

3c — METREX COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINKS

METREX ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

From January 1998 METREX will have its own web site:

<http://www.eurometrex.org>

The site is currently under construction for the following home page and sections:

- **METREX**
 - introduction
 - contact information
 - Secretariat
 - Secretary General
 - Management & Communications
 - Project Support
 - Interpretariat
 - EUI
 - constitution
 - programme of activities
 - subscription rates
 - membership response form
- **MEMBERS OF METREX**
 - Convenor
 - Vice-Convenors
 - Officers
- **CONFERENCES & MEETINGS**
 - Metropolitan Regions Conference, Glasgow, April 1996
 - Brussels, June 1996
 - Nice, October 1996
 - Lisbon, April 1997
 - Krakow, September 1997
 - Metropolitan Regions Conference, Nice, March 1998
- **PUBLICATIONS**
 - Discussion Notes
- **WORKING GROUPS**
 - Rotterdam, December 1996
 - 1 — Sustainable Development
 - 2 — Economic Change and Development
 - 3 — Integrated Land Use and Transportation
 - Athens, June 1997



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- **PROJECTS**
 - Atlas
 - Directory
 - ECOS-Ouverture Micro Project

It is hoped that Members will upload their own links to feature as much information about their metropolitan region or area under their Atlas and Directory entries, and to enable e-mail to named members contacts. A technical specification is provided below.

METREX ON E-MAIL

The METREX office and each member of the Secretariat is now able to be contacted direct by e-mail at the following addresses:

METREX office:	secretariat@eurometrex.org
Secretary General:	read@eurometrex.org
Management & Communications:	wyllie@eurometrex.org
Project Support:	parke@eurometrex.org

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

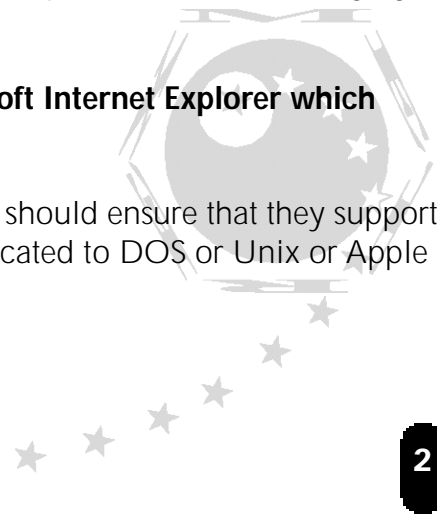
- **a modern PC (486 or Pentium)**
- or
- **Apple Macintosh (68040 or PowerPC)**

- **a fast modem 28.8 or 33.6 baud minimum.**

We do not advise the use of ISDN as the technical specifications are changing, and there is no current European standard.

- **software such as Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer which allows both Web Browsing and e-mail.**

Some shareware products are available, but you should ensure that they support cross-platform communication, and are not dedicated to DOS or Unix or Apple only.



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COMMUNICATION BY E-MAIL

A basic Fax/modem with a minimum transfer rate of 28.8 baud is recommended. Such a Fax/modem can be easily attached to any PC or Mac regardless of language or operating system.

Members should then connect to a service provider such as CompuServe, America On-Line or a local Internet provider to enable an Internet e-mail address per site. — e.g. **secretariat@eurometrex.org**. Caution is advised in contracting with small local service providers. They have not proved as viable as the market leaders.

Most mainstream service providers supply up to five e-mail addresses per single subscription, thereby allowing a number of people at each location to receive more pertinent e-mail directly — e.g. **read@eurometrex.org**.

THE ADVANTAGES

- a cheap and effective communications solution
- likely cost is under UK£300 per site for the hardware and annual subscription
- only additional costs are for telephone time — usually at local rates no matter the time of day or night
- the system is easy to set up, and can be maintained by non-specialists
- METREX will design all aspects of its website, and ensure the quality of its information
- will permits the sending and retrieving of messages and attached data files 24 hours a day
- by using Web Browser software, such as Netscape or Explorer, users also have access to incalculable amounts of data from other organisations via the Internet.

DISADVANTAGES

- None (that we know of).



3d — HANDBOOK OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING PRACTICE

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 The Report on the ESDP (Network Meeting Agenda Item 3) concludes that there are a number of strategic planning functions that can only be carried out effectively at the Metropolitan level. It may be that Metrex could usefully the document current Metropolitan Planning Practice, within the Network, both for the information of the Committee for Spatial Development (responsible for the technical production of the ESDP) and the European Commission. This might help to promote greater understanding of the information, expertise and experience that is available from Metropolitan Planning practitioners.
- 2 The Report on the ESDP (paragraph 53) refers to the proposed European Observatory which it is intended to set up as a source of technical expertise drawing on Government and Research Institutes. The Observatory concept does not appear to recognise the contribution that Metropolitan Planning practitioners can make. A Handbook such as is outlined in this Report might help to clarify this and ensure the involvement of the Network.
- 3 A Handbook might also serve to identify the best available technical practice in addressing issues of common interest to the Network. This could be of practical use to Members.

THE POSSIBLE CONTENT OF A PRACTICE HANDBOOK

- 4 The following 11 core strategic planning functions have been identified as important in the West of Scotland.

- 1 **Providing a Social and Economic Context for Metropolitan and Local Planning**

For example, population, household, and economic assumptions, projections, and scenarios. Urban and rural deprivation and stability.

- 2 **Maintaining a Metropolitan planning overview and Strategy**

To reflect the inter relationship between urban renewal, development in the countryside, environmental and infrastructural considerations, and land use and transportation.

- 3 **Maintaining an overview of Metropolitan eco-systems and the environment**

For example, the sensitivity and significance of natural resources against which to assess the impact of development.



3d — HANDBOOK OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING PRACTICE**4 Assessing the Metropolitan wide potential for Urban Renewal**

For example, the extent of vacant or derelict land and buildings and their capacity for re-use.

5 Providing the strategic context for a co-ordinated approach to “Green initiatives” at the Metropolitan level

For example, open space and park systems, environmental corridors, and enhancement of a Greenbelt.

6 Providing the strategic context for Housing Provision

For example, the balance between demand and supply within market areas, and any consequent justification for land release.

7 Providing the strategic context for Industrial, Business and Office Development

For example, the balance between the utilisation of land and buildings, the choice and quality available, and any consequent need for additional or enhanced provision.

8 Providing the strategic context for Retail Provision

For example, the balance between retail expenditure and the distribution and quality of shopping centres, major stores, and retail floorspace generally, and any consequent justification for additional provision.

9 Providing the strategic context for Transportation Provision and the Management of Traffic

For example, the balance between the demand for movement of people and goods, and road, rail, and parking provision and management, and the justification for additional investment.

10 Providing the strategic context for the development of the Rural Areas within Metropolitan regions

For example, for forestry, estuarial and coastal development, wind power and other sustainable energy resources, major tourism and recreational development.

11 Providing the strategic context for Mineral Extraction

For example, of mineral aggregates for road and construction purposes, and opencast coal extraction.

3d — HANDBOOK OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING PRACTICE

IMC DISCUSSION ON THE HANDBOOK CONCEPT

- 5 The Secretariat would welcome IMC discussion on the Handbook concept and its possible content. If the IMC wishes to progress the idea then the Secretariat could work up a Draft for circulation in the coming weeks and Members further consideration. The Handbook might then be published as a working document for the Nice Conference and any technical discussions with the Commission on the European Observatory.



3e — ELECTORAL PROCEDURES

BACKGROUND

The Interim Managing Committee (IMC)

- 1 The Interim Managing Committee (IMC) of the Network was established at the Founders Dinner, at the Glasgow Conference, announced at the Conference Closing Session, and first met in Brussels in June 1996. Since then it has met in Nice and Lisbon and now in Krakow.
- 2 The IMC initially comprised 32 Members, from 24 Metropolitan regions and areas, (listed in Appendix 1 of Agenda item 3e) but since the Brussels Meeting the members from Manchester, Saarbrucken, Brussels, Malaga, Nord- Pas de Calais and Budapest have not participated. Munich has contributed but not subscribed. The IMC currently stands at 26 Members, from 19 regions and areas, with Rome being a recent additional Member.

The Convenor and Vice Convenors

- 3 The Interim Convenor, Bailie Gerald McGrath from the City of Glasgow, took the Chair at the Brussels Meeting and was endorsed as Interim Convenor up to the Nice Conference when it was agreed that an Electoral process should be carried out by the new Membership. The Convenor then asked the politicians attending the Brussels Meeting to become Vice Convenors, to assist in progressing the objectives of the Network. The Network now has eight Vice Convenors.

The Membership

- 4 The subscribing Membership now stands at 17 (with start up financial support from the City of Glasgow and the Glasgow Development Agency (GDA) pending confirmations from Vienna and Rome. At its Lisbon Meeting the IMC set a subscribing Membership target of 30-35 as an objective to be achieved through the Nice Conference. This would allow the Network to be financially self sustaining by April 1999 when the "start up" sponsorship by the City of Glasgow and the GDA comes to an end.
- 5 The Secretariat is glad to be able to report that the Glasgow Development Agency (GDA) has generously agreed to provide Founding Business Support to the Network, initially for one year but renewable on review for a second year. This will provide funding for 40 days consultancy a year for Alastair Wyllie, up to the Conference and beyond, to take action to extend the subscribing Membership.



3e — ELECTORAL PROCEDURES

- 6 There are some 98 European Metropolitan regions and areas that could become Members of the Network, in many cases through a City and its surrounding authority (Region, County, Province etc). This potential Membership will be invited to attend the Nice Conference and 24 new Metropolitan regions and areas have been specifically invited to make presentations through the Conference Workshop Programme.

THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

The Managing Committee

- 7 At the Nice Conference it is hoped to obtain a Declaration of Intent (similar to that produced for the Glasgow Conference) from an additional 15 to 20 representatives, some of whom could be drawn from the 24 Workshop contributors and others from invitations to join initiated through the Convenor and Vice Convenors, the IMC or the Secretariat. Agenda item 3e suggests how this might be approached.
- 8 The Declaration of Intent could then entitle prospective new Members to attend the Metrex Dinner, and to participate in the Metrex Electoral process, on the Friday evening of the Conference. All members, whether founders or new representatives, might then comprise a new Managing Committee of perhaps 30 to 35 subscribing Members. If the numbers exceed this by a substantial margin, and the Network successfully expands beyond the current target, then there might have to be a process of nomination and election to a reduced Managing Committee. As things stand it is convenient for the six monthly Network Meetings to also include Meetings of the Committee.

Vice Convenors

- 9 All politicians on the Committee might then be invited to continue to be Vice Convenors as at present. The Electoral process could then simply be matter of nominating and electing a Convenor.

The Convenor

- 10 Nominations for the Convenorship, with a seconder, could be sought by the Secretariat, in advance, from all Members intending to attend the Metrex Dinner. A voting paper, with Candidates named, could be given to all Members, with the option of casting one preferred vote in a secret Ballot. In the event of a tie the Candidates could then be the subject of a second Ballot.

3e — ELECTORAL PROCEDURES

- 11 The new Committee, Convenor and Vice Convenors might serve for a two year term until the next Conference. If the Membership continues to grow, as is hoped, then the Electoral process could become more formal and include the election of a Committee, Vice Convenors and a Convenor. However, at this stage in the development of the Network this appears to be unnecessary and inappropriate.

- 12 The term “Convenor” is commonly used in Scotland instead of Chairman and is intended to convey the concept of “first among equals” that seems to fit well with the spirit of the Network. However, in Europe the term President is more common and the IMC may wish to consider whether this title, or some other, would enable the Network to be more effectively represented.

DISCUSSION AT THE IMC

- 13 This note is put forward to the IMC as a basis for discussion as there may well be other views on how to progress an Electoral process through the Nice Conference that Members will wish to discuss at the Krakow IMC.



3f — AN APPROACH TO EXTENDING THE MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE NICE CONFERENCE

BACKGROUND

- 1 At the Lisbon Meeting the IMC agreed that a target subscribing Membership of 30-35 European regions and areas should be sought by 1999, through the opportunity offered by the Nice Conference. The objective is to develop the Network to a level that offers Members a wide range of opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and experience and establishes the competence of Metrex in the field of Metropolitan spatial planning and development.
- 2 An additional consideration is that the founding financial support provided by Glasgow City Council (and now supplemented by the Glasgow Development Agency, see para 4 below) will cease in April 1999.
- 3 Appendix 1 sets out the background to the development of the Network to its present position. There are about 98 Metropolitan regions and areas in Europe (including only Moscow and St Petersburg in Russia). 24 of these founded Metrex through the Glasgow Conference and the Network now includes representation from 19. Some regions and areas are represented by a Regional and City authority, for example, Uusimaa/Helsinki and Piemonte/Torino.
- 4 27 non member regions and areas have been invited to the Krakow Meeting and 24 have been invited to present Case Studies to the Nice Conference. There is some overlap between the two. Other regions and areas contributed to the Glasgow Conference but did not take up Membership of the Network. These previous and potential future contacts provide a basis for attracting additional Members.

EXTENDING THE NETWORK

- 5 Agenda item 3d makes reference to the welcome Founding Business Support now made available to the Network by Glasgow Development Agency (GDA). This provides 40 days consultancy support a year, initially for one year but extendible for a second year on review, for Alastair Wyllie to capitalise on the opportunity provided by the Nice Conference to extend the Network Membership. The GDA support is specifically provided to enable the Network to achieve its target of doubling the subscribing Membership by 1999.
- 6 Appendix 1 identifies 50 candidate Metropolitan regions and areas from which the target additional Members might be drawn. It is suggested that, in addition to the contact made through the Krakow and Nice Meetings, existing Members of the Network might undertake to develop contacts with specific candidate members and to encourage them to join. This approach has been suggested in the past by some Members of the IMC.

3f — AN APPROACH TO EXTENDING THE MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE NICE CONFERENCE

- 7 A first draft of the Metrex Directory, giving the basic contact data for the Metropolitan regions and areas listed in Appendix 1, will be made available at the Krakow Meeting to assist Members in any action that may be agreed.

DISCUSSION AT THE IMC

- 8 This note is put forward to the IMC as a basis for discussion as there may well be other views on how to extend the Membership, through the opportunity offered by the Nice Conference, that Members will wish to consider at the Krakow IMC. This discussion will assist the Secretariat, and Alastair Wyllie in fulfilling his GDA contract, to progress the action required.

Attachment

- Appendix 1 — Metrex and European Metropolitan Regions and Areas.

