

Consultation with DG Regio

The future of structural funds after 2006 was the issue of a consultation of METREX and representatives of Directorate General Regional Policy of the European Commission on Tuesday, 22 March 2005, in Brussels. METREX President Dr. Bernd Steinacher was accompanied by Joost van Iersel from the European Economic and Social Committee and Hans Pluckel from Regio Randstad, representing the Lisbon Regions Contact Group.

The President outlined the analytical fact, that a growing number of people and enterprises concentrate in City Regions in Europe and that Metropolitan Regions are a new category of its own on the European Landscape. However, there still is a lack of appropriate Metropolitan governance in order to address the key issues of planning and development. Dr. Steinacher also stressed the need, that action has to be taken on the regional, national and European Level in order to promote metropolitan governance and action. This means, that urban issues should be complemented with metropolitan issues in policies on all levels.

Following a proposal of Joost van Iersel from the European Economic and Social Committee, it was agreed that it would be very helpful to produce a position paper, outlining the argumentation for the metropolitan dimension of Europe and providing distinct guidance for future action. METREX already has provided a basis for this through the METROPOLITAN initiative of Secretary General Roger Read.

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