

XIIIth Meeting of the METREX Managing Committee, Genova, Saturday 26 October 2002
MINUTES OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE MEETING

Location Provincia di Genova
 Piazzale Mazzini 2, GENOVA 16122

MINUTES

The Meeting began with a short address by the Presidente of the Provincia di Genova, Dott. Alessandro Repetto who then kindly presented gifts to the Chairman, Secretary General and Members of METREX. The Chairman responded with thanks, on behalf of the Network, for the excellence of the arrangements in Genova and the kindness and hospitality of the Presidente and his colleagues in hosting the Meeting.

Note. It is intended to publish a Summary of the Proceedings of the Genova Meeting, before the Stuttgart Meeting in April 2003, because of the significance of the of the papers on Genova, London, ESPON and Metropolitan Governance.

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Representatives of 20 of the 36 Member metropolitan regions and areas in the Network attended the Meeting and 23 of the 50 individual Member authorities. The attendance is listed in Appendix 1 and apologies were received from Prague, Veneto, Granada and Porto.

2 MINUTES OF THE METREX GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THESSALONIKI

The Minutes of the Thessaloniki Third General Assembly held on Friday 17 May 2002 at the Thessaloniki Port Authority S.A. Conference Centre were approved.

3 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

ESPON - The European Spatial Planning Observatory Network

Professor Cliff Hague and Karryn Kirk from the Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, (the UK ESPON Focal Point) attended the Genova Meeting on Friday 25 October and presented the ESPON programme of projects and research (see summary in Appendix 2). It was concluded from this presentation that there were many points of common interest between METREX, as a network of practitioners, and ESPON, as a network academic and research interests.

It was agreed that there would be mutual advantage in continuing to exchange information on the activities of both networks, particularly through the METREX Conferences in Barcelona in 2004 and Szczecin in 2006.

The Secretary General will maintain contact with ESPON through the UK National Focal Point and Members may also wish to contact the Focal Points in their own countries (see ESPON web site at www.espon.lu for further details).

4 METREX INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

A InterMETREX and PolyMETREX projects

The Call for Proposals under Interreg III C was published on the web site www.interreg3c.net on 10 October. The METREX Secretariat completed and circulated draft Application forms for InterMETREX and PolyMETREX to all partners on 15 October for consideration at the Genova Meeting on Thursday 24 October. The Secretariat also produced Partner Resource and Finance Profiles for both projects showing the staff time/cost, travel, subsistence and operational cost assumptions for the budget of each partner.

These then formed the basis of the project budgets in the Applications and gave the sum to be included by each partner in the required standard Co-financing Statement. There are about 40 potential partners for both projects which would run from 2003-2006 and have budgets of about €1.4m for InterMETREX and €1.7m for PolyMETREX.

At the Genova partners meeting the Secretary General explained the programme of events leading to the submission of InterMETREX to the North Zone Secretariat (in Lille) and PolyMETREX to the South Zone Secretariat (in Valencia) of the Interreg III C programme. Partners would have to send their Co-financing Statements to the METREX Secretariat by Friday 13 December to allow the Applications to be revised as necessary and completed by Friday 20 December. The Lead Partners (Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee (GCVSPJC) for InterMETREX and the Generalitat de Catalunya for PolyMETREX) would then arrange for their submission to arrive in Lille and Valencia by the deadline of Friday 10 January. Decisions on both project are expected at the end of March 2003 and the respective programmes of project Workshops could begin before the summer (see Diagrams 1 and 2).

The Managing Committee noted the position with regard to the InterMETREX and PolyMETREX projects and all METREX partners were asked to assist in achieving successful Applications by completing their Co-financing Statements by Friday 13 December.

B METREX Expert group on Planning for Major Events

Colleagues from the Provincia di Torino indicated their intention to host a further meeting of the Expert Group in 2003. It will consider a wider range of major events and invite contributions from metropolitan areas with experience of these from the wider Europe.

C SocioMETREX project

A final Workshop was held in Genova on the issue of Economic Inclusion on Wednesday 23 October. The outcome will be published on the METREX web site early in 2003.

There will be a concluding SocioMETREX Workshop on Wednesday 2 April, before the METREX Stuttgart Meeting, to consider the findings and conclusions of the project as a whole and also the input that might be made to the Benchmarks in the InterMETREX project.

D Other Expert Group initiatives

During the Thessaloniki Conference colleagues from Stuttgart, Napoli, Bologna and Veneto asked the Secretary General to consider arranging short, intensive, Expert Group study visits to enable METREX Members to visit and discuss practical examples of good practice related to key spatial planning and development issues of common interest.

After discussion it was agreed that the Secretariat would respond to any request made by Members to arrange Expert Group study visits on any issue of common interest. Members are invited to contact the Secretariat with proposals.

5 THESSALONIKI CONFERENCE/BARCELONA CONFERENCE

A Thessaloniki 2002

Magdalini Segkouni presented a feedback report on the Thessaloniki Conference for the information of the Committee and, in particular, colleagues from Barcelona and Szczecin who will be arranging the METREX Conferences in 2004 and 2006.

The overall budget for the Conference was €100000 of which €62700 was provided by the Organisation of Thessaloniki and €37800 was received in income. In order to assist Members to attend the Conference the Organisation of Thessaloniki reduced the delegate fee from €700, as on past occasions, to €420. The resulting delegate income was €24300 and financial support for the hospitality and social programme amounted to €13500. The most significant item of expenditure was €34100 for interpretation services in seven languages.

It was concluded that the Thessaloniki Conference had been very successful in terms of its theme, organisation and content but that the cost to the Organisation of Thessaloniki had been more than expected. For future Conferences consideration may have to be given to raising overall delegate income and reducing language service costs. Ways of doing this could include early consideration of publicity for the Conference location, date, theme, costs and logistical arrangements and the more precise assessment of delegate language service needs through the Registration Form.

The Committee once again thanked the Organisation of Thessaloniki for its great support for the Network by hosting the successful 2002 METREX Conference.

B Barcelona 2004

Because of the delays with the European Commission's arrangements for the Interreg IIIC programme the Workshop programmes for both InterMETREX and PolyMETREX have had to be reorganised. The first stages of both projects will now conclude, if approved, in summer 2004 and the Barcelona Conference has therefore been rearranged for autumn 2004 rather than spring 2004. This will enable the interim findings and conclusions of both projects to be disseminated through the Conference.

Albert Serratosa and Francesc Carbonell reported that this date would tie in well with the Forum of Cultures that Barcelona will be holding in 2004. The METREX Barcelona Conference will be developed around the theme of "Future Trends in Spatial Planning and Development".

The Committee thanked colleagues from Catalunya for their preliminary arrangements for the next METREX Conference in autumn 2004.

6 FINANCIAL REPORT AND CASH FLOW STATEMENT

At the Thessaloniki General Assembly it was agreed to combine the roles of Treasurer and Auditor and the City of Helsinki indicated its willingness to act for the Network in both capacities. The General Assembly approved this offer with gratitude.

A Financial Report

The Secretary General spoke to the Financial report prepared by the METREX Accountant, John Brown CA (Appendix 2 of the Genova Agenda Notes). The income from Member subscriptions remains adequate to operate the Network at its present level of activity. However, there are two financial problems.

Firstly, the METREX Financial Year now runs from January to December with subscriptions due on 1 January for payment not later than 31 March. In practice only 30% of subscriptions are paid by this date and 50% before the summer recess. In one or two cases subscriptions from one year have remained unpaid until the next year. Cash flow has therefore been difficult to manage.

Secondly, major initiatives such as the InterMETREX and PolyMETREX projects, which require technical and organisational inputs and extensive liaison, are difficult to manage in these circumstances. They inevitably require considerable Secretariat and Interpretariat inputs.

The continued development of the Network to its target of some 50 Member metropolitan regions and areas by the time of the Barcelona Conference will depend on the support of existing Members through the early and regular payment of subscriptions.

Members were asked to give consideration to the early payment of subscriptions in 2003 to assist the Network as it embarks on the InterMETREX and PolyMETREX projects, if approved, and continues to develop its membership and activities.

B Audit

The Auditor, Jussi Vuorinen (with Harnu Kalajoki) confirmed that a random audit of the METREX accounts had been carried out before the Genova Meeting of the Managing Committee. The procedure for this is that the METREX Accountant sends the accounts by e-mail to Helsinki where the auditor selects a number of items for audit. The invoices and receipts for these items are then faxed for detailed consideration and assessment.

Jussi Vuorinen reported that the accounts set out in Appendix 2 of the Genova Agenda Notes were correct and that the items of expenditure selected for audit were in order.

C Project income in 2003

The Secretary General reported that Pre Application costs for the InterMETREX and PolyMETREX projects are eligible for co-funding and that sums of about €19000 had been included in both projects. The Generalitat de Catalunya, the City of Rotterdam and METREX jointly funded the March 2002 Schiphol partners meeting costs of €21000 (€7000 each) and these costs have been included. If the projects are approved this could mean an Interreg IIIC co-funding repayment in 2003 of €19000 (50%) of which €7000 (€3500 each) would be repaid to Catalunya and Rotterdam.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A Dates for Meetings in 2003

Stuttgart. 2-5 April 2003

From discussion, and for future reference, it became clear that the month of April is difficult for METREX Meetings because of the varied arrangements and dates for Easter across Europe.

However, it was agreed that the Stuttgart Meeting would now be held from Wednesday 2 April until Saturday 5 April.

The German Metropolitan Regions have formed a Council of which the Verband Region Stuttgart is a member. The METREX Stuttgart Meeting will hold a joint Conference day with the Council on Friday 4 April at which a Declaration on *The Future of German Metropolitan regions-Tasks and Perspectives* will be presented. The joint day will include series of Workshops on the following provisional topics.

- 1 Impacts of the Institutional Setting on Regional Planning Management in Metropolitan Regions
- 2 How to define, share, and foster metropolitan functions in the face of co-operation- the case of Metropolitan Regions
- 3 Metropolitan Finance
- 4 International Perspectives of Metropolitan Regions in Europe

The Stuttgart Meeting will offer special opportunities to develop working relationships with colleagues from the German metropolitan regions and areas.

Stockholm. Provisionally the second week in September 2003

The Meeting will include consideration of the Regional Development Plan and regional infrastructure. Current concerns include traffic growth and congestion. It will also explore the issue of Polycentricity taking examples from the Baltic Sea area and northern Italy. The ESPON focal point in Sweden is Nordregio, which is based in Stockholm. There may be scope for an exchange of information on activities of mutual interest.

San Sebastian/Bayonne. Provisionally May 2004 (see item 7A above)

Because the METREX Barcelona Conference will now be held in autumn 2004 (see item 5B) there is a need to consider an alternative location for the spring 2004 Meeting.

The Secretary General asked whether the Eurocity Basque (San Sebastian/Bayonne) might be able to host the Meeting and Ander Arzelus kindly agreed to consider this possibility.

Note. Eurocity Basque has subsequently confirmed that it will be able to host the spring 2004 Meeting and the Secretary General and written to accept this offer, on behalf of the Network, with gratitude and pleasure.

B Thanks to the Provincia di Genova

The Chairman once again thanked METREX colleagues from Genova for hosting such a successful Meeting, for their personal kindness to Members and their support for the activities of the Network.

Roger READ,
Secretary General,
Glasgow, December 2002

Appendix

1 Attendance

Diagrams

1/2 InterMETREX and PolyMETREX programmes and management

Appendix 1

ATTENDANCE AT THE GENOVA METREX MAMANGING COMMITTEE MEETING

	Name	Organisation
1	1 Jose Eduardo Costa	Area Metropolitan de Lisboa
	2 Paulo Morgado Sousa	Area Metropolitan de Lisboa
2	3 Andrei Salazar Leo	Ayuntamiento de Sevilla
	4 Javier Sanchez-Palencia Daban	Ayuntamiento de Sevilla
3	5 Tamas Gordos	Central Hungary Regional Dev't Agency
4	6 Hans Smit	City of Amstredam
5	7 Douglas Gordon	City of Helsinki
	8 Harnu Kalajoki	City of Helsinki
	9 Muusa Ruukonen	City of Helsinki
	10 Jussi Vuorinen	City of Helsinki
6	11 V Roozen	City of Rotterdam
	12 M Soeterbroek	City of Rotterdam
	13 H Stevens	City of Rotterdam
	14 Luc Dalroy	Conseil Regional l'Ile de France
	15 Cliff Hague	ESPON
	16 Karryn Kirk	ESPON
7	17 Ander Arzelus	Eurocity Basque
	18 Manuel Jose Bujanda	Eurocity Basque
	19 Luis Oyarbide	Eurocity Basque
8	20 Francesc Carbonnel	Generalitat de Catalunya
	21 Albert Serratos	Generalitat de Catalunya
9	22 Grahame Buchan	Glasgow and the Clyde Valley
	23 Mary Darley	Greater Dublin Area
10	24 Kevin Reid	Greater London Authority
	25 Dr. Gerald McGrath	Honorary President
11	26 Claudia Zavaleta de Sautu	Junta de Aandalucia
	27 Stefanie Becker	METREX Interpretariat
	28 Marc Fermin	METREX Interpretariat
	29 Alicia Harland	METREX Interpretariat
	30 Adriano Muratori	METREX Interpretariat
	31 James Parke	METREX Secretariat
	32 Roger Read	METREX Secretariat
	33 Alastair Wyllie	METREX Secretariat
	34 Antti Viren	Metropolitan Area of Helsinki
	35 Alexander Kolontai	Minicipality of Minsk
12	36 Avghi Markopoulou	Organisation of Athens
	37 Lilian Palla	Organisation of Athens
	38 Catherine Sykianaki	Organisation of Athens
13	39 Magdalini Segkouni	Organisation of Thessaloniki
	40 Linas Sinkevicius	Planus Vilnius
	41 Cristiana Arza	Provincia de Genova
14	42 Andrea Pasetti	Provincia de Genova
	43 Alessandro Repetto	Provincia de Genova
15	44 Pablo Calvo	Provincia de Zaragoza
	45 Carlos Perez	Provincia de Zaragoza
16	46 Gianfranco Fiora	Provincia di Torino
17	47 Johan Ottenhof	Provincie Noord-Holland
18	48 Silvia Grassi	Regione Emilia-Romagana
	49 Claudio Tolomelli	Regione Emilia-Romagana
19	50 Marina Bonaudo	Regione Piemonte
	51 Tiziana Dell'Olmo	Regione Piemonte
20	52 John Brown	Scottish Greenbelt Company
21	53 Simon Eden	South Coast Metropole (UK)
22	54 Hans Hede	Stockholm County Council
23	55 Jurgen Ludwig	Verband Region Stuttgart
	56 Bernd Steinacher	Verband Region Stuttgart
	57 Graeme O'Donnell	

Diagrams
