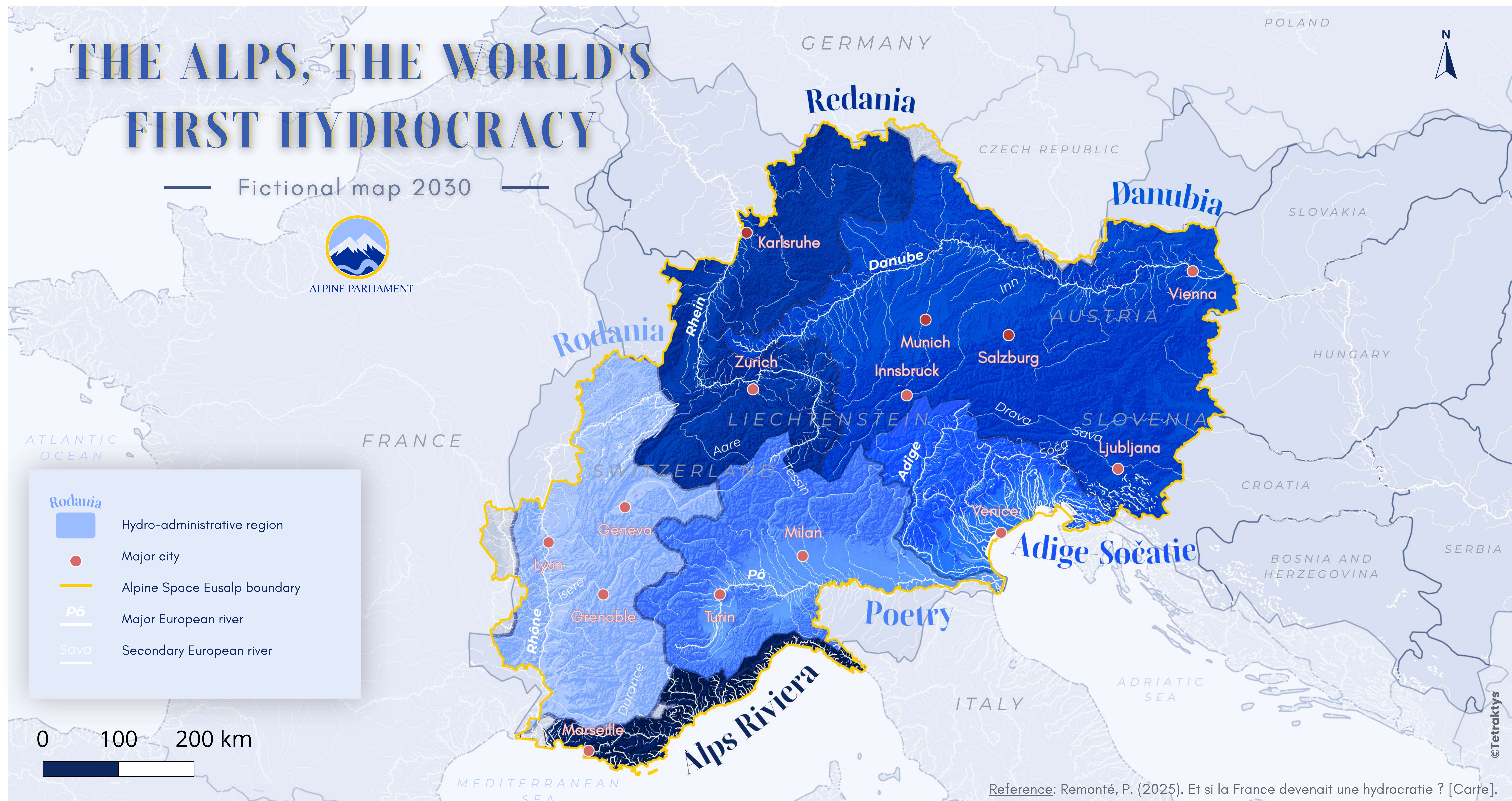




During the record-breaking heatwave of summer 2027, a team of researchers managed to communicate with the Glacier Blanc in the Écrins massif. The whole of Europe heard the glacier's cry for help live on television and social media. An unprecedented social movement, later named *"the Alpine Revolution"* by historians, spread throughout the Alps, calling for profound changes in our relationship with the natural elements, and in particular with water.

In the face of public pressure, a major forum is organised by several large Alpine companies, which announce the deployment of a "mountain air-conditioning prototype" across the 10 most iconic glaciers in the Alps.

The project's techno-solutionist deception is exposed and the event is blocked by the young Alpine collective "Glacier uprising". The companies back down and redirect the funds earmarked for the project to finance the newly created association "Regenerating Blue Gold".

Following the 2029 European elections, the Alpine macro-region gains greater political autonomy. It declares itself the world's first hydrocracy and abolishes borders, redefining them according to watershed boundaries. Water from the Alps is declared the Alpine community's most precious common good. Regenerating water cycles becomes the top priority of the new Alpine Convention, named 'Think Like a Torrent'.