

Protocol of European Mountain Regions

Chambers of Commerce & Key Economic Players Network

Considering that:

- Mountain territories cover almost half of Europe and are still often not taken enough into consideration;
- Mountain territories face natural obstacles, which challenge their development and which have to be recognised by national and European authorities;
- Mountain areas harbour many resources, making them air and water reservoirs for all the European populations;
- These natural assets, vital for the future of the European populations and for their economies, must be capitalised and preserved;
- Mountain territories have a real potential in matters of competitiveness and quality of production;
- Populations are mobilised to implement projects and actions in these areas, whose sustainable development is henceforth a national and European priority;

The Chambers of Commerce and the Key Economic Players from European mountain areas think it necessary and urgent to work together in the promotion and development of a competitive mountain territory at a European level. They have agreed to collaborate inside a Network of Key Economic Players in European Mountain Regions.

Therefore, **they are committed to:**

- Actively co-operating and lobbying at European level to ensure the recognition of mountain specificities by national and European authorities, and to promoting the implementation of policies taking these particularities into consideration;
- Uniting to improve the accessibility of mountain territories and to encouraging the settlement of populations and economic activities in these areas;
- Lobbying for the implementation of specific funding programmes in the mountain ranges and for mountain companies to be rewarded for preserving resources useful to the entire European population;
- Working together as a network, communicating and organising events together, meeting on a regular basis and exchanging information, in order to get the necessary means to make mountain areas ever more competitive;
- Supporting the promotion of natural resources, capitalising on and optimising mountain assets, setting all mountain territories on the way to sustainable development;
- Initiating a European movement advertising the needs, the assets and the particularities of industrial, tourist, commercial and service companies in mountain areas.

For a **competitive and innovative mountain,**
leader in **sustainable development.**