

VII METREX General Assembly in Vienna

Location

Museum of Modern Art (MAMOK)
Vienna.

Friday 19 October, 14.30 - 16.30

Minutes

1 Attendance and apologies

The METREX membership comprises forty-seven voting Members. A quorum of 50% is required at a General Assembly (GA).

17 Members were represented in person at the Vienna GA and 7 Members were formally represented by others (see Appendix 1). This gave the necessary quorum of 24 attending or represented Members.

2 METREX Elections

The Secretary General announced the outcome of the 2012 Elections, circulated to Members on 9 September 2012, as follows.

President	Alberto Leboriero Amaro
Vice Presidents	Juliane Kürschner
MC	Hans Brattstrom
	Anne-Marie Chavanon
	Thomas Kiwitt
	Natalia Korwin-Piotrowska
	Kurt Mittringer
	Jakob Richter
	Claudio Tolomelli

The President formally took over the Presidency from Hannu Penttilä and the MC formally took office.

The President thanked Hannu Penttilä warmly for his Presidency and, in particular, for his work in establishing the Managing Committee. The President spoke to his electoral Statement, circulated again at the GA.

3 Finance

3A Financial Statements and audit for 2012

The METREX Financial Statements (Income and Expenditure and Profit and Loss) for the half-year period January to June 2012 were attached to the GA Agenda Notes as Appendix 1, as context for the discussion of the METREX Budget for 2013/2014 under Item 5D.

The Secretary General spoke in explanation of the Profit and Loss Accounts, which showed about 50% of Expenditure for the half year and about 70% of Income.

4 METREX Membership and subscriptions 2012/2014

The METREX Membership and prospective subscription income of €234,300 for 2013/2014 was attached to the GA Agenda Notes as Appendix 2, again as context for discussion of the METREX Budget under Item 5D.

The Secretary General spoke in explanation of the prospective subscription income for 2013/2014, having regard to the 8 Members currently taking a subscription dividend.

5 METREX Programme and Budget 2012/2014

5A Projects

Existing

- URMA - Urban and Rural cooperation in Metropolitan Areas
- ReMAC - Regenerative energy in Metropolitan Areas

Under consideration

- COTER - Cohesion Territorial (Possible METREX follow on from PolyMETREX) and ET 2050 (ESPON project on a European Territorial Vision)
- DEVLAND - Development Land - Standards for the provision of public open space and public facilities

The leaders of the Projects, or their representatives, presented their future intentions to the GA.

5B Expert Groups

Existing

- EconoMETREX - Economic development and spatial planning
- InfraMETREX - Major infrastructure in metropolitan areas (Continued)

Under consideration

- Better Housing at Affordable Costs
- MEMfab - Mixed Economy supporting Metropolitan Fabric - (Public tools of orientation and regulation inside metropolitan fabric shared with private actors, examples of major development projects, public facilities etc.)

The leaders of the Expert Groups presented their future intentions to the GA.

The Secretary General also mentioned the position with regard to PHIMA - Planning for Housing in Metropolitan Areas - and PRIMA - Planning for Retailing in Metropolitan Areas. These are planning tools that have been circulated to all Members in METREX languages as aids for effective practice (see the METREX web site at www.eurometrex.org).

The Secretary General will summarise the position with regard to Projects and Expert Group activities in a Workbook for the information of Members and the MC in producing the METREX Programme for 2013/2014 through their forthcoming February 2013 Meeting in Brussels.

5C METREX Programme

2013

- Glasgow Spring Conference - 24/26 April 2013. Theme - Metropolitan Dimension - The state of the Union
- Oslo Autumn Conference

2014

- Mitteldeutschland (Leipzig/Dresden/Halle/Chemnitz) Spring Conference - Dates and Theme(s) to be confirmed
- Zürich Autumn Conference - Dates and Theme(s) to be confirmed

2015

- Lombardia (Milano) - Under consideration
- Opportunity available

5D METREX Budget for 2013/2014

Having regard to the activities of the Network in prospect for 2013/2014, the Vienna GA approved the METREX Budget for 2013/2014 as set out in Appendix 2.

6 International affairs

Colleagues from Shanghai Urban Planning and Design Research Institute attended the Vienna Conference and invited METREX to explore the possibility of a second study visit and Conference in Shanghai in the coming years.

The Secretary General is exploring the possibilities with colleagues from the Institute, through Xiaocun Ruan (Rotterdam City Council).

7 European affairs

7A Territorial Cohesion and Competitiveness through Urban-Rural Cooperation and metropolitan governance

A joint METREX-EUROCITIES contribution to the debate on urban-rural partnerships in the EU has been agreed by the MC and can be downloaded from the METREX web site.

Juliane Kürshner spoke in explanation of the joint statement and the background to its production. The Statement explains that,

"On the basis of the experience of our Networks and the growing evidence from European cities and regions, we strongly recommend that the dynamic of functional areas and urban-rural partnership development is used and reinforced to support the delivery of Europe 2020 objectives."

The Secretary General will sign the covering letter to accompany the Statement together with the Secretary General of Eurocities. It is anticipated that the Statement will be used to influence the use of the provision for urban areas in the 2014/2020 Structural Funds, RURBAN (EU Partnership for sustainable urban-rural development) and by Members to lobby national Governments.

7B Bernd Steinacher Fellowship

The first Bernd Steinacher Fellow, Judith Bornhorst, made a presentation of her Fellowship activities during the period 2010 to 2012. This will be of interest to all members and can be downloaded from the METREX web site.

Alexandra Delgado Jiménez was awarded the Fellowship for 2013/2014 at the Vienna Conference Dinner on Thursday 18 October.

Alexandra Delgado Jiménez will be invited to make a presentation to the 2014 GA, when the Fellowship ends, and to make the results of her work available to METREX Members. Her Fellowship Application can be viewed on the METREX web site and this explains her intentions.

8 Any other business

8A Clarification of the appointment of the METREX Auditor and the METREX Treasurer

The GA approved the following addition to the Internal Regulations, should the Managing Committee wish to make use of its provisions

Article 11. Powers of the General Assembly - Auditor

The Managing Committee will have the delegated power to appoint both the Auditor and the Treasurer and these appointments will normally be made from the seven elected members of the Managing Committee.

8B Glasgow spring 2013 Conference invitation - 24/26 April 2013

The Secretary General invited METREX Members to Glasgow for the Spring 2013 Conference, which will be held from 24/26 April 2013. The Conference Programme will be circulated early in 2013.

Appendix 2

METREX Budget for 2013/2014 as approved at the Vienna General Assembly

Income		234,300**
Subscriptions	234,200	
Interest received	0	
Expenditure		205,000
Secretary General	50,000	
Communications and management	30,000	
Project support - networking	30,000*	
Interpretation and translation	20,000*	
Travel, accommodation and subsistence	30,000*	
Printing and copying	19,000*	
Postage, stationary and telephone	5,000*	
Accountancy	7,000	
Miscellaneous expenses	14,000**	
Surplus/deficit		29,300
METREX Reserve/Contingency and 2014 Conference	25,000*	
Profit/(Loss)		4,300

* The GA, on the recommendation of the MC at its Marseille Meeting, agreed to allocate an extra €5k from the five budgetary headings mentioned above* to the €25k Reserve. This €30k could be available to support a METREX Brussels presence in 2013/2014.

** These figures include €7,000 for Glasgow office costs and €7,000 for a Glasgow subscription in kind.