

**XIX Meeting of the METREX Managing Committee, Nürnberg, Saturday 18 June 2005**

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Location            Congress Center Nürnberg (CNN East)

**AGENDA AND NOTES**

**SATURDAY 18 JUNE 2005 9.00 – 12.30**

**1            ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**2            MINUTES OF THE BARCELONA FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The Minutes of the Barcelona Fourth General Assembly have been published in the Network languages (DE|EN|ES|FR|IT) on the METREX web site at [www.eurometrex.org](http://www.eurometrex.org) and can be downloaded using Acrobat Reader (which can also be downloaded from the web site).

The Minutes are for consideration and approval by the Managing Committee

**3            EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

**3A          METREX Position Paper of the reform of the Structural Funds**

The Position Paper was finalised following the Barcelona General Assembly (see Minutes additional item 3c) and was submitted to the European Commission and copied to the European Parliament, EESC and COR. The President has received a response from the Commission welcoming the Position Paper. This includes Commissioner Hübner from DG Regio, Director-General Mitsos from DG Research, Director-General Lamoureux from DG TREN, COR-Member Tatsis, and Secretary General Venturini from EESC. As a follow-up, the President has had meetings with DG Regio and the COR in March 2005 in Brussels.

**3B          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 European Council, when it met in March 2005 under the Luxembourg Presidency, considered a Communication from the European Commission *Working together for growth and Jobs – A new start for the Lisbon Strategy (COM (2005) 24)*. The Communication was supported by a Companion document setting out an *Action Plan*, which included some 70 individual measures. The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the Committee of the Regions (COR) have both published Opinions on the mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy.

These key documents can be accessed, in languages, through the Europa web site at [www.europa.eu.int](http://www.europa.eu.int) and have also been placed on the METREX web site at [www.eurometrex.org](http://www.eurometrex.org) in EN, for the convenience of METREX Members. The key points are summarised in the Discussion Note accompanying these Agenda Notes (Background on page 5). The Commission's Communication and the Opinions of the EESC and COR all refer to the need for social partners (such as METREX) to engage with the renewed Lisbon Agenda and to consider the contribution that they can make.

The purpose of the Discussion Note is to provide a basis for the consideration of a METREX Response to the Commission, the EESC and the COR, by the Managing Committee

The Verband Region Stuttgart has taken the initiative within the Lisbon Regions group, to consider the corporate response that Regions might make to the renewed Lisbon Strategy *Action Plan*. The key points emerging for the work of the group also accompany these Agenda Notes.

The Managing Committee may wish to endorse the findings and conclusions of the Lisbon Regions group and their Response to the Commission

### **3C The METROPOLITAN initiative**

Regio Randstad and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) promoted a Conference on 9-10 December 2004, at the Renaissance Hotel in Amsterdam, to develop a European Agenda for Metropolitan Areas. The Secretary General made a presentation on the Metropolitan Dimension (see METREX web site for ppt). An outcome of the Conference was agreement with the EESC to promote the METROPOLITAN initiative to European institutions. The President has since been actively promoting the concept to such colleagues.

The President and the Secretary General will update the Managing Committee on the current position

### **3D METREX and Brussels Open Days 10-13 October 2005**

*Working together for Regional Growth and Jobs*

METREX/Lisbon Regions group has been selected by DG Regio/COR as one of sixteen Brussels Open Day hosts. More than 2000 regional policy stakeholders are expected in Brussels in October to discuss the next generation of regional development programmes co-financed by the EU Structural Funds and instruments (see METREX web site for details).

The Secretary General and colleagues from the Lisbon Regions group will update the Committee on the form and content of the Open Days and the more detailed programme

### **3E GEOLAND project**

GEOLAND is a project under the Sixth Framework programme of Research of the EC. Its objective is to develop the more integrated use of Generic Land Cover (including spatial planning) and Biophysical parameters (such as climate change). METREX has been invited to participate in a practitioners user group and will be represented on this by the Area Metropolitana de Lisboa (AML) (see web site [www.gmes-geoland.info](http://www.gmes-geoland.info))

It is hoped that AML will be able to report to the Committee on progress with the user group

### **3F Relations to European institutions and other networks**

Verbal report by the President on recent meetings.

## **4 METREX INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS**

### **4A InterMETREX – the revised METREX Benchmark**

The first phase of the InterMETREX project reached its conclusion at the Barcelona Conference. The outcome was the production of a revised METREX Benchmark, to reflect the experience of the project partners from the EU15. The next phase of the project is to take the revised Benchmark to colleagues in the new Member States. The revised Benchmark has been

translated into METREX languages (DE|EN|ES|FR|IT). It has also been developed into the graphic form that it might take when published in 2006, at the METREX Szczecin Conference. This draft publication has been circulated to Members on a METREX CD.

The Committee is asked to note the progress with the InterMETREX project and the present stage in the development of the METREX Benchmark

The Lead Partner, the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee (GCVSPJC), will report on progress generally

#### **4B PolyMETREXplus**

The PolyMETREXplus project reached the end of its Analysis Workshops phase at the Barcelona Conference. A range of 7 Discussion Notes has been produced (see METREX web site). The partnership is now moving into a Synthesis phase in 2005, to be followed by a Project phase in 2006/2007.

The Lead Partner, the Generalitat de Catalunya (through the Institut d'Estudis Territorials – IET), will report on progress generally

#### **4C Expert Groups**

The work and progress of METREX Expert groups was reviewed at the Barcelona Conference. The findings and conclusions of the Expert Groups on Planning for Major Events and SocioMETREX have been published on METREX CD's and circulated. The findings and conclusions of the Expert Group on Strategic Planning for Retailing have also been published, on the METREX web site.

In response to a request from METREX, the City Ports Development Corporation Rotterdam has taken the initiative to set up an Expert Group on major urban reconstruction projects. An International Workshop on City Port reconstruction was held from 18-19 November 2004. The outcome, *Big and beautiful – comparing Stadshavens in Europe*, compares 10 major European ports and has been published by the Corporation and circulated to METREX Members.

The Lead Partners of the two other Expert Groups, on Urban Requalification and Agriculture in Metropolitan Areas, are invited to report on progress to the Managing Committee

#### **4D Projects after 2006/2007**

Exploratory discussion on METREX projects after 2006/2007.

### **5 The Way Forward for METREX**

#### **5A Action on the Presidents Barcelona paper**

In his address to the Barcelona General Assembly the President outlined six points on which he hoped the Network would make progress (see GA Agenda Notes and Minutes). These included,

- Membership and Member services
- Better involvement in Brussels (see also Agenda Notes – item 3)
- Projects
- Expert groups
- International co-operation (USA and Asia)
- Topics (economic development, infrastructure, transportation)

The President will review progress under these headings and the Managing Committee is asked to offer support with suggestions for the continuing development of the Network under these and any other headings

## **6 Budget and Accounts for 2005 and Audit for 2004**

### **6A Financial report**

The Committee will recall that METREX was involved in extraordinary expenditure in 2004, on the Conference and the InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus projects (pending receipt of EU co-funding under Interreg IIIC).

The Secretary General and the Accountant will report to the Committee on the current overall financial situation of the Network

The Accountant will present the Accounts for the period 1 January to 31 March 2005

### **6B METREX audit for 2004**

The METREX auditor, the City of Helsinki, will report on the audit of METREX income and expenditure for the financial year 2004 (1 January to 31 December)

## **7 MEMBERSHIP**

European metropolitan regions and areas that are considering membership of the Network now include, Hamburg, Hannover, Berlin-Brandenburg, Ile de France, Marseille and Bucharest.

The Secretary General will report on progress at the Committee meeting

## **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8A Metrexchange**

This is an initiative by the President to promote the exchange of real news between Members before Meetings and Conferences. The idea is to enable Members to inform colleagues about work of common interest, including plans, projects and related initiatives and events, so that these can be followed up in conversation when everyone meets. An electronic first edition of Metrexchange has been circulated to Members and news contributions were invited by Friday 15 April 2005.

The full version of Metrexchange will be viewed at the Committee meeting and suggestions invited for the continuation and development of the idea

### **8B Briefing and Discussion Note on Climate Change/Urban Change**

Initial discussion on the Briefing and Discussion Note, having regard to objective of the PolyMETREXplus project (Better European urban balance) and the provisional theme for the Granada Meeting on Climate Change/Urban Change.

## **8C Dates for Meetings/Conference in 2005/2006**

The dates for the autumn Granada Meeting are November 2005. Colleagues from Sofia and Szczecin have been asked to consider and confirm provisional dates for the Meeting and Conference in 2006

### **Accompanying documents**

#### **A new start for the Lisbon Strategy *Working together for growth and jobs***

- METREX Response Discussion Note *The contribution of spatial planning and development*
- The Lisbon Regions group Response
- Briefing and Discussion Note on Climate Change/Urban Change

RR/10/4/2005