

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

Location Congress Center Nürnberg (CNN East)

MINUTES

SATURDAY 18 JUNE 2005 9.00 – 12.30

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The Meeting was attended by 35 individual representatives from 25 of the 41 Member metropolitan regions and areas that now have membership of the Network (see Appendix 1 for details). Apologies were received from Szczecin, Øresund and Lisboa.

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.

The Minutes of the Barcelona General Assembly were approved by the Managing Committee

3 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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

The Meeting noted the responses that had been received to the METREX Position Paper and that the President will continue to press for recognition of a metropolitan dimension to the European Union (EU) budget for 2007-2013

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 President tabled a note on the METREX Position on the Lisbon Agenda, drawn from the key issues in his statement to the opening session of the Nürnberg Meeting on Thursday 17 June.

The note welcomed the reorientation of the Lisbon Strategy and the intention to incorporate the regional and local level to a greater extent in putting the Strategy into practice. Dr. Rudolf Niessler, from DG Regio, had also emphasised this point in his presentation to the opening session. Joost van Iersel, from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) recommended to the Managing Committee that metropolitan regions and areas should make representations to their national governments to emphasize the specific contributions that they could make to the Lisbon Strategy (see also the METREX web site to download the Powerpoint presentation made by Joost van Iersel to the opening session of the Meeting). The Discussion Note circulated prior to the meeting of the Managing Committee sets out the contribution that might be made by the function of spatial planning and development.

A key aspect of the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy at the metropolitan level will be effective governance. The Lisbon Strategy recognises the need to integrate economic, social and environmental considerations, which are inter-related components of a competitive and sustainable future.

In this context the President's note called for recognition of metropolitan regions and areas, by EU institutions, Member State governments and the legislative regions, as,

- A spatial category with problems and opportunities that extend way beyond the core cities
- Having potential to achieve the Lisbon objectives
- Partners in shaping the Lisbon Agenda and putting it into action

Metropolitan regions and areas need the support and assistance of the EU and Members State governments to realise this potential. In particular, this support relates to,

- Investing in network infrastructure
- Implementing strategic projects
- Interlinking industry and research
- Social integration
- Safeguarding natural resources

This entails the co-ordination of the Lisbon Agenda and the Structural Funds. It also requires recognition of the potential metropolitan contribution to the Lisbon Strategy in the policies and programmes of the EU and Member States.

The Managing Committee discussed the action required in the context set by the President's note and the Discussion Note. It was agreed that the issue of integrated metropolitan governance should continue to be considered and that the Secretariat should prepare a further Discussion Note on this issue

The President emphasised the importance of the integrated consideration of regional/metropolitan planning, economic development and public transport, the need to relate these issues to other policies and the need for a partnership approach

It was also recognised that the METREX position on the Lisbon Agenda needs to be clarified and disseminated quickly in order to influence the EU and Member States (see also items 3C and 3D below). It was agreed that the President and the Secretariat should prepare this for immediate use and further consideration by the Granada Managing Committee meeting in October

3C The METROPOLITAN initiative

The METROPOLITAN initiative is directly related to item 3B above. It basically seeks greater recognition of the contribution that metropolitan regions and areas can play in taking forward EU frameworks for economic competitiveness, social cohesion and sustainability. In particular, it seeks the identification of a formal package of support measures at the EU level to enable a metropolitan contribution to be made as effectively as possible.

The Managing Committee noted the progress made with the METROPOLITAN initiative and that the President and the Secretary General will continue to promote this (see also 3D below)

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. There will be two Workshops on Monitoring regional development and Regional Lisbon governance. METREX has also been selected to make a contribution to another Workshop dealing with Territorial Co-operation – The urban dimension and the future of cohesion policy (see METREX web site for details).

The Managing Committee noted the opportunities that the Open Days Programme will offer to present and disseminate the METREX position on the metropolitan dimension to European affairs, particularly the Lisbon Agenda and METROPOLITAN

3E GEOLAND project

Christian Hoffmann, from the GEOLAND project, kindly gave an informative presentation on the potential use of satellite information, related to geographic information systems, for more informed spatial planning scenario investigations and decision-making (see METREX web site to download this Powerpoint presentation). The Secretary General explained that Paulo Morgado Sousa, from the Area Metropolitana de Lisboa (AML), had attended a recent Workshop on GEOLAND, in Innsbruck, as the METREX representative on the User Committee.

The Managing Committee noted the value of the GEOLAND project and it's potential as a spatial planning tool. The Secretary General and AML will keep the Managing Committee informed on user applications as they emerge

3F Relations to European institutions and other networks

The President reported on initiatives that had been taken to strengthen relationships with European institutions and to increase the membership of METREX (see also item 7 below). In particular, METREX has formally applied to be a consultation partner of the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

The Managing Committee noted the progress being made with European relationships

4 METREX INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

4A InterMETREX – the revised METREX Benchmark

The Secretary General explained that the first phase of the InterMETREX project has now reached its conclusion and that the METREX Practice Benchmark (version 3) has been published in EN, in its provisional graphic form, on a METREX CD (circulated at the meeting and available for downloading from the METREX web site). The Benchmark takes the form of a self-assessment practice manual. It will shortly be available in ES|IT|DE|FR on CD and for downloading from the METREX web site. The second phase of the project will consider the application of the Benchmark across the wider Europe of the EU27+ and its further development in the light of the practice requirements that emerge.

Jim Parke, METREX Projects, and Alastair Wyllie, METREX Communications and Management, reported on the outcome of phase 2 Workshops in Budapest and Nürnberg (replacing Riga) and on changes in the composition of the project partnership. Riga, Porto and Liverpool have withdrawn, Vilnius Planas has been replaced by Vilnius City Municipal Government, and Mazovia/Warzawa, Bucharest and Moscow have made additional non-partner contributions. The Lead Partner is investigating the financial implications for the project.

The Secretary General emphasised that although the Benchmark has been presented in a finalised graphic form it remains a draft and METREX Member comments and observations to the Secretariat will be welcome. The intention is to have a planning practice tool that is as effective and useful as possible in the variety of spatial planning and development circumstances that exist across the wider Europe.

The Managing Committee noted the very satisfactory progress that has been made with the InterMETREX project

4B PolyMETREXplus

The Lead Partner, through Francesc Carbonell of the Institut d'Estudis Territorials (IET), reported on progress with the project. The Analysis/Synthesis stages are now drawing to a close and the drafting of the Framework for a Polycentric Metropolitan Europe will now begin. Preliminary consideration has been given to a programme of 15-20 Representative Inter-regional Networking Activities (RINA), which, taken together, will comprise the PolyMETREXplus Action Plan. The final output from the project will be a Benchmark to progress an effective polycentric approach to spatial planning and development at the inter-regional level.

The Managing Committee noted the progress with the PolyMETREXplus project

4C Expert Groups

METREX has worked through six Expert Groups and their findings and conclusions have been published and circulated in a variety of ways including CD's, through the METREX web site and in book form. The leaders of the two currently active Groups, on Urban Requalification and Agriculture in Metropolitan Areas, reported to the Managing Committee on progress. Jürgen Ludwig reported on the paper that had been published by the Verband Region Stuttgart (see METREX web site) and the contributions that had been received from other partners in the Group on Agriculture in Metropolitan Areas. Claudio Tolomelli also reported on the contributions made to the Group on Urban Requalification. Both Groups expected to be able to present some initial findings and conclusions to the METREX Granada Meeting in October 2005.

The Managing Committee noted the position with regard to the ongoing work of the existing Expert Groups

It was suggested that the Expert Group on Metropolitan Governance should be reconvened (see also item 3B earlier) and that a new Expert Group on Metropolitan Economic Development might be considered. It was recognised that this latter Group might overlap with the work of the Lisbon Regions (see item 3D earlier) and that there may be advantage in considering this relationship further before proceeding.

It was agreed that the Expert Group on Metropolitan Governance should be reconvened under the leadership of the President, as before, and that the Verband Region Stuttgart would advise the Granada MC meeting on the future relationship between METREX and the Lisbon Regions

The Secretariat will prepare and circulate a Briefing Note on the outcome of the previous work on the issue of Metropolitan Governance, having regard to the InterMETREX Practice Benchmark and the Discussion Note referred to in item 3B

Members may wish to note that the Report of the METREX Expert Group on Integrated Land Use and Transportation Planning, led by Stockholm County Council (March 1998), has now been scanned and can be downloaded from the METREX web site (see also item 3B)

4D Projects after 2006/2007

METREX has been approached to contribute to an initiative by the French government agency EPAU involving the seven largest metropolitan areas outside Paris. The objective is to raise the quality and effectiveness of spatial planning and development, particularly with regard to large projects.

An exploratory meeting will take place with the METREX Secretariat, in Glasgow, and a report back will be made to the Granada MC meeting

Exploratory arrangements are being considered for a METREX delegation to visit Bucharest, possibly in Autumn 2005, and Moscow, possibly in Spring/early Summer 2006. The objective would be to explore issues of common strategic/metropolitan issues of common interest and the scope for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and information. The Provincia di Torino has a twinning relationship with Moscow that was arranged through Silvana Sanlorenzo, the Assessore for spatial planning, who also speaks Russian.

It was agreed that the Secretariat should produce a spreadsheet setting out the full range of current METREX initiatives, projects, Meetings and Conferences and the current Members/invited contributors involved, for further consideration and discussion at the Granada MC meeting. This will then form a basis for the development of the METREX Programme for 2006 and 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)

It was concluded that these points are being progressed satisfactorily, at this stage, as set out in earlier items in these Minutes (see also item 7 with regard to Membership)

6 Budget and Accounts for 2004 and Audit for 2004

6A Financial report

The METREX Accountant, John Brown, presented, and reported on, the Income and Expenditure and Profit and Loss Accounts for the financial year 2004 (January to December 2004).

The Secretary General and the Accountant explained that the Barcelona Conference had made a loss, rather than breaking even as planned, largely because the Conference income was less than anticipated. However, the Conference was generously supported and co-funded by the Generalitat de Catalunya to the extent of €50,000+ and it is felt that the Barcelona Conference was a most successful event in political, professional and financial terms. A Conference Budget Report was made to the Generalitat and this provided the basis for the financial settlement between the host and METREX.

Both the InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus Interreg IIIC projects involve METREX as a full Partner and also as a provider of operational support services, through the Secretariat/Interpretariat. Payments to METREX for support services has been through the Lead Partner, who runs a suspense account that goes into deficit before being balanced with inward payments from the Interreg IIIC Secretariats (West for InterMETREX and South for PolyMETREXplus). In effect, the Lead Partners act as bankers to the projects in so far as operational costs are concerned. This arrangement has not been able to be fully provided for PolyMETREXplus and as a result METREX itself has had to carry a proportion of operational costs before other partners can provide reimbursement. This has led to cash flow problems for the Network as a whole.

It was suggested that METREX should set up a reserve fund to cope with such unanticipated eventualities but the financial resources of the Network have not yet been adequate for this. As the membership grows it may become possible.

The Managing Committee approved the Accounts for the 2004 financial year

6B METREX audit for 2004

The METREX Accounts are audited by the City of Helsinki, which selects specific items of income and expenditure for scrutiny from the METREX computerised accounts and the ledgers of invoices and receipts.

The METREX Auditor reported, and confirmed in writing to the MC meeting, that the audit of METREX income and expenditure for the financial period July to December 2004 had been carried out satisfactorily (note that the audit for January to June 2004 was reported to the Barcelona General Assembly)

7 MEMBERSHIP

European metropolitan regions and areas that are considering membership of the Network now include Hamburg, Hannover, Berlin-Brandenburg, Marseille, Strasbourg and Bratislava.

The Secretary General announced that the Region Bucharest General City Council, through the Urban and Metropolitan Planning Centre of Bucharest (UMPCB), and Raumordnungsverband Rhein-Neckar had formally joined the Network.

The new Members were presented with their Membership Certificates and welcomed by acclaim to the Network. In addition, the Secretary General reported that he had received a formal letter of application to join the Network from the Institut d'aménagement et d'urbanisme de la Région d'île de France (IAURIF). The MC agreed to also formally welcome the IAURIF to membership of METREX and to present the Membership Certificate at the forthcoming Granada Meeting in Autumn 2005

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8A Metrexchange

The draft Metrexchange newsletter was circulated and considered. It contained news from the President, the Secretariat, Stuttgart and Frankfurt. The idea was to provide news for exchange between members prior to Meetings and Conferences and more detailed discussion at these events.

It was agreed that the newsletter idea should be continued for fuller and further consideration at the Granada Meeting, before which the Secretariat will contact the membership for contributions to an Autumn 2005 edition

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

The Secretary General spoke to the Briefing/Discussion Note on Climate Change/Urban Change (see METREX web site for versions to download in EN|ES|IT|DE|FR). The situation is extremely serious and the intention is that METREX should make a contribution, through spatial planning and development strategies and practice, to a reduction in the primary cause of global warming, which is the urban generation of greenhouse gases, particularly CO₂. A METREX PolyMETREXplus RINA (see item 4B) is under consideration on this issue, which might include 4+ metropolitan regions and areas from north, east, south and west Europe to cover the full range of European metropolitan climatic conditions.

Climate Change/Urban Change will be the theme for the Granada Meeting and participation is anticipated and being sought from the UK EU Presidency, the European Environmental Agency, the UK Hadley Institute for Climate Change (the UK Met Office), the Global Commons Institute (authors of the Contraction and Convergence approach), the London Climate Change Agency (see and colleagues from Interreg projects dealing with the consequences of climate change. Colleagues from Granada will present their metropolitan plans for integrated spatial planning, transportation and the environment as a Case Study.

The Managing Committee noted the contents of the Briefing Note/Discussion Note on Climate Change/Urban Change and the importance of the Granada Meeting

8C Dates for Meetings/Conference in 2005/2006

Colleagues from Granada and Catalunya explained that it was now considered better to hold the Granada Meeting in October, rather than November as previously arranged, and to link this with the planned October PolyMETREXplus Steering Committee and Workshop to consider the RINA programme.

It was agreed that the Granada Autumn Meeting should now be held from 26-29 October 2005

The Secretary General explained that it had proved difficult to be able to confirm the arrangements for a Sofia Spring 2006 meeting in the time available.

Colleagues from the Comunidad de Madrid had met the Secretariat in London, with Professor Sir Peter Hall, to explore the possibility of an international Congress in Madrid, from 3-6 May 2006, the theme of which would be *Metropolitan and Capital Regions Spatial Planning – the State of the Art*. The Congress could be promoted by the Comunidad, in association with METREX and with Professor Sir Peter Hall as Patron.

The Conference might be held over three days, from Wednesday to Friday, and include perhaps 6 Keynote Addresses and 6 Workshops with 12 European/international compare/contrast Case Studies. An important aspect of the Congress might be moderated Open Forums to positively promote interactive discussion.

Alberto Leboriero Amaro explained what the Comunidad wanted to achieve through the Congress. The Secretary General reminded colleagues that 2006 would be the 10th Anniversary of the founding of METREX and that a major event of this kind on the State of the Art, in addition to the METREX 2006 Szczecin Conference, would be a welcome addition to the programme for the year. The Szczecin Conference would, of course, remain the major event of the year and the Secretariat is continuing to work with colleagues on this.

The Managing Committee welcomed the initiative of the Comunidad de Madrid in promoting a Congress on *Metropolitan and Capital Regions Spatial Planning – the State of the Art* and approved the association of the METREX Spring Meeting 3-6 May 2006 with this. The Secretariat will now work with the Comunidad and the Congress Patron and will report on progress to the Granada MC meeting

8D Interpretariat team

The Secretary General reported that he had been approached by the Interpretariat to suggest that the team should be extended to include the second group of Interpreters that is normally provided by the Meeting/Conference host. The advantages would be the continuity and familiarity with METREX business and technical terms that this would offer and the back up to cope with translation peak loads. In addition, many of the current two teams have worked together before, and have good working relationships, and also speak more than one additional language. This gives added flexibility.

The Managing Committee agreed to the suggestion from the Interpretariat that the team should be extended from 4 to 8 to cover ES|IT|DE|FR, as required, at METREX Meetings and Conferences and that the total cost of the extended team should, in future, be shared equally between METREX and the host Member

Appendices

- 1 Sederunt
- 2 METREX Accounts for January 2004 to December 2004. Income and Expenditure and Profit and Loss

Appendix 1

Sederunt

Daniel ARBULU HORMAETXEA	Agencia Transfrontal Eurocuidad Vasca
Antti VIREN	Helsinki Metropolitan Area Council, YTV
Francesc CARBONELL	IET, Catalunya
Albert SERRATOSA	IET, Catalunya
Roger READ	METREX
Alastair WYLLIE	METREX
Hannu KALAJOKI	City of Helsinki
Markku LAHTI	City of Helsinki
Jim PARKE	METREX
John BROWN	METREX
Jean MARLY	CERTU
Hans HEDE	Stockholm County Council
Grahame BUCHAN	GCVSPJC
Gianfranco FIORA	Provincia de Torino
Silvana SANLORENZO	Provincia de Torino
Jose Luis SPINOLA OLMEDO	Ayuntamiento de Granada
Alberto LEBOREIRO AMARO	Comunidad de Madrid
Milan TURBA	City Development Authority, Prague
Hans SMIT	Stad Amsterdam
Gerald McGRATH	METREX
Claudio TOLOMELLI	Regione Emilia-Romagna
Silvia GRASSI	Regione Emilia-Romagna
Tim PAGE	METREX
Catherine SYKIANAKI-KYLIKA	Organisation of Athens
Angeliki PALLA	Organisation of Athens
Pablo CALVO Y RUATA	Diputación Provincial de Zaragoza
Joost VAN IERSEL	EESC
Antonio LAMPUGNANI	Regione Lombardia
Rob GROENEWEG	Stad Rotterdam
Hans HAZENAK	Stad Rotterdam
Magdalini SEGKOUNI	Organisation of Thessaloniki
Bernd STEINACHER	Verband Region Stuttgart
Jürgen LUDWIG	Verband Region Stuttgart
Victoria-Marinela BERZA	Urban & Metro Planning, Bucharest
Rodica Eugenia GHEORGHE	Urban & Metro Planning, Bucharest
Reinhard HENKE	Planungsverband Frankfurt/Rhein
Geralde Helena CAMPOS	Diputación Provincial de Zaragoza
Dominique LECOMPTE	IAURIF, Paris
Christian HOFFMANN	GeoVille GmbH, Innsbruck
Graziano MARTINI BARZOLAI	Regione Veneto
Francesca FRANZIN	Regione Veneto
Christa STANDECKER	Stadt Nürnberg
Klaus MANDEL	Rhein-Neckar
Jose Ramon IZKEAGA ZINKUNEGI	Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa

Appendix 2

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 December 2004

	€	€	€
OPENING BANK BALANCE			(37,118)
MANAGEMENT			
Income			
Subscriptions	248,800		
Interest received	10		
Project co-funding	<u>26,370</u>		
		275,180	
Expenditure			
Secretary General	55,018		
Communications & management	21,666		
Project support – co-funded	84,155		
Project support – networking	2,248		
Interpretation & translation	29,587		
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	37,787		
Printing & copying	6,430		
Postage, stationery & telephone	5,033		
Accountancy	6,315		
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>13,478</u>		
		<u>261,717</u>	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		13,463	
CONFERENCE			
Income	24,761		
Expenditure	<u>25,899</u>		
		<u>(1,138)</u>	
NET INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) OF FUNDS			12,325
EXCHANGE DIFFERENCE			(319)
CLOSING BANK BALANCE			<u>(25,112)</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 2004

	Budget for year		Actual for year	
	€	€	€	€
MANAGEMENT				
Income				
Subscriptions	234,000		220,300	
Interest received	–		10	
Project co-funding	<u>34,000</u>	268,000	<u>26,370</u>	246,680
Expenditure				
Secretary General	49,600		52,678	
Communications & management	26,520		21,391	
Project support – co-funded	68,000		77,898	
Project support – networking	38,000		2,248	
Interpretation & translation	30,000		26,572	
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	30,000		37,529	
Printing & copying	1,000		6,430	
Postage, stationery & telephone	5,500		4,830	
Accountancy	5,500		5,493	
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>13,000</u>		<u>13,466</u>	
		<u>267,120</u>		<u>248,535</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		880		(1,855)
CONFERENCE				
Income	–		29,025	
Expenditure	<u>–</u>		<u>42,834</u>	
		–		(13,809)
CURRENCY FLUCTUATION		<u>–</u>		<u>(292)</u>
PROFIT/(LOSS)		<u>880</u>		<u>(15,956)</u>