

# **METREX — The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas**

## **EIGHTH MEETING OF THE NETWORK AND THE MANAGING COMMITTEE (MC)**

Bologna, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 25-27 March 1999.

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### **MANAGING COMMITTEE AGENDA NOTES**

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#### **1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

#### **2 MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE, Zaragoza, Thursday and Friday 22-24 October 1998**

The Minutes of the Zaragoza Meeting were circulated in November with a covering letter drawing a number of important points to the attention of Members unable to attend.

#### **3 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

##### **3a ESDP (Concluding Forum, Brussels 2-3 February 1999)**

The Secretary General attended the concluding ESDP Forum in Brussels. The ESDP is now being finalised under the German Presidency and will be made public in June. It would be appropriate to invite a member of the Finnish Presidency to explain the implementation process to the Helsinki Meeting in September.

##### **3b SPATIAL VISION PROJECTS (NWMA and the North Sea Area)**

The transnational Spatial Visions for the North West Metropolitan Area (NWMA) and the North Sea area are at the most advanced stage. Speakers have been invited to contribute the Bologna Meeting programme. The Visions provide a context for the METREX Interreg IIc applications for these areas.

##### **3c ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observatory Network)**

The 15 members of ESPON were appointed in December and the first meeting took place in January. The co ordinators for the programme are Nordregio, the Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, based in Stockholm. The Secretariat has made contact with Nordregio to offer the metropolitan practitioner input into the work of ESPON. It would be appropriate to invite Nordregio to attend the Helsinki Meeting to explain the ESPON work programme and to discuss issues of mutual interest. For example, it can be expected that ESPON will be considering how to progress the metropolitan SWOT analysis referred to in the ESDP and it is difficult to see how this can be done without practitioner involvement.

**Appendix 1** shows the membership of ESPON.

##### **3d Interreg IIc transnational submission programme**

The Interreg IIc programme is being progressed within the 7 transnational areas identified in the ESDP. The whole programme has to be committed by the end of

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1999 and each of the transnational programmes is at a different stage of development. For example, although the NWMA is now dealing with its third round of applications the Atlantic Arc area is not expected to be in a position to invite its first applications until April.

The current position in terms of procedures, deadlines for applications, criteria for selection and funding available, is summarised in **Appendix 2**.

Because the European Commission has made it clear that Interreg IIc is the main programme for implementing the objectives of the ESDP, and because it offers scope for a package of applications that can involve the whole METREX membership, the Secretariat has completed draft applications for the NWMA, North Sea area and Western Mediterranean and Latin Alps all of which have submission deadlines in April.

Applications for the Adrianube/Cadses area and the Baltic Sea area have submission deadlines in June. The April submissions can be used as common basis for these.

The intention is to pilot the METREX Benchmark of metropolitan spatial planning and development practice, prepared for the Porto Convocation in November. **Appendix 3** sets out the possible arrangements.

### **3e ECOS-Ouverture submission**

The outcome of the submission was made known to the Zaragoza Meeting. Since then further explanation of the assessors decision has been received from the European Commission and copied to all Ecos-Ouverture partners. The explanation from the Commission was disappointing in many respects and as a result the Secretariat has made further representations.

It will be appropriate to discuss what further action the partners may wish to take at the Managing Committee Meeting.

### **3f European Urban Audit**

Professor Parkinson, of the John Moores Liverpool University, has been appointed to lead this project. He was a keynote speaker at the Nice Conference. When this item was discussed at Zaragoza it became clear that many Members had not been involved even though their areas were included in the Urban Audit programme. The Secretariat has sought an update on the progress of the Audit from Prof. Parkinson.

## **4 METREX INITIATIVES**

### **4a METREX Atlas**

METREX has been contacted by the European Commission (DGXII) to discuss the possibility of progressing the Atlas through the 5th Framework Programme (for research and innovation) which was approved by the Council of Ministers in December 1998. The first Call for Proposals will be published in February or March

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1999 and there may be scope for a submission under the heading of "Energy, environment and sustainable development" and the sub heading "The city of tomorrow and cultural heritage". The Atlas could form part of a wider submission including the further piloting of the Practice Benchmark (in addition to Interreg IIc submissions).

### **4b [www.eurometrex.org](http://www.eurometrex.org) (Nice Conference Proceedings)**

Alastair Wyllie has been supported during 1998/99 by Glasgow Development Agency (GDA) to develop the Network's website and to publish the Proceedings of the 1998 Nice Conference. The website is expected to be available from the beginning of April. The website will contain information on the Network, and the proceedings of both the Glasgow and Nice Conferences.

## **5 METREX WORKING COMMISSIONS**

The first two Commissions have reported to the Bologna Meeting. It will be appropriate to review the Commission process for Helsinki, Torino and Rotterdam and for the host authorities to confirm the topics for consideration. Membership and Chairs of these Commissions could then also be confirmed (see Appendix 3 of the Minutes of the Zaragoza Managing Committee Meeting for details)

## **6 ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE SANS BUT LUCRATIF (AISBL) STATUTES**

The Minutes of the Zaragoza Meeting included the AISBL Statutes as they emerged from discussion. Any further observations by members were sought by 19 December 1998.

A response was received from the Junta Metropolitana de Lisboa which has resulted in refinements to

**Article 13** (allowing any two Members present or represented at a General Assembly to require an Agenda item to be submitted to a vote),

**Article 25** (requiring the appointment of an Auditor rather than leaving this optional).

The modified text of these Articles is set out in full in **Appendix 4**.

In addition, a number of suggestions by the Junta Metropolitana have been reflected in the content of the Network's proposed Internal Regulations outlined in **Appendix 5**.

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### **7 FINANCIAL REPORT**

#### **7a 1998/99 Budget and expenditure**

The projected expenditure for the Financial Year 1998/99 in comparison with the approved Budget is shown in **Appendix 6**. As reported to the Zaragoza Meeting expenditure has been contained within the available funding from Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Development Agency and subscription income. There may be some carry over to the next financial year because of expenditure on the AISBL Statutes, the Brussels Meeting, the Porto Convocation, the Torino Conference and the Interreg IIc submissions. Some of this expenditure may be recoverable (for example, if the Interreg IIc bids are successful).

However, from the coming financial year Glasgow's start up funding will cease. The objective was to increase the Membership to offset this and to provide a wider range of knowledge and experience within the Network. **Appendix 7** sets out how the objective of financial sustainability could be achieved with Members help and support and the budget balanced for 1999/2000.

#### **7b Audit for 1996/99**

Once the expenditure up to 31 March 1999 is finalised then John Brown, Chartered Accountant, will prepare the necessary Audit of the Network's income and expenditure for the three years 1996/99 during which start up core funding has been available.

#### **7c 1999/2000 budget and cash flow**

The budget for 1999/2000, as shown in Appendix 5, will have to be revised if the Network's income cannot be increased, for example as set out in Appendix 6 or through additional Members, to replace the loss of core funding from Glasgow.

#### **7d Treasurer**

The AISBL Statutes (Article 24) require the appointment of a Treasurer whose role was clarified in Appendix 4 of the Minutes of the Zaragoza Managing Committee Meeting. The Minutes (page 18) sought a Member to carry out this role but no offers have yet been received.

### **8 THE PORTO CONVOCATION**

Following the initiative taken by METREX colleagues from Porto at the Zaragoza Meeting (see Minutes pages 2-3) the documentation and arrangements for the Porto Convocation have been further developed (see attached folio). The Convocation will now be held from 12-13 November 1999 and its purpose will be "to recognise and define the role that the metropolitan regions and areas of Europe have to play in implementing the aims and objectives of the spatial planning and development frameworks now emerging at the European level". European Commission support for the Convocation has been sought.

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Within this context the intention is to pilot the METREX Practice Benchmark to define, in practical terms, how this role can be carried out. The package of METREX submissions to the Interreg IIc programme offer the means of doing this.

### 9 TORINO 2000 CONFERENCE

The arrangements for the Torino Conference have also been further developed and the first draft of the Brochure has been produced (see attached folio). It takes the same form as in Nice. It will be helpful to have some detailed discussion on the content of the Workshop programme which is intended to be issue based rather than area based as in Nice. The difficulty could be in finding colleagues to speak to the issues suggested and Members help in identifying specific Workshop contributors will be welcomed.

The Budget for the Conference is set out in **Appendix 8**. The overall expenditure amounts to 90,000 EURO's and this is met by a conservative estimate of Delegate income of 36,000 EURO's and co funding or sponsorship of 54,000 EURO's.

The comparative METREX Conference delegate fees in EURO's are as follows:

	Full Conference Delegate	Day Delegate	METREX Members for 2
Glasgow	700	140	
Nice	700	280	900
Torino	600	200	700

The Delegate income assumptions are as follows: EURO's

160 full Conference delegates, of whom 30 will pay the full Conference delegate rate of 600 EURO's and 20 METREX Member organisations will pay 700 EURO's for 2 delegates each. 32,000

(It is expected that the balance of 90 full Conference delegates will be comprised of 10 METREX Secretariat and Interpretariat, 40 plenary and non-METREX guest speakers, and 40 guests of the Provincia di Torino.)

20 day delegates all fully paying at 200 EURO's. 4,000

It should be noted that the Conference Budget does not include any provision for the management costs of the event which it is presently assumed can be met from subscription income. Delegate income beyond that identified above will help to offset these costs. This matter will need to be further considered at the Helsinki Meeting.

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### **10 HELSINKI MEETING**

The Helsinki Meeting will fall within the Finnish Presidency of the EU and this may offer a particular opportunity to present the activities of the Network and to discuss the implementation of the ESDP. The Managing Committee could usefully discuss the Helsinki programme and, in particular, the subjects for consideration by the Commissions leading up to it and their membership.

### **11 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

The Minutes of the Zaragoza Managing Committee Meeting (page 10) refer to the retiral of President Bailie Dr Gerald McGrath at the Bologna Meeting. Nominations for the Presidency were sought in writing, and duly seconded, to the Secretary General, by Friday 26 February 1999.

Only one nomination has been received, from Prof. ssa Mercedes Bresso, seconded by Bailie Dr Gerald McGrath.

### **12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Monsieur Francis Ampe, Directeur of the Agence de Développement et d'Urbanisme da la Métropole Lilloise, has invited METREX to make a presentation to one of the monthly Meetings of the 40 French Agence d'Urbanisme, in Paris. These meetings take place on the first Wednesday of each month and possible dates are 5 May, 3 June and 7 July. It would be desirable for the President to attend with colleagues from Alpes-Maritimes, if possible.

## **APPENDICES**

### **1 THE MEMBERSHIP OF ESPON**

### **2 INTERREG IIC SUBMISSION PROGRAMMES**

### **3 POSSIBLE METREX INTERREG IIC SUBMISSION PACKAGE**

### **4 MODIFICATIONS TO TWO AISBL STATUTES**

### **5 POSSIBLE CONTENT OF METREX AISBL STATUTES INTERNAL REGULATIONS**

### **6 METREX BUDGET AND OUT TURN EXPENDITURE 1998/99**

### **7 METREX BUDGET 1999/2000 INCOME OPTIONS**

### **8 PROVISIONAL METREX TORINO 2000 CONFERENCE BUDGET**

### **Folio PORTO CONVOCAZIONE DRAFT DOCUMENTS**

- Invitation and programme
- Declaration of Intent
- Practice Benchmark

### **Folio TORINO CONFERENCE DRAFT BROCHURE**