

VII Alpine Convention

Progress Assured

Ministers of the Contracting States adopted substantive decisions on 19 November 2002, which we shall report on in detail in the next issue.

Following long discussions, it was agreed to establish a permanent secretariat in Innsbruck. The scientific/technical coordination will be carried out by a subsidiary office at Bolzano. Noel Lebel (France) was elected for two years as interim Secretary-General.

- An important topic on the agenda was “avalanches, flooding and landslides”.
- A declaration on the “Year of the Mountains” was adopted by consensus.
- Germany will be lead nation during the next two years.
- A decision was adopted by consensus on a – in some ways – new mechanism to monitor compliance with the Convention and its Protocols.

