

XXII Meeting of the METREX Managing Committee, Vicenza, Saturday 26 May 2007

Location Chioistro Santa Corona,
 VICENZA,
 Italy,

AGENDA NOTES

SATURDAY 26 MAY 11.00 – 13.00

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Members attending will be asked to sign the Sederunt and those unable to attend are asked to send their apologies by e-mail to the Secretary General at secretariat@eurometrex.org

2 MINUTES OF THE SZCZECIN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The biennial General Assembly took place on Saturday 30 September 2006 during the METREX Szczecin 10th Anniversary Conference. The Minutes have been placed on the METREX web site at www.eurometrex.org and can be downloaded in EN|DE|FR|IT|ES.

Members are asked to bring copies of the Minutes with them to Vicenza for approval.

3 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

3A Madrid International Congress - May 2006

The Proceedings of the Madrid Congress have been published in book form and on a DVD by the Comunidad de Madrid and copies will be made available to METREX Members.

3B European Neighbourhood Policy

DG External Relations (DG RELEX) has been invited to the Veneto Meeting to present the EU's new Neighbourhood Policy that applies to the countries of Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and the nation states on the southern Mediterranean shore. Representative metropolitan areas from these states and Turkey have also been invited to the Meeting to exchange experience with METREX and explore possible relationships for the future.

The Managing Committee could consider the outcome of these exchanges and any follow up action that may be considered appropriate.

3C METREX/Shanghai International Seminar - 10-18 November 2007 (new dates)

The Secretariat circulated an Invitation for Expressions of Interest in participating in a METREX/Shanghai International Seminar with the METREX mailing before Christmas. Responses were sought by 9 February. Some 8 metropolitan areas have indicated an interest in the Seminar with a prospective delegation of 18 led by the President. It would be possible to add additional colleagues, perhaps up to a maximum delegation of 20-25 colleagues in all. The dates

for the Seminar have had to be changed to enable Professor Siling Zheng, of Tonjii University in Shanghai, to lead the Shanghai delegation and to participate in the event.

The Secretariat will present the METREX/Shanghai Seminar programme to the Managing Committee for final consideration. Other METREX colleagues may also wish to consider their participation before the delegation is finalised.

3D Moscow International Seminar

The International Co-operation Programme, signed at Szczecin, has been proceeding and a first Progress Report has been produced (see the METREX web site).

The Secretariat will update the Managing Committee on the Co-operation Programme and any necessary action can then be considered and initiated.

4 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

4A Updated Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) Metropolitan Areas

The EESC held a Hearing in Brussels on 7 January 2007 on the Metropolitan dimension to European Affairs in preparation for the updating of their Opinion on Metropolitan Areas. The Hearing was attended by the President and the METREX Head of European Relations, Vincent Goodstadt.

The President could update the Managing Committee on the outcome of the Hearing.

4B METREX and Brussels Open Days 8-11 October 2007

Making it happen - Regions deliver growth and jobs

As in 2006, a number of METREX Members have expressed an interest in taking part in the annual Brussels Open Days. A METREX Conglomerate Application has been made to hold two Workshops in Scotland House, Brussels, with seven METREX Members contributing.

The Secretariat will report on the outcome of the Application to the Managing Committee and, if successful, will present the Open Days and METREX Workshop programme for discussion.

5 METREX INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

5A InterMETREX and InterMETREXplus

InterMETREX concluded with a Workshop in Glasgow in May/June 2006 for all 28 current Partners. The Lead Partner, the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee (GCVSPJC), presented an assessment of the outcomes of the project to the Szczecin General Assembly.

An extension to the InterMETREX project (InterMETREXplus), to June 2007, has been agreed by the Interreg III C West Zone Secretariat to allow METREX and the GCVSPJC, Stockholm County Council, Regione Emilia-Romagna and the Regione del Veneto to pilot the calibration and application of the Tyndall Centre GRIP (Greenhouse Gas Regional Inventory Model) model at the metropolitan level. The outcome will be assessments of emissions in all extension partner areas and the production of mitigation scenarios for the Lead Partner area.

The extension project is being funded jointly by METREX and the GCVSPJC from unspent InterMETREX budgetary provision. A condition of the approval of the project extension was that the outcomes and outputs should be put before the full project partnership for peer review. The Veneto Meeting programme allows for this on the Friday afternoon. The InterMETREXplus project could provide the basis for an application to apply the GRIP model more widely across Europe from 2008 under Interreg IVC.

The Secretariat will report on progress with the InterMETREX extension project and colleagues from the Tyndall Centre will also attend. The Managing Committee may wish to download the InterMETREXplus Discussion Note from the METREX web site, which assesses the recent EU Energy and Climate Change Strategy and considers the implications for metropolitan regions and areas.

With the METREX December 2006 mailing, the Secretariat included an Invitation for Expressions of Interest in an Interreg IVC project on Climate change/Urban change. Responses were again sought by 9 February 2007. Despite reminders, the response from METREX and other European metropolitan colleagues has been limited. In consequence, it is intended to use the opportunity presented by the Zaragoza Meeting to hold an Inception meeting for potential interested Climate change/Urban change project partners. This could be similar the Schiphol meeting held for potential InterMETREX and PolyMETREX partners in 2003 that launched these projects.

5B PolyMETREXplus

Members of the Managing Committee will be aware of the difficulties that have been experienced by the 19 partners in the PolyMETREXplus project. Such difficulties have included the development of the content of the project and its financial management.

The Institut d'Estudis Territorials (IET) has acted for the Lead Partner, the Generalitat de Catalunya, and has recently appointed a third Project Coordinator and consultants, D'Alpeh SA, to manage the Interreg IIIC administrative processes, including reporting and the claiming of co-funding.

The first co-funding claim from some partners was made in April 2006, for the period since the inception of the project in 2003 to December 2005, and this was paid by the Interreg IIIC South Zone in October 2006. It was eventually transferred to partners in February 2007. There remain co-funding claim problems for other partners.

The METREX Network and project partners have invested considerable resources in this key project. The Secretariat will produce a report on the outcomes and present these to the Veneto Meeting.

The Managing Committee may wish to review the experience of the PolyMETREXplus project both in terms of its outcomes and administration and to consider the implications for any further METREX promoted initiatives under Interreg IVB or C.

5C Interreg IVB and C Projects Market

The Veneto Meeting Programme has included an Interreg IVB and C Projects Market on the initiative of colleagues from Germany.

The Managing Committee may wish to consider the outcomes of the Project Market and action that should be taken by the Network to support and promote Interreg IVB and C projects.

5D Expert Groups

Major Infrastructure in Metropolitan Regions

The first meeting of the Expert Group on Major Infrastructure was held in Stuttgart from 22-24 November 2006. It was attended by colleagues from Berlin-Brandenburg, Oradea, Torino, Lyon, IAURIF- Ile-de-France, Nürnberg, Sofia, Hamburg, Helsinki and SEEDA - South East UK. A full Report on the meeting can be downloaded from the METREX web site together with the presentations that were made.

The aim of the Expert Group is to exchange knowledge and information on crucial issues related to the planning, development and effects of major infrastructure in metropolitan regions and areas.

Colleagues were invited to make presentations on,

- planning issues (approaches, instruments, integration, assessment)
- decision making (players, levels, priorities, processes, relevance of planning)
- financing (financing partners, burden sharing)
- effects on regional development (economy, transport, environment)
- successes, failures, lessons learned

The first Workshop in 2006 will be followed up with a second in 2007 and possibly a third in 2008.

Colleagues from the Verband Region Stuttgart, who initiated and organised the Expert Group and the first Workshop, could report to the Managing Committee on the outcomes and action arising.

5E Lisbon Indicators

The Expert Group on Lisbon Indicators held an inception meeting, chaired by IAURIF, during the METREX Szczecin Conference. The Expert Group adopted the fourteen key Lisbon Strategy indicators identified by IAURIF and colleagues have been preparing comparative analyses on this basis.

Colleagues from IAURIF and the Expert Group could report on progress to the Managing Committee.

6 THE WAY FORWARD FOR METREX - *Intentions*

The Szczecin General Assembly recognised that METREX activities for the coming decade would have a longer-term component, *Intentions*, and a more immediate component, the *Programme* for the coming two years to the next General Assembly. These could draw on four sources of opinion and conclusions that have emerged throughout the 10th Anniversary year.

- 1 Responses to the President's Questionnaire to Members in December 2005.
- 2 The concluding remarks of Professor Sir Peter Hall at the Madrid International Congress in May 2006.
- 3 The Powerpoint contributions of Members, Looking back/Looking forward.
- 4 The outcome of the METREX Szczecin 10th Anniversary Conference Open Space sessions reported to the closing session of the event on Friday 29 September.

The Secretariat produced and circulated an early draft of METREX *Intentions*, with the METREX December 2006 mailing, to include the proposed two-year Programme, for consideration by the

Managing Committee at the Veneto Meeting. Intentions can also be downloaded from the METREX web site.

8 FINANCIAL REPORT, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT FOR 2006

8A Financial Report and Accounts

As has been mentioned under item 5B, the long awaited first tranche of Interreg IIIC co-funding for the period 2003-2005, amounting to €69000, was finally received by METREX in late February 2007. This debt has had severe implications for METREX over the last two years and has curtailed initiatives and activities. For the financial year 2007 it is intended to take steps to place the Network on a more robust financial footing and to create a working balance of 10% of the subscription income or some €25000 by December.

METREX Accounts and the Financial Report (Income and Expenditure and Profit and Loss) for the period 1 July to 31 December 2006 will be presented to the Managing Committee.

8B METREX audit for 2006

The METREX Treasurer/Auditor, Olli Lahtinen of Helsinki City Council, will report on the audited METREX income and expenditure for the financial period 1 July to 31 December 2006.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10A Dates for Meetings/Conferences in 2007/2008

End October/beginning November	Zaragoza autumn Meeting Theme H2O and also initiating the Interreg IVC Climate change/Urban change project
Spring 2008	Prague Meeting (to be confirmed)
Autumn 2008	London bi-ennial Conference Theme - Climate change/Urban change

10B Briefing Note on METREX Meetings and Conferences

The Secretariat has produced the attached Briefing Note on METREX Meetings and Conferences. These events are now very similar, with the exception of the General Assembly held with Conferences and the range of speakers involved in Conferences.

The Managing Committee could consider the Briefing Note and, in particular, the financial basis for future Meetings and Conferences.

Attachment

METREX Briefing Note on Meetings and Conferences

RR/25/2/2007