

XVIIth Meeting of the METREX Managing Committee, San Sebastian, Saturday 8 May 2004

Location Palacio Miramar, San Sebastian

Please note that the PowerPoint presentations made to the San Sebastian Meeting on 6 and 7 May by colleagues from the Gobierno Vasco, the Eurocity Basque (Bayonne-San Sebastian) and the European institutions concerned, are available on CD from the METREX Secretariat. They are referred to in these Minutes.

MINUTES

SATURDAY 8 MAY 10.00 - 12.30

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from President Prof. ssa Mercedes Bresso, a number of colleagues who attended the London PolyMETREXplus Workshop on 22-23 April, including representatives from the Greater London Authority (GLA), Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Nürnberg, and also from Prague, Budapest, Porto, Øresund and the South Coast Metropole (SCM).

2 MINUTES OF THE METREX MANAGING COMMITTEE MEETING IN STOCKHOLM

The Minutes of the Stockholm meeting of the Managing Committee were approved

3 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

A European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Own initiative opinion on European Metropolitan areas - socio-economic implications for Europe's future

The Managing Committee noted the contribution that METREX had made to the EESC Hearing on European metropolitan areas on Thursday 19 February and the extent to which this has been reflected in the own initiative opinion of the EESC to be submitted to the Parliament. Mr. Pariza, President of the EESC Study Group on European metropolitan areas, had addressed the San Sebastian Meeting the previous day.

Key issues for consideration by the Parliament are the need to recognize the importance of metropolitan regions and areas to European competitiveness and cohesion and to reflect this in financial support, perhaps through a programme or initiative such as METROPOLITAN, as suggested by METREX.

Luisa Sanches, from DG Regio, had, the previous day, outlined the EU programme for the consideration of the Third Cohesion Report and the reform of the Structural Funds after 2007. It is clear that a period of discussion is now envisaged, following the imminent elections to the Parliament, which will present METREX with further opportunities to promote consideration of the "metropolitan dimension" to European affairs.

At the Stuttgart Meeting Dr. Bernd Steinacher undertook to promote the metropolitan dimension, on behalf of METREX, and the Verband Region Stuttgart has held events in Brussels for this purpose. Dr. Steinacher will attend the Third Cohesion Forum, in Brussels, on 10-11 May. METREX has also been invited to attend the Territorial Cohesion Conference held by the Commission and the Irish Presidency, in Galway, from 25-27 May.

The Managing Committee welcomed the recognition that has been given to METREX and the metropolitan dimension in European affairs and the Chair thanked Dr. Steinacher and the

Secretariat for their initiatives. The Secretariat will continue to keep Members informed on progress and will report again to the Barcelona General Assembly

B ESPON, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) and the BAK International Benchmarking Club (Basel)

At the San Sebastian Meeting there were presentations by CPMR and BAK Basel Economics. It is clear that a number of organizations, including DG Regio (see Appendix to the Third Cohesion Report), ESPON, DATAR, CPMR and BAK, have all assessed European metropolitan areas against indicators of global, European and regional significance, competitiveness and connectivity.

METREX, as a Network of practitioners, has an interest in this research and indicators but primarily for their use through the PolyMETREXplus project in assessing the wider relative strengths and weaknesses of inter regional and trans national areas. Such indicators also have value in providing comparable profiles of metropolitan areas from which to assess the potential to develop polycentric relationships *between* metropolitan areas.

The research sources mentioned above all use slightly varying statistics and indicators and some important considerations, such as health services and the environment, are not covered. The EESC has made the point that Eurostat generally collects information to inform policy discussions and information on metropolitan areas is limited for this reason. Greater recognition of the metropolitan dimension may lead to better information at this level (see item 3A above).

The Secretary General explained that it was intended to hold a Workshop at the Barcelona Conference to explore the basis for key indicators of metropolitan competitiveness, cohesion and connectivity and to reach some conclusions about these to recommend to ESPON and Eurostat

C The Third Cohesion Report

The Managing Committee took into account the report attached to the San Sebastian Agenda Notes when discussing the implications of the Third Cohesion Report for METREX. See Item 3A above for outcomes and action

4 METREX INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

A InterMETREX project

The Managing Committee received a report from the Dr. Grahame Buchan, on behalf of the Lead Partner, the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee (GCVSPJC), and from Jim Parke, on behalf of METREX, on the outcomes of the first three InterMETREX Workshops and possible Benchmark developments. A Discussion Note on Benchmark Development is available on the METREX web site in EN|ES|IT|DE|FR. The issue of testing plans and strategies has arisen and may be explored further through the Barcelona Conference Workshop programme.

The Chair thanked these colleagues for their progress report and noted that the outcomes and Benchmark development would be explored further through the Barcelona Conference Workshop programme

B PolyMETREXplus

The Managing Committee also received a progress report from Dr. Francesc Carbonell, on behalf of the Lead Partner, the Generalitat de Catalunya, on the outcomes of the Inception Meeting in Barcelona on Friday 26 March and the first Workshop in London. Partners in the project received an Inception CD in EN|ES|IT|DE|FR, from the Lead partner and the Secretariat, that included a Project Handbook and Briefing Note, and a CD in EN on the London proceedings and partner contributions. These CD's can be obtained from the METREX Secretariat by other interested Members.

The Chair thanked Francesc Carbonell for his progress report and noted that the outcome of all four PolyMETREXplus Analysis Workshops will be reported to a Plenary Session of the Barcelona Conference as the report "Towards European Urban Balance".

The Secretary General explained that METREX is a full partner in PolyMETREXplus and that provision had been made in the METREX budget to support participation by invited contributors who were not able to continue as partners when PolyMETREXplus changed from a Network to an RFO Application. This situation continues to apply even though PolyMETREXplus was eventually approved as a Network Operation by the Interreg IIIC South Zone Secretariat.

The Managing Committee approved this provision

C Expert Group initiatives

A meeting of all Expert Group partners was held on the afternoon of Wednesday 5 May to assess progress and arrange a report to the San Sebastian Meeting. In summary, the work of two of the six groups is largely complete, two are in progress and two are beginning their activities. The situation is as follows.

- 1 Planning for Major Events. Two reports have been prepared by the Lead Partner, Torino, and the Secretariat, on the Hannover and Torino Workshops, in written and CD form. This concludes the present work of the Group although updating and refinement of some partner inputs remains to be completed.
- 2 Metropolitan Governance. A report in EN|ES|IT|DE|FR has been prepared by the Lead Partner, Torino, and the Secretariat, and is available for downloading from the METREX web site. The outcome has been reflected in the development of the InterMETREX Benchmark.
- 3 Strategic Planning for Retailing. Three partners have made contributions and further inputs will be sought from Pais Vasco, Øresund and at least one other. The intention will then be to report to the Barcelona Conference through the Workshop programme.
- 4 Major Urban Restructuring. Fred de Ruyter, Lead Partner for the City of Rotterdam, is now Managing Director of the Rotterdam City Ports Development Corporation. He has arranged an exploratory Workshop in Rotterdam on 24-25 June, for 20 invited partners, to be followed by an International Workshop from 18-19 November.
- 5 Urban Requalification. The Lead Partner, Emilia-Romagna, has received inputs from Emilia-Romagna, Stuttgart and Athens. Claudio Tolomelli suggested that the emphasis of the work should be on the social impact of urban requalification rather than the technical issues involved. Links with the SocioMETREX and PolyMETREXplus projects will be considered. A number of further inputs are in prospect and it is hoped to also be able to report progress through the Barcelona Conference Workshop programme.
- 6 Agriculture in metropolitan areas. The Lead Partner, Stuttgart, has received inputs from Athens and Krakow. Jürgen Ludwig suggested that the work of the group might include consideration of urban and rural open space planning, development and management. Catherine Sykianaki explained that the Athens input relates to the issue of agriculture in metropolitan hinterlands.

Partners who have expressed an interest in this issue will now be asked by the Lead Partner to make structured responses on their experience. The intended outcomes will be a view on practice for the Barcelona Workshop programme and, possibly, extended collaboration through the Interreg programme.

The Planning for Major Events group has worked through one-day workshops but other groups have chosen to work through an exchange of information initiated and managed by the Lead Partner.

The Managing Committee agreed that it would be helpful to Members if the outputs of Expert Groups could be published in summary multi lingual document form, with accompanying CD's detailing the partner inputs. The Secretariat will explore this format when publishing the work of the

Expert Group on Planning for Major Events that the Area Metropolitana do Lisboa has kindly agreed to assist with. This might then act as a model for other groups

5 BARCELONA CONFERENCE 27- 30 OCTOBER 2004

Future trends in Spatial Planning and Development. New methodologies and Planning Tools

The Secretary General explained that the Barcelona Conference offered an exceptional opportunity to promote the Network and its activities to the wider European metropolitan community. The Conference hotel, and the opening venue of Gaudi's La Pedrera, are of high quality and interest.

The Secretary General and the host, Francesc Carbonell for the Generalitat de Catalunya, explained the progress that had been made in confirming the Keynote Speaker, Sir Peter Hall, and inviting the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy and the EU Dutch Presidency. Francesc Carbonell suggested that Albert Seratossa should be invited to give the Inspirational Address at the close of the Conference and this was agreed wholeheartedly by the Managing Committee.

The key issue is now the content of the Barcelona Workshop programme. As has been mentioned earlier, there will be an opportunity to present the outputs of the InterMETREX project and the Expert Groups through two of the six Workshops. The remaining four Workshops each have the capacity for three contributions, making twelve contributions in all on innovative practice. Offers to contribute have been received from Stuttgart, Torino and Stockholm and Stuttgart and Stockholm have kindly agreed to Chair two of the Workshops.

There remain opportunities for nine further Workshop contributions and Members are invited to contact Francesc Carbonell with their suggestions, having regard to the Conference Theme of Future Trends in Spatial Planning and Development - New Methodologies and Planning Tools – and the intention to present innovative practice. Offers to Chair the remaining two Workshops will also be gratefully received by the Secretary General

The timetable leading to the Conference will now be as follows.

- Circulation of the multi lingual Conference Invitation, from METREX President Prof. ssa Mercedes Bresso and Catalunya President Pascal Maragall, in mid June. This will include a CD with the Programme and hotel booking details. The new METREX Brochure will also be enclosed.
- Follow up contacts through the METREX Secretariat/Interpretariat in early September.

6 BARCELONA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2004

A Election of the METREX President for the period 2004 to 2006. Deadline for nominations – Friday 27 August 2004

The Secretary General explained the procedure for the election of the METREX President at the Barcelona General Assembly, should this be necessary. On past occasions the election has been by acclamation. The details are summarised in the San Sebastian Agenda Notes and set out in the METREX Statutes (Section 5, Articles 10 and 11).

Nominations for the Presidency, supported by one other Member, must be received by the Secretary General by **Friday 27 August 2004** at the latest. If there is more than one candidate then the Secretary General will arrange for an election at the Barcelona General Assembly on Saturday 28 October. There would be one vote per Member metropolitan region or area and Member regions and areas that cannot be represented at the General Assembly can ask another Member, in writing, to cast their vote.

Dr. Bernd Steinacher, from the Verband Region Stuttgart, confirmed his candidacy during the Managing Committee Meeting and briefly explained his motivation and intents. Dr. Francesc Carbonell confirmed that the Generalitat de Catalunya is also considering whether it will propose a candidate.

The Managing Committee agreed that, in the event of an election, each candidate should be asked to provide a short written statement on his or her background, philosophy and intent. For guidance, one page of text in 10 point is about 500 words and 750 words might be considered the maximum, given the need for translations into ES|IT|DE|FR. Candidates might then be invited to address the General Assembly, perhaps for a maximum of 10 minutes each

7 BUDGET, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT FOR 2003

A Financial Report

John Brown, METREX Accountant, presented the Income and Expenditure Statement and Profit and Loss Accounts for the period 1 January to 31 December 2003 and spoke to issues arising (see San Sebastian Agenda Notes for a summary).

From the Statement and Accounts it appeared that some adjustment to the budget for 2004 would be appropriate, to reflect the actual financial situation now that the InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus projects have been approved. Subscription income may be less than anticipated but Interreg III C co-funding will be increased. Provision for language services should be increased.

The Managing Committee approved these adjustments to the budget for 2004 which is now included as Appendix 1. This budget will probably also be presented to the Barcelona General Assembly for adoption for the years 2005 and 2006.

The Secretary General explained that some €65k of the subscription income for 2004 had been received with some €86 remaining outstanding. Those Members who have not yet arranged for payment of their subscription will be asked to do so as soon as possible. Only one subscription remains outstanding for 2003 and the Secretary General was asked to follow this up immediately.

B METREX audit for the financial year 2003

The METREX Treasurer, the City of Helsinki, represented by Hannu Kaljoki and Markku Lahti, confirmed that the audit for the financial year 2003 had been completed to their satisfaction. A letter of confirmation, to this effect, was given to the Secretary General

8 MEMBERSHIP

The Secretary General reported that the Comunidad de Madrid, through the organization ARPEGIO, had applied for Membership of METREX. The Managing Committee welcomed the Comunidad to membership and asked the Secretary General to proceed with the normal formal arrangements to confirm this to the Comunidad

The Secretary General also reported that formal notification had been received from the Provincie Noord-Holland of its intention to withdraw from membership, from 1 April 2005, in accordance with the Statutes. It is understood that this is because of the severe budgetary situation being faced by the Provincie. Amsterdam will continue to be represented by Stad Amsterdam.

The Managing Committee noted this situation and asked the Secretary General to maintain links with the Provincie in the hope that circumstances would allow their membership to be restored

The Secretary General suggested that, following the enlargement of the EU, Associate Membership might be offered to the new EU neighbours of St Petersburg (Russia), Kiev (Ukraine), Minsk (Belarus), Sofia (Bulgaria), Bucharest (Romania) and Istanbul (Turkey). Full membership might be considered in due course, particularly when, or before, Romania and Bulgaria join the EU, at the rate of 30% of the subscription or €2100.

The Managing Committee agreed that Kiev, Minsk, Bucharest, Sofia and Istanbul should be offered Associate Membership

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A Dates for the Spring 2005 Budapest METREX Meeting and Autumn 2005 Granada METREX Meeting

The Secretary General will write to colleagues in Budapest and Granada to confirm the dates for the Meetings and 2005 and will inform Members as soon as possible. It may be possible to meet in Sofia in 2006 and this is being explored with colleagues from the Municipality of Sofia by the Secretary General

B METREX web site

The Managing Committee received a short demonstration of the new METREX web site from the METREX webmaster, Tim Page. The web site has been restructured and redesigned as an integrated data base which means that inter relationships between information in the METREX languages of EN|ES|IT|DE|FR can be managed more efficiently.

At the San Sebastian Meeting, Members were given pro formas to update the information on their METREX Member pages. This is part of a full review of the METREX data base for all 120 or so European metropolitan regions and areas, prior to the combined Barcelona Conference Invitation and METREX Brochure mailing in mid June (see item 5 above).

The Secretariat will be contacting other METREX Members in the near future to ask them to update their web site Member page information

APPENDICES

- 1 Attendance**
- 2 Revised METREX budget for 2004**

XVII METREX Meeting

Eurociudad Vasca Bayonne-San Sebastian 5-8 May 2004

Delgates, speakers and support services (Managing Committee meeting in bold)

ALBANO, Mariarosaria	Provincia di Napoli
ALLENDE, Alberto	EESC
ANSORENA, Javier	Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa
ARANBURU José Maria	Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa/Eurociudad Vasca
ARBULU HORMAETXEA, Daniel	Eurocity Basque
AROSTEGI, Agustin	Eurcity Basque
ARREGI, Martin	Gobierno Vasco
AZEVEDO, Rui	CPMR
BECKER, Stefanie	METREX Interpretariat
BOROTRA, Didier	City of Biarritz/Eurociudad Vasca
BROWN, John	METREX Accountant
BUCHAN, Grahame	GCVSPJC, Glasgow
CALVO Y RUATA, Pablo	Diputación Provincial de Zaragoza
CARBONELL, Francesc	IET, Generalitat de Catalunya
COWAN, Max	METREX Secretariat/Projects
DARLEY, Mary	Dublin Regional Council
EVIN, Jean-Michel	Agence d'Urbanisme du Pays Basque
FERMIN, Marc	METREX Interpretariat
FIORA, Gianfranco	Provincia di Torino
FOIETTA, Poalo	
FRANZIN, Francesca	Regione Veneto
GONZALEZ de TXABARRI, Joxe Joan	Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa
GRASSI, Silvia	Regione Emilia-Romagna
GUERRA, Dr. Vincenzo	Provincia di Napoli
HARLAND, Alicia	METREX Interpretariat
HAUSWIRTH, Marcel-Gérard	CABAB/Eurociudad Vasca
HEDE, Hans	Stockholm County Council
HOOGE, Corinne	Communauté Urbaine de Lyon
HOWL, David	Core Cities Group, Birmingham
IBANEZ, Isidoro	Ayuntamiento de Granada
INTXAURRAGA, Sabin	Gobierno Vasco
KALJOKI, Hannu	Helsinki City Council
KOELLREUTER, Christoph	BAK, Basel
KOLONTAY, Alexander	Minskgrado
KOURIS, Leonidas	

KURJATA, Ewa	Municipality of Szczecin
LAHTI, Markku	Helsinki City Council
LAMPUGNANI, Antonio	Regione Lombardia
LARRANGA, Paxti	LKS Consultores
LOPEZ CHACON, Mrs	Accompanying person
LOPEZ CHACON, Rocio	Junta de Andalucia
LUDWIG, Jürgen	Verband Region Stuttgart
LUNDBERG, Per	Stockholm City Council
MacDONALD, Sheila	Accompanying person
McGRATH, Ester	Accompanying person
McGRATH, Gerald	Honorary President, METREX
MOTTO, Alberto	Regione Veneto
MURATORI, Adriano	METREX Interpretariat
NAPOLITANO, Paola	Provincia di Napoli
PAGE, Amy	Accompanying person
PAGE, Tim	METREX webmaster
PALLA, Lillian	Organisation of Athens
PARIZA, Mr.	EESC
PARKE, Daisy	Accompanying person
PARKE, James	METREX Secretariat/Projects
PUECHREDON de, Jean-Marc	BAK,Basel
QUIGNON, Benoît	Communauté Urbaine de Lyon
RAFAILOVA, Georgette (+2 colleagues)	Municipality of Sofia
READ, Margaret	Accompanying person
READ, Roger	Secretary General, METREX
RIHTNIEMI, Suvi	Helsinki Metropolitan Area
RIVALTA, Luigi	Provincia di Torino
RYAN, Colin	Dublin Regional Council
SACCAROLA, Francesca	Regione Veneto
SANCHES, Luisa	European Commission, DG Regio
SERATOSSA, Albert	IET, Generalitat de Catalunya
SPINOLA, José Luis	Ayuntamiento de Granada
STEINACHER, Bernd	Verband Region Stuttgart
SYKIANAKI, Catherine	Organisation of Athens
TAPIA, Fernando	Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa/Eurociudad Vasca
TOLOMELLI, Claudio	Regione Emilia-Romagna
UNZURRUNZAGA, Xabier	Universidad del Pais Vasco
VAN BEVEREN, J A	Rotterdam City Council
VIREN, Antti	Helsinki Metropolitan Area
WYLLIE, Alastair	METREX Secretariat
ZEGNIS, Dimitris	
ZUNZARREN, José Antonio Marcén	Government of Navarra

79 Total participation (including the METREX Secretariat/Interpretariat)

41 Managing Committee (4 METREX Interpretariat) 17 METREX Member Regions and Areas represented

APPENDIX 2 Revised METREX budget for the year 2004

Note that this budget will also be presented to the Barcelona General Assembly on Friday 27 October 2004 for approval for 2005 and 2006

	Original budget 2004		Revised budget 2004	
	€	€	€	€
MANAGEMENT				
Income				
Subscriptions	250,000		234,000	
Interest received	-			
Project co-funding	<u>-</u>	250,000	<u>34,000</u>	268,000
			=	
Expenditure				
Secretary General	49,600		49,600	
Communications & management	26,500		26,520	
Project support – co-funded	53,000		68,000	
Interpretation & translation	25,000		30,000	
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	28,000		30,000	
Printing & copying	2,000		1,000	
Postage, stationery & telephone	5,000		5,500	
Accountancy	5,300		5,500	
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>12,000</u>		<u>13,000</u>	
		206,400		267,120
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		43,600		880
CONFERENCES				
Income	-		-	
Expenditure	<u>20,000</u>		<u>-</u>	
		(20,000)		-
CURRENCY FLUCTUATION		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
PROFIT/(LOSS)		<u>23,600</u>		<u>880</u>