

XX Meeting of the METREX Managing Committee, Granada, Saturday 29 October 2005

Location Granada

MINUTES

SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER 9.30 – 12.00

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Representatives from 21 Members metropolitan regions and areas attended the Managing Committee Meeting, as detailed in the attached Sederunt. Apologies were received from Members from Andalucia, Prague and Catalunya.

2 MINUTES OF THE NURNBERG MEETING OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE (MC)

The Minutes of Nürnberg meeting of the METREX Managing Committee (MC), on Saturday 18 June, were approved.

3 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

3A METREX Response to the Communication from the European Commission *Working together for growth and Jobs – A new start for the Lisbon Strategy* (COM (2005) 24).

The President referred to the response that had been received from the office of José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, to the METREX Response to the Lisbon Strategy (which can also be downloaded from the web site). The response indicated that further consultations with associations such as METREX were under consideration.

3C METREX and Brussels Open Days 10-13 October 2005

Working together for Regional Growth and Jobs

The Secretary General and the Head of Secretariat (Alastair Wyllie) attended the Brussels Open Days programme and the Secretary General contributed a presentation on METREX and the *Metropolitan dimension* to one of the Workshops (see web site to download this Powerpoint). Alastair Wyllie reported on his attendance throughout the programme and, in particular, the two Workshops promoted by METREX and the Lisbon Regions on *Monitoring regional development* and *Regional Lisbon governance*. The EU, through DG Regio, will be publishing a full summary of the Open Days on the Europa web site. The Open Days programme was twice as large as last year, with over 2500 participants and some 300 speakers, and provides a forum for the presentation of ideas and contributions to European affairs.

It may be that next year METREX should use its formal registered office at Scotland Europa through which to contribute. This issue can be considered at the Madrid Managing Committee Meeting

3D Relations to European institutions and other networks

The President reported that he intends to promote an event in Brussels next year, in conjunction with partner institutions such as the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), to promote the metropolitan dimension in European affairs

3E Resolution on Noise in urban areas

The requirements of the European Union with regard to noise in urban areas are now a major issue for many METREX Members. Colleagues from Frankfurt gave a briefing to the full METREX Granada Meeting and their presentation is included on the METREX CD of the Granada proceedings. The Verband Region Stuttgart prepared a draft METREX Resolution for consideration by the Managing Committee and this was translated and circulated beforehand.

The Managing Committee agreed that the Resolution should be approved, placed on the METREX web site and sent to selected target groups, including the Environment Commissioner and Directorate, the President and the parties of the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Members may also wish to sent the Resolution to Government and appropriate bodies in their own countries

4 METREX INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

4A InterMETREX – the revised METREX Benchmark

InterMETREX continues at Workshops in Valetta in January 2006 and Szczecin in September 2006. The METREX Szczecin Conference in September will provide the opportunity for the presentation and dissemination of the final outcomes and outputs of the project (the revised METREX Practice Benchmark)

4B PolyMETREXplus

PolyMETREXplus reached the end of its first phase (analysis and synthesis) at the Veneto Workshop in October 2006 and the programme of Representative Inter-regional Networking Activities (RINA) were discussed at the Granada Steering Committee meeting earlier in the week. The managerial basis for the operation of the 19 prospective RINA in the project has been established and partners are now working towards a RINA Inception meeting in the New Year.

4C Expert Groups

Dominique Lecomte, of IAURIF, suggested that METREX might consider establishing Expert Groups on Economic affairs and Comparative metropolitan data-bases (in the absence of the availability of satisfactory data from Eurostat). It is intended to hold a meeting with IAURIF in the New Year to consider these and related matters.

The Provincia de Torino has kindly invited the Expert Group on Planning for Major Events to meet *After the Games* in March 2006, to see the Winter Olympics installations and post games legacy.

4D Projects after 2006/2007

The Secretary General reported that the West Zone Secretariat of Interreg IIIC has under spent the budgetary provision available for the programme in the period to 2007 and that the InterMETREX partnership is one of 12 projects that are eligible to apply for a project extension, subject to this having evolved from the original project. It may be, therefore, that a number of the InterMETREX partners will be apply to develop the METREX Benchmark to include consideration of the issue of Climate Change and how metropolitan regions and areas can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

The deadline for applications will be 30 November so an extended application, InterMETREXplus, will require an exceptional collective effort by the partners concerned

5 The Way Forward for METREX

5A Action on the Presidents Barcelona paper

The President, in his introductory remarks to the Granada Meeting (attached as an Appendix), mentioned progress with various aspects of the Barcelona paper. In particular, he mentioned the need to revisit transportation issues (considered by an Expert Group chaired by Stockholm in 1998) and economic affairs (see item 4C above).

The President also reported that he intended to initiate a Questionnaire to Members to ensure that METREX is well informed about Member needs and aspirations from membership and can respond to these. The Questionnaire will also enable the METREX Szczecin Conference to be structured to reflect Member interests.

6 Budget and Accounts for 2004 and Audit for 2004

6A Financial report

The METREX Accountant, John Brown, presented the Financial Reports for the six months ended 30 June 2005. The profit for that period was €112,104. This was arrived at after applying the costs for the first six months against project co-funding and the subscription income anticipated for the full year.

Subscription income of €254,900 exceeded the budgeted amount of €234,000 which had been anticipated for 2005. In the six months to 30 June 2005, the financial statements showed €2,148 of income from project co-funding against the budgeted figure of €34,000. At 30 June 2005, METREX was still due €19,000 from the InterMETREX project, €51,000 from the PolyMETREXplus project, because co-funding had not been recovered from the Southern Zone by the Lead Partner, and almost €22,000 from the reimbursement of PolyMETREXplus project operational costs from other project partners. The total due to METREX at 30 June 2005 was therefore €92,000.

John Brown highlighted the difficulties, which were now being experienced in preparing the financial reports. These were due to project co-funding and reimbursements for PolyMETREXplus not being received within the anticipated time scale. It had been normal accounting policy not to report project co-funding as income until it was actually received. The delays in receiving co-funding were distorting the financial figures and this problem will have to be addressed when the Financial Reports are prepared for the full year to 31 December 2005.

The Managing Committee were advised that it may therefore be necessary to restate the December 2004 accounts and prepare the December 2005 accounts so that they reflect the periods in which the co-funding was actually due as opposed to the present system of excluding co-funding income until it is received. The policy will be reviewed in the light of the situation that exists at 31 December 2005.

METREX cannot cope with a project debt to the scale reported by the METREX Accountant and action will be taken to speed these repayments in order to maintain the operation of the Network

6B METREX audit for 2005

The METREX Treasure/Auditor (Helsinki City Council) will reported that the audit of METREX income and expenditure for the financial period January to June 2005 had been carried out satisfactorily.

7 MEMBERSHIP

The Managing Committee welcomed the Institut d'Aménagement et d'Urbanisme de la Région d'Ile-de-France (IAURIF) and the Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza to membership of METREX and the President presented Membership certificates to representative colleagues. Dominique Lecomte made an informative presentation on the structure and wide ranging programme of IAURIF, which has a staff resource of over 200 and a budget of some €80m. It is hoped to arrange a METREX Meeting in Paris in 2007 (see item 8b below).

The Secretary General reported that METREX has been invited to Hamburg on Friday 11 November to present METREX to the Steering Committee of the new Metropolitan Region of Hamburg and thereafter to also present METREX at the inauguration of the new HafenCity University, which includes spatial planning on its curriculum.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8A Metrexchange

The Secretary General suggested that the Metrexchange newsletter might be produced after METREX Meetings to summarise for Members the outcome of the Meeting as a whole including the Managing Committee meeting.

8B Dates for Meetings/Conferences in 2006/2007/2008/2009

The programme for the METREX 10th Anniversary, 1996-2006, year has now been finalised and includes an International Congress hosted by the Comunidad de Madrid on the theme of the State of the Art – Metropolitan and capital regions spatial planning, from 2-6 May 2006. This will be followed by the METREX 10th Anniversary Conference on the State of Practice - the body of knowledge - Looking back/Looking forward. The provisional dates for the Szczecin Conference are 27-30 September 2006. The METREX Brochure is also being updated to reflect the occasion of the 10th Anniversary.

During the Granada Meeting colleagues from Zaragoza, Veneto and Wroclaw kindly confirmed an interest in principle in hosting a METREX Meeting. The possibility of hosting a Meeting has also been raised, informally, with colleagues in Prague. In consequence, the METREX Programme to 2009 might be as follows.

- 2006 Madrid spring international Conference on the State of the Art
Szczecin autumn METREX 10th Anniversary Conference on the State of Practice
- 2007 Paris spring global city Meeting with IAURIF
Zaragoza autumn Meeting on the 2008 International Expo
- 2008 Prague spring Meeting
London autumn Conference, possibly on integrated metropolitan strategies
- 2009 Veneto spring Meeting
Wroclaw autumn Meeting

9 Any other business

The Secretary General reported that Alastair Wyllie, whose function within the Network has been described since 1996 as Communications and Management, has been given the title of Head of Secretariat to reflect the realities of his long standing service to the Network and to enable him to act with greater authority on behalf of the METREX.

Appendices

- 1 METREX Financial Reports for the period January to June 2005
- 2 Sederunt

Appendix 1

METREX Financial Reports for the period January to June 2005

Income and Expenditure account

	€	€	€
OPENING BANK BALANCE			(25,112)
MANAGEMENT			
Income			
Subscriptions	157,300		
Interest received	1		
Project co-funding	<u>2,148</u>		
		159,449	
Expenditure			
Secretary General	12,856		
Communications & management	8,341		
Project support – co-funded	69,786		
Project support – networking	–		
Interpretation & translation	9,980		
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	4,485		
Printing & copying	465		
Postage, stationery & telephone	1,326		
Accountancy	5,205		
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>4,926</u>		
		<u>117,370</u>	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		42,079	
CONFERENCE			
Income	4,213		
Expenditure	<u>16,677</u>		
		<u>(12,464)</u>	
NET INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) OF FUNDS			29,615
EXCHANGE DIFFERENCE			<u>(814)</u>
CLOSING BANK BALANCE			<u>3,689</u>

Appendix 1 continued

METREX Financial Reports for the period January to June 2005

Profit and loss account

	Budget for year		Actual for period	
	€	€	€	€
MANAGEMENT				
Income				
Subscriptions	234,000		254,900	
Interest received	-		34	
Project co-funding	<u>34,000</u>	268,000	<u>2,148</u>	257,082
Expenditure				
Secretary General	49,600		21,112	
Communications & management	26,520		8,341	
Project support – co-funded	68,000		79,924	
Project support – networking	38,000		-	
Interpretation & translation	30,000		14,456	
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	30,000		5,866	
Printing & copying	1,000		465	
Postage, stationery & telephone	5,500		1,326	
Accountancy	5,500		5,965	
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>13,000</u>		<u>6,580</u>	
		<u>267,120</u>		<u>144,035</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		880		113,047
CONFERENCES				
Income	-		-	
Expenditure	<u>-</u>		<u>(59)</u>	
		-		<u>(59)</u>
CURRENCY FLUCTUATION		<u>-</u>		<u>(1,002)</u>
PROFIT/(LOSS)		<u>880</u>		<u>112,104</u>

Appendix 2

Sederunt

Organisation of Athens	Katherine Sykianaki
Regione Emilia-Romagna	Silvia Grassi
	Claudio Tolomelli
Planungsverband Ballungsraum Frankfurt / Rhein-Main	Hélène Pretsch
	Jens Scheller
Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee	Grahame Buchan
Ayuntamiento de Granada	José Luis Spinola Olmedo
City of Helsinki	Markku Lahti
	Hannu Kalajoki
IAURIF	Dominique Lecomte
Regione Lombardia	Antonio Lampugnani
Comunidad de Madrid	Alberto Leboreiro Amaro
	Francisco López Rodríguez
METREX	Jackie Brown
	Gerald McGrath
	Tim Page
	Jim Parke
	Roger Read
	Alastair Wyllie
Marketing Metropolitan Region Nürnberg	Gabriele Engel
Gemeente Rotterdam	Martin Aarts
	Ingeborg Absil
Stockholm County	Hans Hede
Stockholm City	Per Lundberg
Verband Region Stuttgart	Bernd Steinacher
Organisation of Thessaloniki	Magda Segkouni
Provincia di Torino	Gianfranco Fiora
Regione Veneto	Francesca Franzin
	Romeo Toffano
Municipality of Wroclaw	Jacek Barski
	Andrzej Piorun
Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza	Francisco Javier Arbués Castillo
Diputación de Zaragoza	Pablo Calvo y Ruata