

XXI Meeting of the METREX Managing Committee, Madrid, Saturday 6 May 2006

Location Palacio Municipal de Congresos.
 Campo de las Naciones.
 Avda Capital de España Madrid s/n
 28042 MADRID

MINUTES

SATURDAY 6 MAY 9.30 – 13.00

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Representatives from 21 METREX Member metropolitan regions and areas attended the Managing Committee Meeting, as detailed in the attached Sederunt (Appendix 1). Apologies were received from Members from Prague and Glasgow.

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

The Minutes of the Granada meeting of the METREX Managing Committee, on Saturday 29 October, were approved.

3 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

3A Talents, Tolerance, Technology – The METROPOLITAN future of Europe

The President reported on the above joint initiative held with the Verband Region Stuttgart and Hamburg Metropolitan Region on 7 March 2006 at the offices of the Committee of the Regions in Bruxelles. The President had previously circulated a letter to all Members summarising the outcome.

He explained that the purpose of the event had been to highlight the role of metropolitan regions in the Lisbon Process and, in particular, to change the perspective from economic problems to economic opportunities. He also mentioned the need to have regard to related social and environmental issues in an integrated approach. Effective metropolitan governance remained a key issue for the implementation of the Lisbon Process.

IAURIF and the Verband Region Stuttgart have been working on a Lisbon Monitoring initiative and this is discussed later under item 4C.

The Managing Committee noted the outcome of the joint initiative

3B METREX and Brussels Open Days 9-12 October 2006
Investing in Europe's Regions and Cities

The Secretary General reported on progress with the METREX Conglomerate Open Days programme. A lunchtime meeting of Open Days partners was held on Thursday 4 May, during the Madrid Congress.

The Open Days Programme will be published by the Committee of the Regions at the end of May. Two METREX Conglomerate Workshops, which will form part of the official Programme of events, will be held on Tuesday 12 October. They will be on the sub-themes of Connectivity for Competitiveness and Quality of life for Competitiveness and will involve 11 METREX Members. A feature of the Programme for 2006 will be a series of decentralised events in Conglomerate partner areas, after the Open Days week, to promote the Open Days idea and theme.

All METREX Members will receive the Open Days Programme and are invited to attend the event

3C Resolution on Noise in urban areas

The President reported that, further to the submission to the European Commission of the Resolution on Noise after the Granada Meeting, he has been invited to participate in the discussions with the rail sector and to participate in the next UIC (International Union of Railways) rail noise Workshop on 26 October 2006 (see www.uic.asso.fr).

4 METREX INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

4A InterMETREX – the revised METREX Benchmark

InterMETREX will conclude with a Workshop in Glasgow from Tuesday 30 May to Friday 2 June 2006 for all 32 Partners. The METREX Szczecin Conference in September will provide an opportunity for the presentation and dissemination of the final outcomes and outputs of the project (the revised METREX Practice Benchmark).

4B PolyMETREXplus

The METREX Secretariat has produced an Interim Report on the first phase of the project, the Planning Component, and this has been circulated to all Members for information. The Interim Report and its nine supporting Diagrams can be downloaded from the METREX web site as pdf's.

The second phase of the project, the Practice Component, began at an Inception Meeting in Barcelona from 3-4 April 2006. However, partners are now awaiting the outcome of negotiations with the Interreg IIIC South Zone Secretariat about the submission of one combined co-funding claim for the Planning Component, before proceeding further.

Because of the under spending on the project the South Zone has demitted €110,654 from the project budget. Partner budgets for the Practice Component, the Representative Interregional Networking Activities (RINA), will be reviewed when the overall financial position of the project is clearer. This is expected to be after a meeting with the Lead Partner, the Generalitat de Catalunya, and the Spanish national Interreg representatives, called by the South Zone Secretariat on Tuesday 30 May in Valencia.

The Managing Committee noted the position and a CD of the PolyMETREXplus Interim Report and the Inception Meeting partner RINA proposals was made available to the Managing Committee Meeting

4C Expert Groups

There was a general discussion on the topics and working methods of METREX Expert Groups. METREX Members have limited time staff and financial resources to devote to METREX affairs and there appeared to be two approaches that could be taken.

- A When dealing with the exchange of experience, as for example on Planning for Major Events, it has proved productive and cost effective to work through 1-2 day Workshops with the circulation of discussion material in advance and the rapid production of concise findings and conclusions thereafter. The process may be repeated at intervals to respond to changing or developing circumstances.
- B When dealing with the development of methodologies or processes, as for example Lisbon Monitoring, it may be appropriate to work in a similar way but with a number of linked Workshops through which to develop and refine a practical or preferred approach.

The Secretary General suggested that the Network might be regarded as a market for ideas and issues through which Members could find partners to work with. Expert Groups should be Member generated and then supported by the Secretariat/Interpretariat. Members might summarise ideas or issues on which they would like to network with other Members and the Secretariat could then translate and circulate such scoping papers within METREX. The response could then be considered by the promoting Member and, given sufficient common interest, an Expert Group could then be initiated.

The Managing Committee agreed to adopt this working procedure

METREX/IAURIF and economic affairs

IAURIF has expressed a particular interest in economic affairs and the possibility of collaboration on this issue has been explored with the Verband Region Stuttgart. Dominique Lecomte, of IAURIF, presented a scoping paper on Lisbon Monitoring and a number of METREX Members expressed an interest in this.

It was agreed that IAURIF would develop the scoping paper, having regard to the Expert Group initiation procedure outlined above, and that the Secretariat would then translate and circulate this for Member consideration and response

Planning for Major Events

The Provincia di Torino hosted a meeting of the Expert Group on Planning for Major Events, from 23-25 March 2006 on the theme of *After the Games*, to see the Winter Olympics installations and discuss the issue of the post Games legacy.

The Report of the meeting of the Expert Group can be downloaded from the METREX web site and a CD of this and all partner contributions to the Torino Meeting was made available at the Managing Committee Meeting

4D Projects after 2006/2007

An InterMETREXplus Inception Meeting took place at the Greater London Authority (GLA) from Thursday 9 March to Friday 10 March 2006. InterMETREXplus may now have to be progressed through an extension to the current project but without additional funding. This is because the

rescheduling of the Malta InterMETREX Workshop from Autumn 2005 to Spring 2006 has taken InterMETREX beyond the 20% under spending maximum for project funding extensions.

5 The Way Forward for METREX

5A Presidents Questionnaire

The President reported on the outcome of the Questionnaire sent to all Members at the turn of the year and the Powerpoint presentation on the outcome can be downloaded from the METREX web site as a pdf. The Questionnaire was sent to all 52 individual Member bodies and authorities in languages and was completed by 21. The President circulated a summary of the findings and conclusions of the Questionnaire to all Members before the Managing Committee and these are summarised in Appendix 2. The President concluded that two Expert Groups might be set up, in response to issues raised through the Questionnaire, on Major Infrastructure and Metropolitan Data and Monitoring.

The proposed Expert Group on Major Infrastructure can be initiated by the Verband Region Stuttgart through the procedure set out in item 4C above

The Expert Group on Metropolitan Data and Monitoring can similarly be initiated by IAURIF, having regard to the Lisbon Monitoring Expert Group scoping paper (see item 4C above)

The Secretary General will develop a dialogue with individual Members on the specific points raised by them through the Questionnaire

6 Accounts for 2005, Audit for 2005 and draft Budget for 2007/2008

6A Financial Report for the financial year 2005

The METREX Accountant, John Brown, presented the Financial Report (Income and Expenditure and Profit and Loss) for the Financial Year ending on 31 December 2005 (see related Agenda Notes Appendices for details). The major issue highlighted was the continuing shortfall in Interreg IIIC co-funding income from the PolyMETREXplus project. As noted under item 4B, steps are being taken to speed these payments. If these are successful then the Network may have a working balance at the end of the 2006 Financial Year.

6B METREX audit for 2005

The METREX Treasurer/Auditor, Olli Lahtinen of Helsinki City Council, reported that the audit of METREX income and expenditure for the financial period July to December 2005 had been carried out satisfactorily. However, the Treasurer/Auditor expressed concern at the financial difficulties that had been generated by METREX participation in PolyMETREXplus both as a Partner and as a provider of support services to the project. The Secretary General explained that the Network has been faced with the need to balance the importance of the project with the financial risks involved.

6C Draft METREX budget for 2007/2008

The METREX General Assembly at the Szczecin Conference will have to set the Budget for 2007/2008, on the advice of the Managing Committee. A draft 2007/2008 Budget was tabled at the Madrid Managing Committee Meeting for consideration by all Members and is shown in Appendix 4. It is based on current levels of income and expenditure and may be modified if the membership develops as anticipated in item 7 below.

7 MEMBERSHIP

The President and Secretary General reported that strong interest had been expressed by colleagues from Istanbul and Zagreb in joining METREX, during the Madrid Congress. Sarajevo had also made contact with the Secretariat. It appears that the 10-year target of 50 METREX Member metropolitan regions and areas may be close to achievement on 2006.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

The programme for the METREX 10th Anniversary year in 2006 includes the International Congress on the theme of the *State of the Art – Metropolitan and capital regions spatial planning*, hosted by the Comunidad de Madrid in the Palacio Municipal de Congressos from 2-6 May 2006.

The Congress attracted over 700 delegates from Europe and the Spanish-speaking world. Sir Peter Hall, the Congress Patron, in his concluding remarks, expressed the view that the Congress had been one of the most rewarding with which he had been associated. The Comunidad de Madrid was congratulated by all concerned for the quality of the organisation and the imagination with which the event had been staged in what is a world-class venue.

The Managing Committee expressed its delight at the success of the event and its gratitude to colleagues from the Comunidad for the generous way in which they had promoted METREX throughout the Congress

The Proceedings of the Congress will be published in book form and possibly as a DVD. The Comunidad will collaborate with the Congress Patron and METREX on these productions and copies will be sent to METREX Members. Consideration will be given to what can be published on the METREX web site

The Madrid Congress will be followed by the METREX 10th Anniversary Conference in Szczecin on the *State of Practice - the body of knowledge* a conversation - Looking back/Looking forward. The dates for the Szczecin Conference are 27-30 September 2006.

The Szczecin Conference will provide an opportunity for the Network, and associated colleagues, to review the progress and activities of the Network over the past decade and to plan for the future. To assist in this process the Conference Programme (attached as Appendix 2) has been structured to allow Members to report on the key issues with a metropolitan dimension that they have been dealing with recently and those that they foresee dealing with in the future.

Members of the Managing Committee raised a number of innovative ways in which the Szczecin Conference Conversation between Members might be conducted. Colleagues from Wroclaw, Rotterdam and Frankfurt suggested more interactive Symposiums or Workshops for Conferences and Expert Groups. Frankfurt suggested the Open Space approach, which has an open agenda and an exploratory approach to interactive discussion. Alastair Wyllie, Head of Secretariat, has practical experience of managing Open Space events and could do so in Szczecin. Poster based discussions have been used by colleagues in Workshops and Symposiums.

As a result of this discussion the Managing Committee agreed to take a more innovative and exploratory approach to the management of the METREX Conversation at the Szczecin Conference. This will be discussed further with colleagues from Szczecin, Wroclaw, Rotterdam and Frankfurt and with the President but is outlined in Appendix 2

Colleagues from IAURIF indicated that a METREX Meeting in Spring 2007 could be difficult, as it would coincide with elections in France. Colleagues from Veneto kindly offered to consider the

feasibility of bring their 2009 Veneto Meeting forward to 2007, allowing the Paris Meeting to then take place in Spring 2009.

The prospective Programme of METREX Meetings and Conferences would then be as follows. Colleagues from London and Prague are still giving consideration to these arrangements.

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

8B Any other business

The Secretary General reported that Vincent Goodstadt, former President of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and current Chair of its International Affairs Committee, had agreed to support the METREX Secretariat as Head of European Relations, now that he has retired as Structure Plan Manager for the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee (GCVSPJC).

Fred de Ruiter, who will shortly retire as Director of the Rotterdam Stadshaven project, has kindly agreed to become the first METREX Ambassador, to foster an international dimension to METREX affairs. The Madrid Congress has opened up these wider possibilities for the Network. Fred de Ruiter has suggested that a small team of 2-3 Ambassadors might be created and approaches will be made to other METREX colleagues who are in a position to act in this capacity.

The Comunidad de Madrid suggested that a METREX 10th Anniversary CD should be produced to feature inputs from Members – Looking back/Looking forward. Some 12 Members responded to this idea. METREX also produced a specific promotional CD for the Madrid Congress. Both these CD's were made available at the Managing Committee Meeting. These CD's and the Major Events Expert Group and PolyMETREXplus CD's will be made circulated to all Members.

The Secretary General reported that over 25 Members would participate in the METREX delegation to the International Workshop in Moscow from 28-30 June 2006, organised by Alexander Kolontay of the Institute for the Master Plan of Moscow. A lunchtime meeting of the delegation was held on Friday 5 May at the Madrid Congress. Moscow colleagues have produced Discussion Papers on Governance/metropolitan profiles, housing and social policy, transportation and economic development. These will be the issues for technical consideration at the Workshop.

Appendices

- 1 Sederunt
- 2 Outcome of the President's Questionnaire
- 3 METREX Szczecin 10th Anniversary Programme
- 4 Draft METREX Budget for 2007/2008
- 5 Outline of an Open Space event

Appendix 1 Sederunt

City of Amsterdam / Regio Randstad	Hans Smit
Organisation of Athens	Juliane Kürschner
Generalitat de Catalunya	Manos Papanikolaou
IOER, Dresden (Saxon Triangle)	Lilian Palla
Regione Emilia-Romagna	Albert Serratoso I Palet
Planungsverband Ballungsraum Frankfurt / Rhein-Main	Thorsten Wiechmann
City of Helsinki	Silvia Grassi
YTV Helsinki Metropolitan Area	Claudio Tolomelli
IAURIF	Reinhard Henke
Área Metropolitana de Lisboa	Jens Scheller
Comunidad de Madrid	Markku Lahti
METREX	Olli Lahtinen
	Suvi Rihtniemi
	Irma Karjalainen
	Antti Viren
	Dominique Lecomte
	Danièle Navarre
	Dalila Araujo
	Alberto Leboreiro Amaro
	Jackie Brown
	Gerald McGrath
	Tim Page
	Jim Parke
	Roger Read
	Alastair Wyllie
Moscow City Government	Alexander Kolontay
Marketing Metropolitan Region Nürnberg	Gabriele Engel
Oradea Metropolitan Area	Alex Hotnog
City of Rotterdam	Martin Aarts
Stockholm County	Hans Hede
Verband Region Stuttgart	Bernd Steinacher
	Jürgen Ludwig
Municipality of Szczecin	Artur Zöllner
Organisation of Thessaloniki	Mary Kipourou
	Magda Segkouni
Provincia di Torino	Gianfranco Fiora
Eurocuidad Vasca / Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa	Daniel Arbulu Hormaetxea
Regione Veneto	Antonella Camatta
	Francesca Franzin
	Alberto Miotto
Municipality of Wroclaw	Jacek Barski
	Tomasz Ossowicz
Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza	Francisco Javier Arbués Castillo

Appendix 2 Outcome of the President's Questionnaire

Targets of the Network

- Three equal targets with an emphasis on the exchange of experience
- Further proposals on EU work

Topics in Member metropolitan regions and areas

- All Members – Spatial planning
- Followed by Environment, Economic development, Governance
- Also - Public transport, Transport planning and Infrastructure

Topics in METREX

- Predominantly – Spatial planning and Governance
- Followed by – Economic development and Climate change
- Also – Innovation, Regional data and monitoring and Transport Planning
- Further comments – Competitiveness, Social issues and Planning instruments

Integration of the political level in the Network

- Two out of three Members advise this with the aim of promoting the work of METREX in their own region and in Europe
- Most Members are unsure how to achieve this

Assessment of the structure of cooperation

- Two out of three Members are content with the structure of cooperation

Proposals for other ways of cooperation

- Proposals are directed towards more transparency, rotation of membership in MC and concentration on responsibility for certain topics

Assessment of METREX Meetings

- Two out of three Members are content with METREX Meetings
- Proposals are directed to more in depth discussions and workshops for certain topics, less mere presentations/marketing and better time discipline

Assessment of METREX Expert Groups

- Two out of five are content with METREX Expert Groups but three out of five are not
- A number of Members have not yet participated

Services of the METREX Secretariat

- Two out of three Members wish the same services as at present
- One third wish additional services
- Proposals are directed to more information services via the newsletter, Metrexchange, and the web site

External relations

- Members see the Network in a well developed position
- Need for more work towards *official* Europe

Activities in 2006

- METREX, through the Secretariat, has successfully applied to be an official Brussels 2006 Open Days conglomerate
- Proposals for an updated Brochure and Exhibition are questions of finance

Final comments

- More Members
- More active Members
- More recognition from and towards the *official* Europe

**Appendix 3 METREX Szczecin 10th Anniversary Conference Programme
27-30 September 2006**

Wednesday 27 September

Delegates arrive

19.00 – 20.00 Conference Reception

Thursday 28 September

09.00 – 9.30 Opening

9.30 - 10.00 Keynote address. DG Regio
1996 - 2006+. Looking back/Looking forward

10.00 - 10.30 Coffee break

10.30 - 13.00 Metropolitan responses
Polish and German metropolitan directions and Case Studies

13.00 - 14.30 Lunch

Open Space – METREX Looking back/Looking forward

14.30 - 16.30 The innovative Open Space discussion format will be facilitated by Alastair Wyllie, Head of Secretariat. The Open Space format involves an open agenda, around the Conference theme, and will involve an evolutionary discussion to explore METREX and metropolitan futures

16.30 - 17.00 Tea

17.00 – 18.00 Looking back. Review of METREX initiatives and projects, outcomes and lessons for the future including dissemination of the outcomes and outputs of the InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus projects

GCVSPJC and Catalunya (IET)

20.30 – 24.00 METREX 10th Anniversary Celebration in Café 22 in the Radisson SAS hotel (on the 22nd floor with panoramic views over the city)

Reflections from METREX founders
Buffet supper and entertainment

Friday 29 September

9.00 - 10.00 Szczecin presentation - Urban renewal and regeneration
Revitalisation of urban fabric and housing, environmental protection, nature within the urban environment, waterfront economic development and tourism development

10.00 - 10.30 Discussion

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 - 13.00	Szczecin orientation tour
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch
	Four parallel Symposiums
	SP1 - Mediterranean space (ES IT)
	SP2 - Baltic space (EN)
	SP3 - Danubian/Aegean space (DE EN)
	SP3 - Global Integration Zone extended core area (FR EN)
14.30 – 15.30	Metropolitan strategies, projects, programmes and initiatives
	6 METREX Member 10 minute Powerpoint presentations in each of four parallel Symposiums, <i>Looking back/Looking forward</i> in their metropolitan regions and areas
15.30 – 16.30	Four parallel Moderated Symposiums
16.30 - 17.00	Tea
17.00 – 18.00	Looking forward. Implications for METREX activities and projects over the coming decade
20.00 – 22.30	Conference dinner
	Speech by METREX President Dr Bernd Steinacher
Saturday 30 September	
9.30 – 13.00	METREX General Assembly
	All delegates welcome
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 17.00	Afternoon and evening free
Sunday 1 October	Delegates depart

Appendix 4

Draft METREX Budget for 2007/2008

	Budget 2005	Actual 2005	Draft budget 2007/2008
	€	€	€
Income	268000	309854	259000
Subscriptions	234000	212800	234000
Interest received		34	
Project funding	34000	97020	25000
Expenditure	267120	266259	257000
Secretary General	49600	47489	50000
Communications and management	26520	21035	30000
Project support - co-funded	68000	81085	65000
Project support - networking	38000	14159	20000
Interpretation and translation	30000	42754	35000
Travel, accommodation and subsistence	30000	23517	30000
Printing and copying	1000	497	1000
Postage, stationary and telephone	5500	3601	5000
Accountancy	5500	9076	7000
Miscellaneous expenses	13000	23046	14000
Surplus/deficit	880	43595	2000
Conference			
Income			
Expenditure			
Currency fluctuation		-1167	-1000
Profit/(Loss)	880	42428	1000

RR/8/5/2006

Open Space Technology (Open Space) allows a large number of people to simultaneously create and manage their own programme of parallel discussions, usually around a central theme. Participants choose to participate. They choose who they want to talk to and what they want to talk about, and, if something is not of interest to them, then they choose to go and talk or listen to someone else. There is no agenda, no expert speakers, and no expected outcome.

An Open Space event

- encourages participants to take ownership of their own issues, and find their own ways forward
- enables people to trust their own judgment to make wise decisions
- promotes collaboration to work towards consensus and resolution that benefits everyone.

Treatment of the theme is subject to Open Space's four principles and one law.

The fundamental principles of Open Space

- voluntary participation — whoever comes are the right people
- self-management — whenever it starts is the right time
- self-determination — whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened
- unique experience — when it's over, it's over.

There is also one law — and this is the only instruction to participants as to how they should conduct their involvement in the event:

The Law of Two Feet

If you find yourself in a situation where you are neither learning nor contributing, invoke the Law of Two Feet, and go somewhere else.

To discuss how you might use Open Space contact alastair.wyllie@wyllieandreid.com