European projects including LIFE, LIFE + and Alpine Space projects on forest issues and nature conservation; activation and development of departmental research, innovative exploitation of resources, demonstration networks, transfer and dissemination of knowledge; activation and development of research and innovation activities in support of the Directorates-General of the Region with particular attention to issues of management and conservation of agro-forestry systems and their functions, conservation, biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem services assessment;

development of strategies to establish territorial agreements for the payment of ecosystem services; programme management and territorial development processes; and forestry sector for the implementation of cooperation agreements.

Tourism: From Snow Business to four seasons Tourism

Andreja Borec, Professor of the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences of the University of Maribor



Professor Andreja Borec is member of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development of the University of Maribor in Slovenia. Her professional work is dedicated mostly to environmental issues, rural development and agricultural land management. She has work experiences in land abandonment in mountain regions and on the implementation of RDP in mountainous regions. Recently she has been working on the promotion, development and marketing of traditional and local mountain food.

Pål Knutsson Medhus, Visit Geilo



Pål K. Medhus is one of the pioneers within sustainable destination development in Norway. He has developed many practical and useful approaches to great challenges. His experiences are from his own companies, his time as a cook, and not least, as a speaker all around Norway. Pål has a large and exciting network; and is good at giving practical examples, which gets his listeners and participants in start mode to begin development work within their own company or destination right away. Pål K. Medhus also has ten years of experience within Experience Economy, which he has implemented in all of his sustainability development tools.

Accessibility of Mountain Areas: Developing Sustainable Transport and ICT Services

Moderator: Councillor Audrey Sinclair, Chair of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Committee and the Planning Review Body within the Highland Council



Councillor Sinclair has considerable experience working with local communities in a remote and peripheral area, which she has gained through her roles in the Council and also through supporting local groups, including being Chair of the Skye and Lochalsh Association for Disability. Councillor Audrey Sinclair supports remote, peripheral and upland communities and seeks innovative and sustainable solutions to the wide range of issues faced in these areas whilst also promoting the great wealth of ideas, skills and products on offer in mountain communities.

Jean-Dimas Malot, European Project Coordinator at Nièvre Numérique



After studying Political Science, Jean-Dimas Malot started his professional career in local development. He has worked on several policy areas including tourism, economic and social development. He has advised different local authorities in project funding and specializes in financial management of European funded projects. In 2006, he joined Nièvres Numérique, a public organization in charge of the management of the High Speed Broadband Network in the Department of Nièvre. He involves this organization in different Interreg projects for European cooperation. One of these projects, Micropol, focuses on teleworking and another, the ERUDITE project, focuses on open innovation and the social return on investment in the digital projects of territorial authorities.

Luis Munoz, Provincial Government of Teruel



Luis Muñoz has been the Director of the Office of European Affairs for the Provincial Government of Teruel since 2002. He has developed many projects such as Equal, ESF and INTERREG (MOG). Since he started in his position, he has focused on depopulation, providing services to communities, and creating jobs. He was member of a team that created rural multiservices, a mix between grocery store, pub, restaurant, and internet point, built in small villages with no private services. He was also part of the Chamber of Commerce's provincial subsidy program to create opportunities for entrepreneurs and to provide a better quality of life for the population. He is an active member of Euromontana and leader of a team focused on circular economy at the territorial scale.

Innovation Linked to the Management of Natural Hazards

Moderator: Aashild Kjelsnes, Vice-President of Sogn og Fjordane County Council



Aashild Kjelsnes has 20 years of experience as a county politician. For the election period 2011-15, Aashild Kjelsnes held the position as Chairman of the County Council and thus she had the leading political and legal responsibility for the Council. This political responsibility included education, health, communication, county roads, energy-supply, culture, business development and county planning. Other relevant positions she has held include: Chairman of the National Committee of Landslides and Avalanche Protection and four years as Vice Chairman of the National Road Safety Committee. For 5 years, she was the Chairman of a programme aimed at improving public health. Aashild Kjelsnes has held a position as Board Member of the transport company, *Fjord 1*, for 8 years, the energy-supply company, *Sogn og Fjordane Energi*, for 5 years, and the Committee of the Unesco World Heritage site Neroyfjorden and Geirangerfjorden for 2 years. Aashild Kjelsnes has broad experience in the field of regional development.

Alejandro Cantero, Forest Engineer, HAZI



Alejandro Cantero graduated from the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM) in Forest Engineering. He has been working at Hazi as a Forest Engineer since 1990. His main focuses are Forest Sustainability and Certification, Forest Inventory, Renewable Energy, Teledetection and Environmental Engineering.

Chair: Marie Clotteau, Director of Euromontana



Marie Clotteau has a master degree in European affairs and political sciences (Sciences Po Bordeaux, France). She joined Euromontana as Project Manager and then became director. She gained a good knowledge of EU funding and projects thanks to her experience at the European Training Centre in Paris, where she worked on regional policy during 3 years and thanks to the daily management of Research Health projects at Inserm Transfert during 2 years. She worked on the DANTE, MOG, A New CAP- Mountains of opportunities, PEGASUS, SIMRA and SILVER TOURISM projects at Euromontana.

Sabrina Lucatelli, Coordinator of Italian Inner Areas Strategy, Department for Cohesion Policy, Italian Presidency of the Council



Sabrina Lucatelli is Senior Policy Coordinator, in charge of The Inner Areas Strategy for the Prime Ministry Office of Italy: a special Action to stop population decrease in small municipalities and mountain areas. She is Italian Delegate and Vice Secretary of the TDCP/Rural Areas. She previously worked at the OECD as economist for the Directorate for Food Agriculture and Fisheries and the Economics Department, and at the European Commission, in both the Regional Policy Directorate and the Development Agency, in Brussels. She graduated from Rome University and undertook a Master of Science degree in Agriculture Economics at the Catholic University of Milan and a High Diploma in Rural Development at the University College Cork. She has been implementing important

research and evaluation activities trying to assess how the Rural Development Policy and the Regional Policy are impacting on rural areas in Italy, Europe and OECD Countries. Her works include papers and articles on relationships between agriculture and broader regional economics; local development issues; and different aspects of rural development, including basic services provision.

Session 5: Designing the Way Forward for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change in Mountain Areas

Chair: Thomas Egger, Director of SAB, a multi-sectoral national mountain organization



Geographer, from 1996 to 2001, he was Head of the Regional Office of the Swiss Centre for Mountain Regions (SAB) in Brig. Since 2002, he has been the Director of the Swiss Centre for Mountain Regions in Berne. He is also the Secretary of the Parliamentary Group Mountains. Furthermore, he is Member of the Federal Council on Spatial Development in Switzerland and President of Schweizerische Beratungsgruppe für Regionen und Gemeinden. Finally, he is the Secretary of the Conference of Heads of Municipalities from tourism villages in mountain areas. On the international level, Thomas Egger is Member of the Advisory Group on Municipal Development of the Bundesland Rheinland Pfalz and Member of the Advisory Group on Rural Development of South Tyrol. He is also Co-leader of an Action Group in the Macroregional Strategy for the Alps

(EUSALP) and responsible for several projects in the Alpine Space Program as well as projects in cooperation with countries in Eastern and Southeastern Europe.

Panelists:

Fabrice Pannekoucke, Regional Advisor at the Region of Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, Vice-President of the Mountain Commission (France)



Trained in forestry, Fabrice Pannekoucke worked a lot for his community before being elected. Former mayor of a mountain municipality before becoming mayor of the municipality of de Moûtiers en Savoie, he is Vice-President of the Mountain Commission of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region and he is part of the “Tourism” Commission of the Region. He is President of the Association of Mayors of Tarentaire-Banoise. His activities are directly linked to the activities of Euromontana. Pastoralism, spatial planning, environment and habitat are some of the activities implied in Fabrice Pannekoucke's every day job.

Roger Ryberg, Buskerud County Council (Norway)



Mr. Roger Ryberg is currently County Mayor of Buskerud County, Norway (2015-2019), representing the Labour party. This is his second session as County Mayor (first session was from 2007-2011). Mr. Ryberg has been a member of both local and regional councils since the mid-1980s, and was mayor of Hurum municipality from 2003-2007. Mr. Ryberg is the Chairman of the Regional Cooperation Board of the Eastern Norway Network, which is a network of the Norwegian counties Akershus, Buskerud, Hedmark, Oppland, Oslo, Telemark, Vestfold and Østfold. He is also a member of the Board of Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) and incoming Chair of BSSSC for 2017-2018.

Isabel Elizalde, Advisor to the Department of Rural Development, Local Administration and the Environment for the Government of Navarra (Spain)



Technician in Business and Tourist Activities, Isabel Elizalde completed her training with courses in local development and the training of women entrepreneurs in rural areas. She began her professional career as a guide and tourist agent. She then worked as a local development agent, representing the LEADER Group of Spain in the Working Committee of Experts in Tourism of the LEADER Groups of Europe (1992-1997). In 1999, she worked for Axura, a Limited Liability (SL) consultancy firm, specialized in local development, tourism, and heritage. Between 2012 and 2015, she directed the Association Cederna Garular. During this period, she managed the Rural Development Program 2007 – 2013 in the Navarra Mountains and the design and implementation of local sustainable development programs and international collaborative projects within the framework of

European programs. Since July 2015, she has been advisor to the Department of Rural Development, Local Administration and the Environment for the Government of Navarra.

Américo Pereira, President of the Intermunicipal Community of Terras de Trás-os-Montes (Portugal)



Américo Pereira has a degree in Law from the University of Coimbra and a post-graduation in Fiscal Law. He is the President of the Council of the Intermunicipal Community of Terras de Trás-os-Montes, Portugal, since 2013, and the President of the Municipality of Vinhais, since 2005. He was a member of the National Parliament in 2001 and 2002. Among other roles, he has served as President of the Section and Board member of the Association of Municipalities of the Terra Fria region, Vice-President of the National Association of Municipalities and Producers for the Valorization and Qualification of Traditional Portuguese Products, Vice-President of the General Assembly of the intermunicipal enterprise “Águas de Trás-os-Montes”,

President of the Board of the development agency CORANE and President of the board of PRORURIS –

Municipal company for rural development in the Vinhais municipality. Américo Pereira served as member of the Committee of the Regions, EU, since 2006.

Official Closure

Henri Malosse, former President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, Member of the Section of Economic Affairs



Henri Malosse graduated from the Paris Institute of Political Science (Sciences Po) in 1976. He was involved in European policies for SMEs, inspiring the creation of the Euro Info Centres. He worked to create the delegation of the Assembly of French Chambers of Commerce and Industry to the European Union, and assumed its presidency six years later. He also created the European Association of Small and Medium Enterprises in the European Parliament. Starting in 1995, he worked in the European Economic and Social Committee - EESC, a consultative body of the European Union. He was elected president of the Committee in April 2013. Rudy Aernoudt was his director of cabinet. He is the author of more than 50 reports, including one that criticises the Bolkestein Directive and several books. On 31 March 2014, during the visit of Xi Jinping in Brussels, he participated in a march for human rights in China. He visited the 14th Dalai Lama in Dharamsala on 10 March 2014, following which the MEPs Marine Le Pen and Philip Claeys requested the deletion of the EESC in a draft resolution. On 15 October 2014, Henri Malosse received the National Order of the Legion of Honour by the former President of the French Republic, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, in Brussels.

XX° Years of Euromontana

Robert Duclos, first President of Euromontana



As well as being a farmer in Marcoux (Loire, France), Robert Duclos was the first President of Euromontana from 1996 to 2000 and is currently a member of the Senate and the Honorary President of Euromontana. He was the founding President of the mountain group of the FNSEA (the French National Farmers' Unions Association) in 1968 and, as such, is the instigator of the French agricultural policy for mountain areas. He was also the founding President of the AFDI (French Farmers and International Development) and the SIDAM (animation service of the Massif Central) in 1974. After that, Robert Duclos went on to be the President of the Chamber of Agriculture of the Loire département between 1974 and 1994 and of the Agricultural Committee of the CES Rhône-Alpes between 1974 and 1995.

Annie Benarous, first Director of Euromontana



After teaching French, Annie Benarous was Deputy Mayor of Vitry-sur-Seine (1971-1988). In this working-class town in the Paris region, she was responsible for health, social affairs, relations with businesses and the promotion of local democracy. After graduating from ENA (The National School of Administration, graduating class of Diderot, 1984-1986), she chose to work for the Ministry of Agriculture, where she was in charge of mountain policy (the Mountain Act, the first Land Use law in France, had just been adopted unanimously by Parliament). As an expert at the European Commission (1990-1993), she was appointed to the Directorate General of the Environment to promote education projects related to the environment. Then, she joined the unit "Analysis and overall design" of the Directorate General of Agriculture. From 1994 to 1996, she participated in the creation of Euromontana, organizing the Krakow conference (1995), which laid the foundations for sustainable cooperation between European mountain regions. The bylaws were adopted the next year in Rome. Appointed Inspector

General of Agriculture, she participated in particular, in an interministerial framework and in the control of EU structural funds (EAGGF, agriculture and local development).

Frank Gaskell, former President of Euromontana



Frank Gaskell was the President of Euromontana from 2000 to 2008 and is now a Senate member. He was employed as Head of International Affairs within the Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the UK Government's Economic Development and Training Agency for the whole of the North of Scotland. He was a member of the Monitoring Committee for the Northern Periphery Interreg III Programme and of the Management Committee of the Highlands and Islands Special Transitional Programme. He was the Chairman of the LEADER II Monitoring Committee for the Highlands of Scotland. Frank was also a Board

Member and President of EURADA, the European Association of Development Agencies. Frank holds a Degree in Laws from London University.

André Marcon, former President of Euromontana, President of CCI France, MACEO



André Marcon is a hotel manager at Saint-Bonnet le Froid (Haute-Loire in France) where he offers trips to discover the local nature. He is the President of UCCIMAC, the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Massif Central, which has now merged into MACEO. Since 2011, he has also been the president of CCI France, the National Assembly of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Vice-President of Eurochambers. He has been Vice-President of the Economic and Social Committee in France since 2004, member of the Permanent Board for the Massif Central Committee since 1994, of the Permanent Commission of the National Mountain Council since 2002, of the Permanent

Conference for Tourism in Rural Areas since 2001, and of the National Conference for Spatial Planning and Territorial Management since 2006. Locally, he is also Mayor of Saint Bonnet le Froid, a position he has held since 1989, and Vice-President of the "Communauté de commune du pays de Montfaucon". Former President of Euromontana (2008 – 2012) and currently Treasurer of Euromontana, André Marcon is motivated to continue to serve Euromontana and the mountains of Europe.