



**Press Release – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

**THE FUTURE OF ENERGY IN THE MOUNTAINS  
STARTS IN VALTELLINA VALLEY**

For two days Valtellina valley will be the European capital of mountain environment, the crucial point for shared experiences and ideas that will be discussed during an international forum of two days entitled "A mountain full of energy", organised by Euromontana and Irealp, with the support of Lombardy Regional Administration and the Provincial Administration of Sondrio. The meeting will involve members of the European Parliament, European Officials and experts in the sector, going beyond the pure seminar and focussing on action. A common effort to protect the peculiarities of the mountains, starting from a central issue: energy.

Euromontana, the European association of mountain regions, which started the initiative, gathers 72 organizations from 18 European countries and operates with the objective of promoting the mountain environments, favouring their sustainable development and improving the quality of life of their inhabitants. Italian members include Irealp and the Provincial Administration of Sondrio. Mountain regions included in Euromontana decided to share concerns, critical issues and programs and to present themselves as a group, showing the strength of territories that do not want to surrender to difficulties but claim a leading role in the new Europe created by the Treaty of Lisbon. The result of this movement was a position paper, a true declaration of intents defining the possible strategic guidelines for the project "Funding axis for mountain energy", with reference to 2011 Budget of the European Union, that will start being discussed the forthcoming spring. The position document will be officially presented and ratified by the members of Euromontana during the forum that will be held in Valtellina valley.

Fabrizio Ferrari, in his double role of Irealp President and vice-President of Euromontana, highlights the relevance of this unique event, for the Provincial Administration of Sondrio and for Lombardy mountain areas: "All the mountain environments in Europe have their eyes on us – he underlines – because this document contains the seed for the future of our territories. Only a real recognition of the peculiarities of mountain areas from the European Union, stated by regulations and norms and supported by adequate funding



opportunities, will ensure us a future. It's high time the European Commission looks at the mountains with the right consideration, to enhance those peculiarities which, if adequately managed, would benefit the whole European context. Our effort could only start from energy, a crucial theme for the Old Continent but also for the whole world, and the choice of Valtellina valley as the venue for this international forum was not made by chance”.

The international forum “A mountain full of energy” will open on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of November at 2.30 p.m. in the Council Hall of the Palace of the Provincial Administration, with the addresses of the representatives of institutions, including those by the President of the Regional Council, Mr. Giulio De Capitani, and by the President of the Provincial Administration, Mr. Massimo Sertori. The proceedings will then be officially opened by the President of Euromontana, Mr. André Marcon. Then the President of Irealp, Mr. Fabrizio Ferrari, will illustrate the joint document on mountain energy. His speech will be followed by those of the representatives of France, Norway, Scotland, Germany and Trento, Italy, who will describe their experiences in the fields of solar, hydroelectric and biomass energy, environmental certification and energy saving in buildings. The second day will be organised in Chiuro, headquarters of Irealp, at the municipal auditorium. At 9.30, the president of Irealp, Mr. Ferrari, will open the proceedings, followed by the major, Mr. Tiziano Maffezzini, who will then give the floor to the member of the European Parliament, MP Fiorello Provera. The Secretary General of AEM, the association joining the representatives of mountain areas elected in Europe, Mr. Nicolas Evrard, Mr. Raffaele Tiscar, Director General of DG Networks, public utility services and sustainable development of the Regional Administration of Lombardy, and Mr. Samuele Furfari from the European Commission, DG Transportation and Energy, each according to their role and competence, will deal with the issue of energy policies. The key of the meeting will be the presentation of the position document by President Marcon to the participating Members of the European Parliament, in order to define a dedicated fund. The International Forum will be closed by the signing of the document by the members of Euromontana.

**For further information, please contact**

IREALP – Istituto di Ricerca per l'Ecologia e l'Economia Applicate alle Aree Alpine

Marketing and Communication

Via Roma 10/12 - 23030 Chiuro (SO)

Telephone +39 0342.483.981 - Fax +39 0342.482.490

IREALP - Research Institute for Ecology and Economy Applied to Alpine Areas

Chiuro *Sede Legale*  
Via Roma 10-12  
23030 Chiuro  
Tel. +39 0342.483.981  
Fax +39 0342.482.490

Milano *Sede Amministrativa*  
Via M. Gioia 72  
20125 Milano  
Tel. +39 02.6797.161  
Fax +39 02.6797.16200

Bruxelles  
Place du Champ de Mars 2  
1050 Bruxelles  
Tel. +32 (0)251.876.39/37  
Fax +32 (0)251.876.26

www.irealp.it  
e-mail: info@irealp.it  
p.iva/c.f. 00765790142  
cciaa n. 58117 (REA)



**IREALP**

Istituto di Ricerca per l'Ecologia e l'Economia Applicate alle Aree Alpine

E-mail: [marketing@irealp.it](mailto:marketing@irealp.it)

Web site: [www.irealp.it](http://www.irealp.it)

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Chiuro *Sede Legale*  
Via Roma 10-12  
23030 Chiuro  
Tel. +39 0342.483.981  
Fax +39 0342.482.490

Milano *Sede Amministrativa*  
Via M. Gioia 72  
20125 Milano  
Tel. +39 02.6797.161  
Fax +39 02.6797.16200

Bruxelles  
Place du Champ de Mars 2  
1050 Bruxelles  
Tel. +32 (0)251.876.39/37  
Fax +32 (0)251.876.26

[www.irealp.it](http://www.irealp.it)  
e-mail: [info@irealp.it](mailto:info@irealp.it)  
p.iva/c.f. 00765790142  
cciaa n. 58117 (REA)