

METREX — The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of the Metrex Network and the Managing Committee
Regione Emilia-Romagna, Bologna, 25-27 March 1999.

THURSDAY 25 MARCH

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

President McGrath gave a short introduction to the work of the Network, current initiatives and the programme for the coming year. He thanked Presidente Vasco Errani and Assessore Renato Cocchi for their kindness in hosting the eighth METREX Meeting and arranging such a full and interesting programme. President McGrath referred to his retiral from the Presidency, at this Meeting, and expressed his delight at the progress made by the Network during its first three formative years.

Presidente Errani replied and welcomed the Network to Bologna. He referred to the matters to be considered during the Meeting and their relevance to Emilia-Romagna and Bologna. He also referred to the transition that Italy is making to a more decentralised structure of government, the importance of polycentric urban systems and the recently published "Rapporto sullo stato della pianificazione urbanistica in Emilia-Romagna" (copies were made available to all those attending and can be obtained on request from the Regione).

The Meeting, over the two days, was attended by over 160 participants including METREX Members and invited guests and contributors. In consequence the Regione Emilia-Romagna kindly provided simultaneous interpretation services in Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese and English. The proceedings were also tape recorded and the key contributions and interventions will be published on the Emilia-Romagna and METREX web sites. In consequence these notes give only a brief summary of the proceedings.

- **Presentation of Emilia-Romagna**

Assessore Cocchi then made a presentation of the strategic spatial planning and development issues facing Emilia-Romagna. He referred to the constraints and opportunities in the Regione, the planning objectives and processes and the financial and organisational problems that needed to be overcome. He concluded by emphasising the importance of the concept of subsidiarity, the need for cooperation at all levels, the importance of social solidarity and equity, and the need for environmental protection and quality and for action that is feasible and efficient.

2 THE REGION GOING GLOBAL PROJECT

Emilia-Romagna is in the process of updating its Regional Development Plan (RDP) and copies of "The region going global" were included in all participant packs (in English). This document contains scenarios and options for updating the Regional Development Plan and a session of the Meeting was devoted to discussion and commentary by contributors from the West Midlands, Côte d'Azur and Catalunya. The session was coordinated by Professor Enrico Ciciotti, Presidente of the Italian Association of Regional Science (AISRE).

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON "THE REGION GOING GLOBAL" REPORT WOULD BE WELCOMED BY CLAUDIO TOLOMELLI FROM ALL MEMBERS.

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(Those not able to attend the Meeting can obtain copies of this important document directly from the Emilia-Romagna web site).

3 METREX COMMISSIONS

At its Zaragoza Meeting the Network decided to undertake Commissions, on subjects chosen by the host of the forthcoming Meeting, the findings and conclusions of which would then provide a basis for discussion. The Bologna Meeting therefore considered the outcome of Commissions on Polycentric Metropolitan Strategies and Urban Heritage Strategies.

1 Polycentric metropolitan strategies

This Commission was chaired by Claudio Tolomelli, Responsabile Ufficio Programma Territoriale Regionale of the Regione Emilia-Romagna, and included written contributions from Rotterdam, Lisboa and Stockholm (a written contribution was also received from the UK West Midlands and featured in the preceding session). Contributions were made at the Meeting by Bologna, Lombardia, Lille (GROOTSTAD cross border agency) and Prague. The Regione Veneto won the 1998/99 EU/ECTP Award for Regional Planning and also made a contribution to this session. NUREC, the Network for Urban Research in the EU, also contributed a view on the definition of metropolitan regions and areas.

The session was chaired by Tiberio Rabboni, Vice Presidente of the Provincia di Bologna and introduced by Claudio Tolomelli, Chair of the Commission, whose introductory paper was included in participant packs. Contributors covered a wide range of issues of importance in planning polycentric metropolitan strategies (see the Emilia-Romagna and METREX web sites for detailed contributions).

- **Planning for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games**

Klito Gerardi, Honorary President of METREX and planning advisor to the Greek Government on the Athens Olympics, made a presentation on the location and design of the facilities for the Games and their relationship to the urban and social structure of Athens. The facilities have been planned with accessibility, environmental impact and after use by the City in mind.

The Meeting closed at 18.30.

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3 METREX COMMISSIONS continued

2 Urban Heritage Strategies

This Commission was chaired by Eduardo Martínez Zúñiga, Director Gerente of the Ayuntamiento de Sevilla and included contributions from Bologna, Prague, Köln, and Roma. The Organisation of Athens also contributed and introduced a major initiative being

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undertaken by the City as part of the preparations for the Olympic Games. This involves the Unification of the Archaeological Site of Athens and includes measures to sustain, enhance and integrate the important heritage of the City and its urban setting.

The session was chaired by Roberto Raffaelli, Direttore Generale alla Programmazione e Pianificazione Urbanistica of the Regione Emilia-Romagna, and introduced by José Garcia-Tapia y León, Jefe Servicio de Planeamiento of the Ayuntamiento de Sevilla. Contributors responded to the introductory note prepared by the Ayuntamiento de Sevilla which covered two broad themes for general discussion. The first concerned the role that urban heritage centres play in the overall metropolitan strategy and included consideration of their symbolic, administrative and tourism significance and issues of social exclusion. The second included consideration of issues of accessibility and mobility (see the Emilia-Romagna and METREX web sites for detailed contributions). The session was coordinated by Professor Paolo Ceccarelli, Preside della Facoltà di Architettura di Ferrara.

4 EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BRIEFING

A presentation on the present position with regard to the Spatial Vision for the North Sea area was given by Ir Willem de Visser of the Netherlands National Spatial Planning Agency. This covered such issues as sea bed activities, coastal zone conservation and urban development. It gave particular consideration to the longer term introduction of more environmentally sustainable methods of waterway and coastal management including harnessing the beach and dune forming capabilities of open river estuaries. It also considered the strategic implications of high speed train links north/south from Brussels/Antwerp to Rotterdam/Amsterdam (Schipol).

This concluded the Network meeting. It was followed by a Meeting of the Managing Committee which welcomed new Members from the Regione di Veneto. It was also attended by Dr Milan Turba from the City Development Authority of Prague.

The Meeting closed at 15.00.

THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE

FRIDAY 26 MARCH

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 21 Members and these are included with the Sederunt in Appendix 1 to these Minutes.

2 MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE, Zaragoza, 22-24 October 1998

The Minutes of the Seventh Meeting were approved.

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8 THE PORTO CONVOCATION (This item was brought forward to assist the Member from Porto with travel arrangements).

The Secretary General and Dr António Tavares, of the Junta Metropolitana do Porto, reported on the development of this important combined initiative that was proposed by the Junta Metropolitana at the Zaragoza Meeting. The Convocation will now take place on 12-13 November, in Porto, and will be supported by the Portuguese Government and the European Commission. Invitations to contribute have been sent to all the key European institutions including the Parliament, Committee of the Regions, and the Council of Europe. The EU Presidency "troika" (Germany, Finland, France) has also been invited to attend and contribute.

The Meeting considered the Metropolitan Magna Carta (including an addition proposed by the European Commission, DGXVI, to reflect the prospective content of the ESDP about to be finalised at the Potsdam Meeting of the Council of Ministers in May), the Porto Declaration, the Invitation and Programme for the event and the METREX Practice Benchmark. These documents will be used to promote and manage the event (copies were made available to Members at the Meeting, in Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, French and English, and will be circulated to those Members unable to attend, with these Minutes).

The purpose of the Porto Convocation is to recognise and obtain commitment to the objective of European metropolitan spatial planning and development competence, capability and process. The European Commission interest in the event is to seek support for the objectives of the ESDP and the involvement of the Network in their implementation. The ESDP commends the adoption of a polycentric approach to the spatial planning and development of Europe and the generation of alternative clusters of economic activity beyond the established core of the North West

Metropolitan Area (NWMA). This represents a significant opportunity for the Network to become actively involved in furthering the ESDP concept of such "Global Integration Zones". The Interreg IIc package of submissions to pilot the METREX Practice Benchmark aims to give practical support to the Porto initiative.

The Meeting approved the arrangements that had been made and the documents that had been drafted. The budget for the event of 78,000 EURO's has been agreed with the Junta Metropolitana do Porto and the European Commission and will be shared. The Invitations to the Convocation will now be printed, in the five Network languages and German, and circulated in June after the 1999 round of EU, national and local elections.

The Porto initiative offers METREX an outstanding opportunity to further its objectives, become actively involved with the Commission at the European level on a partnership basis and to increase its Membership.

ALL MEMBERS ARE THEREFORE ASKED TO INFORM THEIR AUTHORITIES OF THIS IMPORTANT PORTUGUESE/EUROPEAN COMMISSION/METREX INITIATIVE AND TO MAKE PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS TO BE REPRESENTED AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PORTO CONVOCATION FROM 12-13 NOVEMBER.

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3 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

3a The ESDP

Jussi Vuorinen reported that the Finnish Presidency has been invited to attend the Helsinki Meeting to discuss the implementation of the ESDP. The Finnish Presidency has also been formally invited to attend the Porto Convocation and to contribute to it.

3b SPATIAL VISION PROJECTS

Vincent Nadin, of the University of the West of England, heads the coordinating team for the NWMA Spatial Vision. The work on the Vision will be sufficiently advanced by September 1999 to enable a contribution to be made to the Helsinki Meeting.

3c ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observatory Network)

Appendix 1 to the Bologna MC Meeting Agenda papers contains details of the National representatives on the ESPON. The coordinators for the ESPON are Nordregio, a consultancy agency based in Stockholm. Nordregio has also been invited to attend the Helsinki Meeting to outline the approach being taken by the Observatory Network to its remit (The ESPON is being financed initially through the ERDF but should eventually be funded on a more permanent basis. It provides information and insight to the Council of Ministers responsible for the ESDP and its support Committee (the CSD). METREX has already raised the issue of practitioner participation in the research work of the ESPON and this could be pursued in Helsinki.

3d Interreg IIc transnational submission programme

This item was continued for a fuller discussion at the end of the Meeting.

3e Ecos-Ouverture submission (ECONO METREX. Metropolitan strategic planning for major economic change)

It was decided to investigate the opportunities to progress this submission through the Interreg III or 5th Framework programmes. The Secretariat will report to the partners before the Helsinki Meeting so that the options can be considered again then.

3f EUROPEAN URBAN AUDIT

This project is being coordinated by Professor Parkinson, of Liverpool John Moores University, who has been invited to report on progress and findings to the Helsinki Meeting.

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4 METREX INITIATIVES

4a METREX Atlas

The 5th Framework programme Call for Proposals was published on the Internet in March. The possibility of publishing the Atlas through this, on the Internet, is being investigated. The Secretariat will liaise with colleagues from Rotterdam.

4b METREX web site. (www.eurometrex.org)

The Secretariat is now setting up the METREX web site to contain details of the Network, all Meeting and related papers, Conference Proceedings etc. Members will be informed shortly when the site is available for access. It can be used to communicate with Members more quickly and efficiently than by post or fax. The Secretariat will contact each Member individually to confirm the best contact arrangements.

5 METREX COMMISSIONS

The arrangements for the two Helsinki Commissions on Metropolitan Governance and Port and Airport Development and Integrated Transportation Strategies were discussed. It was agreed that Members and guests with a particular interest in these issues should be invited to contribute to each Commission but that contributions from all Members would be welcome. In order to leave time for discussion of the findings and conclusions of the Commissions the presentations to the Helsinki Meeting will be selected by the Chairs and limited to perhaps 4/6 contributions of 15/20 minutes each. Appendix 2 sets out the arrangements for the Helsinki Commissions. The Secretariat will now progress these with the Chairs, Budapest and Helsinki, and contact the invited contributors.

6 AISBL STATUTES

The modifications contained in the Agenda papers were discussed and agreed.

The Junta Metropolitana do Lisboa was of the view that Article 21, which sets out the responsibilities of the Secretary General, should be simplified and the details transferred to the Internal Regulations. Articles 11, 17 and 21, which set out the responsibilities of the General Assembly, Managing Committee and Secretary General respectively, cover the operating responsibilities of the policy, managing and executive arms of the Association. These can all be amplified or clarified in the Internal Regulations, as required, but the Statutes should continue to specify the primary functions of the General Assembly, Managing Committee and Secretary General. This was also agreed.

After discussion it was also agreed that the **Article 21** should be modified to read "The Secretary General is appointed by the Managing Committee and shall be mandated to represent the Association in its daily management". It was also agreed that **Article 22** should be modified to omit reference to the payment of subscriptions by June of each year. It was agreed that, instead, the Internal Regulations should specify the date by which each Member will make payment depending on their particular circumstances. This will enable the

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Treasurer and the Secretary General to anticipate cash flow and manage expenditure accordingly. However, the President emphasised that the earliest possible payment of subscriptions after Invoices are issued on 1 April will continue to be of great help to the effective running of the Network.

The outline of the content of the Internal Regulations was agreed and these will now be drafted in full for consideration by the Managing Committee at the Helsinki Meeting.

The Statutes now supersede the original METREX Constitution within which the Network has operated since its foundation in 1996. Dekeyser, Cabinet d'Avocat, will shortly send a formal letter of delegation to all Members which should be signed and returned to him. This will allow Dekeyser to sign the Statutes on behalf of all Members. Formal approval by the King of Belgium will take about three months from the receipt of all letters of delegation.

Specific decisions were agreed to approach the Region Bruxelles Capitale to become the required Belgian Member on a full or coopted basis (Article 5), agree individual Member subscription dates for inclusion in the Internal Regulations (Articles 6 and 22), agree "liability" for any Bank overdraft purposes of 7000 EURO's or one subscription (Article 8), define the number of consecutive terms of office normally served by the President as two terms or four years in all (Article 11), agree the limit of the Secretary General's delegated powers of expenditure (with an approved co signature) as 7000 EURO's (Article 18), approve co signatory powers to John Brown, CA (Article 24).

7 FINANCIAL REPORT

7a 1998/99 Budget and expenditure

The Secretary General reported that expenditure had been contained within the available income despite the additional costs of a Meeting in Brussels in June, the production of the AISBL Statutes and the Porto initiative. The six Interreg IIc submissions have been progressed, and Applications for the NWMA, North Sea and Mediterranean drafted by the Secretariat, at no cost to the Network. If Applications are successful then the Secretariat will receive management and coordination fees from the projects. Additional Secretariat help may be required if most are successful and this position will become clearer by the Autumn and the Helsinki Meeting.

The Secretary General reported that six subscriptions were outstanding at the time of the Bologna Meeting but that four were anticipated by the end of March. This will enable the Budget to be balanced subject to some carry over to 1999/2000 within the limit of the two remaining subscriptions.

7b Audit for 1998/99

The Secretary General reported that John Brown, CA, who has been acting as the Network's accountant, supported by Glasgow City Council, since February 1998 following the withdrawal of this service by the European Urban Institute (EUI), would be carrying out the Audit of the Network for 1996-99 for the Helsinki Meeting.

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The Secretary General has devised and maintained the computerised Network Ledger of income and expenditure for June 1996 to March 1999 and kept this since

February 1998. The Budget reports to the Brussels, Zaragoza and Bologna Meetings have been based on the Ledger but this now needs to be translated into formal Accounts for the period 1996-1999. This work will be carried out and audited by John Brown, CA.

7c 1999/2000 budget and cash flow

The Secretary General referred to the subscription payments dates set out in Appendix 3. Once these are confirmed through the Fax Back forms sent out recently with the 1999/2000 Invoices they will be included in the Internal Regulations.

The Network set out to achieve financial viability within its first three years and to offset the eventual loss of the initial core funding provided by Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Development Agency for this period. There are good prospects that this can be achieved if all Members can attract partner Members from their region or area as suggested in Appendix 7 of the Bologna Agenda papers. The Provincia di Torino reported that it had attracted the Regione Piemonte to Membership. There are a number of Members (Athens, Thessaloniki, Stockholm and Helsinki) that have such arrangements and are able to share, and substantially reduce, their individual subscription costs.

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ATTRACTING PARTNER MEMBERS FROM THEIR REGION OR AREA.

7d Treasurer

There being no offers from the Meeting to take up the post of Treasurer, as required by the AISBL Statutes, the President confirmed that Glasgow and the Clyde Valley was prepared to undertake the responsibilities. This offer was accepted by the Meeting.

8 PORTO CONVOCATION (see earlier item taken as item 3)

9 TORINO CONFERENCE

The draft Torino 2000 Conference Brochure was discussed and agreed. Copies were made available to attending Members, in the languages of the Network, and will be circulated to those unable to attend, with these Minutes.

The Workshop programme will be based on key issues arising from the Conference theme of "Quality of Metropolitan Regions in the New Millennium", a key investment factor for development and competition. These are set out in Appendix 4 and Members are asked to assist the Secretariat with suggestions for Workshop speakers.

Approaches will now be made by the President to proposed keynote speakers Lord Rogers (the Architect Richard Rogers now heading the UK Government Urban Task Force) and Renzo Piano.

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The intention is to circulate Brochures in September for a first telesales approach in October/November (which can tie in with the Porto Convocation) and a second approach in January/February 2000. Members should note the attractive Conference rates that have been made possible in Torino (**700 EURO's for two METREX Members** for the full Conference) through the support of the Provincia di Torino and partners in the region.

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO NOTE THE CONFERENCE DATES OF **6-8 APRIL 2000** AND TO INFORM COLLEAGUES IN THEIR AREA AND AUTHORITY ACCORDINGLY.

10 HELSINKI MEETING

The programme for the Helsinki Meeting is shown in Appendix 5. The Meeting will cover a number of European matters carried on from the Zaragoza and Bologna Meetings and the outcome of the next two METREX Commissions. It will also be an opportunity to review progress with Interreg IIc submissions and to attract participation from the Baltic States, Russia and northern Germany. It is intended to test the possibilities of e mailing the final Meeting Programme, Managing Committee Agenda and related papers.

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO NOTE THE DATES FOR THE HELSINKI MEETING WHICH ARE **9-11 SEPTEMBER 1999**.

11 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Prof.ssa. Mercedes Bresso, Presidente of the Provincia di Torino, confirmed her candidature for the Presidency of METREX and was supported by President Bailie Dr Gerald McGrath. The Meeting duly elected Prof.ssa. Mercedes Bresso as the President of the Network.

Article 11 of the Statutes indicates that the President will normally be "elected at the General Assembly for a two year period of office". Earlier in the Bologna Meeting (see item 6) it was agreed that a President could normally serve a maximum of two terms of office or four years. As President McGrath has only been able to serve for half a second term President Bresso would also only serve one and a half terms to the General Assembly in 2002. Members may wish to review this situation at the Helsinki Meeting to allow President Bresso to stand for election to 2004 if she wishes.

President Bresso then asked the Members to agree to her recommendation that Bailie Dr Gerald McGrath should be asked to become an Honorary President of METREX in recognition of his contribution to the founding and establishment of the Network. The Members supported this proposal by acclamation and Honorary President McGrath accepted this office with great pleasure.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business but Honorary President McGrath and President Bresso asked the Members to show their great appreciation for the wonderful organisation of the Meeting by

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Claudio Tolomelli and his team from the Regione Emilia-Romagna and the Bologna Congressi and the great hospitality and kindness offered to all participants in what had been, in effect, a mini Conference. The Presidents asked that the sincere thanks of the Members for the support of the Regione Emilia-Romagna for this eighth METREX Meeting be recorded in the Minutes and conveyed to Presidente Vasco Errani.

- **Future Meetings**

Rotterdam City Council, which was due to host the Autumn 2000 Meeting, indicated that a Spring 2001 date would be more convenient. The Ayuntamiento de Sevilla was approached to host the Autumn 2000 Meeting but will not be able to consider this possibility until the Helsinki Meeting.

- **Interreg IIc transnational submission programme (item 3d continued)**

The Secretary General presented an overview of the Interreg IIc programme and six possible METREX transnational submissions. The submissions give the Network the opportunity to pilot the METREX Practice Benchmark and to develop Benchmarks for transnational and European application from this. In this way they could help to progress, in a practical way, the objectives of the Porto Convocation whilst enabling the Network to take advantage of the 50-75% cofunding finance offered by the programme.

The Meeting broke up into transnational sub areas to consider the submission options. The outcome was the need to confirm partners for any mid April Application for the NWMA and the North Sea areas (both of which have already been drafted by the METREX Secretariat to the satisfaction of the respective Interreg IIc Secretariats), confirm partners and revise the draft Application for the Western Mediterranean and Latin Alps for consideration by the Spanish, French, Italian and Greek national secretariat offices (and in particular the French transnational Secretariat), revise the Baltic Sea proposal for further consideration by the possible partners for a submission in June and prepare an Atlantic area submission for further consideration by the partners when the Operational Programme and Application Forms are published, probably in April.

The Secretariat will take the necessary action to progress these options and maintain any other submission options that may emerge.

The Managing Committee Meeting ended at 18.00 and the Interreg IIc meetings at about 18.30.

APPENDICES

- 1 Sederunt and apologies**
- 2 The arrangements for the Helsinki Commissions**
- 3 Subscription payment dates**
(to be confirmed with individual members through the Fax Back accompanying the 1999/2000 Invoices issued in March 1999 prior to the Bologna Meeting)
- 4 Torino Conference Workshop programme and issues**
- 5 Helsinki Meeting preliminary programme**