



MOVING MOUNTAINS FORUM

PRESS RELEASE

The 11th Moving Mountains Forum mapped out a sustainable future for energy and tourism in the Alps

At its 11th edition, held over two days for the first time, the Moving Mountains Forum, which is held every year in Les Diablerets, brought together some 150 political, economic and academic figures for discussions and debates centred on the decarbonisation of winter tourism and the energy transition.

Les Diablerets (VD), 26 August 2022. Faced with the immense challenges posed by global warming to mountain regions, and the urgent need to reduce our carbon footprint, pragmatic and realistic solutions do exist. This was the central message to emerge from the 11th Moving Mountains Forum, held in Les Diablerets (VD) on 25 and 26 August and attended by representatives of national, cantonal and municipal political authorities.

"The theme of the forum was "Decarbonising winter tourism and energy in the mountains: a challenge or a mirage? was the theme of the forum, which has become more topical than ever with the geopolitical and climatic events that have taken place since the start of the year. To kick off the discussions, Vaud State Council President Christelle Luisier, who will be co-directing the Cantonal Climate Plan, made a plea on Thursday evening for the pooling of skills and the harmonisation of procedures. According to the Vaudoise minister, who took pleasure in recalling her attachment to the "protective" mountains, it is no longer conceivable to work in silos and develop legislation that ends up opposing each other.

We need to convince the population of the relevance of our approach: "We are in a democracy, not a democrature", Christelle Luisier imagined. These words echoed the sincere and committed testimony of the syndic of Ormont-Dessus, Christian Reber, on the benefits of simplifying procedures. And the need for everyone to pull together: "We no longer have the luxury of arguing.

On Friday morning, an initial debate centred on the actions being taken within the Chablais Région area showed that the tourist industry is increasingly focusing on a "3 seasons + 1" perspective: "Autumn has great potential," comments Henri-Pierre Galletti, President of Région Dents-du-Midi. We're looking at extending the opening of the ski lifts until 31 October. Four destinations in the region are working with the Summit Foundation to integrate various sustainability approaches into their governance and practices.

The renowned scientist and co-author of the IPCC report, Sonia Seneviratne, a professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, recalled the relentless data on climate change in recent decades, and the need for "radical change" to try and keep average global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Solutions do exist, such as abandoning the use of fossil fuels to heat our homes, or the complete electrification of vehicles.

Proposals in the stations

Faced with this challenge, the heads of the major resorts represented at the Forum have responded with a series of proposals and projects that fit "within the complexity" of a reality that combines economic, social and environmental elements. Sébastien Travelletti, co-founder of Magic Pass, notes that the transport of tourists to the resorts, which accounts for over 50% of the carbon impact, still requires a great deal of effort if it is to be switched over to public transport, despite the fact that for the time being the sole responsibility of private companies.

Reto Gurtner, President of Weisse Arena (Laax/Flims), the first Swiss resort to have set a zero-carbon target for 2030, and Paul-Marc Julen, President of Zermatt Tourism and of the family-run company committed to organic mountain farming, argued in favour of solutions combining technology, capping the number of customers,



spreading out the offer and reducing energy consumption. These were "inspiring solutions", said Sergeï Aschwanden, director of the Villars-Gryon-Les Diablerets-Bex destination.

Valérie Paumier, founder of the French NGO Résilience Montagne, called for long-term thinking on "après-ski" and the closer integration of schools and universities in the mountains. For his part, Michael Berset from Romande Energie gave an update on the progress of the Lac des Toules solar park (VS) and its energy production potential.

Innergia, which has entered into an exclusive partnership with Cosmofunding, a division of the Vontobel banking group, to offer small communities debt-free financing and implementation of their energy transition. The first project has been launched in Rossinière. Innergia took advantage of the Moving Mountains Forum to announce that Swiss businessman and environmentalist André Hoffmann had become a shareholder.

The next Moving Mountains Forum will take place on 24 and 25 August 2023 in Les Diablerets. Between now and then, the association plans to develop into a Foundation, in order to consolidate its base and bring projects to fruition, as explained by Philippe Doffey, CEO of Retraites Populaires and patron of the initiative.

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