

Barcelona Fourth General Assembly of the Network

Friday 29 October 2004 from 16.30 to 18.00
Hotel Condes de Barcelona Grand Salòn

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CONSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Constitutional background to the General Assembly is set out in the Agenda Notes published on the METREX web site (<http://www.eurometrex.org>) and e-mailed or posted to Members in advance of the General Assembly. The Agenda Notes were displayed on screen, item by item in EN, at the General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEMS

The draft Agenda for the Assembly was published and circulated one month in advance, as required by Article 12 of the Statutes, and no additional items were notified to the Secretary General.

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The General Assembly was chaired by Honorary President Dr. Gerald McGrath on behalf of President Prof. ssa Mercedes Bresso who, unavoidably, had to leave the Barcelona Conference the previous day.

24 Member metropolitan regions or areas were represented at the Assembly and apologies were received from all other Members.

The Sederunt is attached as Appendix 1

2 MINUTES OF THE METREX MANAGING COMMITTEE MEETING IN SAN SEBASTIAN

The San Sebastian Meeting of the Network took place from 5-8 May 2004 and the Minutes of the Meeting of the Managing Committee have been published on the METREX web site in languages.

The General Assembly approved the Minutes of the San Sebastian Meeting of the Managing Committee

3 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

A European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Own-initiative Opinion on European Metropolitan areas

The EESC has produced an Own-initiative Opinion (ECO/120 European Metropolitan Areas- July 2004), which recognises METREX and is very supportive of metropolitan interests. Joost van Iersel, Rapporteur to the EESC, contributed to the Opening Plenary session of the Conference and spoke at the General Assembly. He emphasised the need to agree and coordinate action to promote the recognition of metropolitan regions and areas (Functional Urban Regions or Areas as recognised by the Committee of the Regions (COR) and ESPON) by the European Commission and the Parliament. Such recognition should include the need for effective governance and data collection at this level. It should also reflect the metropolitan contribution to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the wider Europe (the Lisbon and Göteborg agendas). This might all be thought of as the *metropolitan dimension* to European affairs. (see also additional Item 3C later).

The Secretary General explained that contact had been made, by President Bresso, with the prospective new Commissioner for Regional Policy with regard to the 2006 METREX Szczecin Conference and that a meeting had been sought. The intention is to explore the possibility of a joint DG Regio/METREX Conference on common issues, including those mentioned above.

In the interim, and following the contributions made to the Conference Plenary and Workshop sessions, it was agreed that METREX should continue to advocate recognition of the metropolitan dimension within European affairs and perhaps go further and explore, in consultation with Members, the definition of European metropolitan regions and areas and their key data requirements. Colleagues attending the Conference from DATAR and IAURIF have offered to assist with such an exploration and ESPON has already initiated work of this kind

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

A number of organizations, including DG Regio, ESPON, DATAR, CPMR and BAK Basel Economics, have assessed European metropolitan areas against indicators of global, European and regional significance, competitiveness and connectivity. They have all offered to cooperate with METREX on common issues of metropolitan definition and data requirements.

It was agreed that METREX should respond to the offers of cooperation from these organisations on common aspects of the metropolitan agenda (see item 3A above)

Additional Item 3C

Text taken from the Dutch Presidency web site as context for additional Agenda Item 3C

On 18 and 19 October the European Commission, together with the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, organised the third City Summit in Noordwijk. The City Summit took place on the eve of the Ministerial Meeting regarding urban policy in Rotterdam on 30 November. The meeting in Noordwijk was attended by more than 600 representatives from cities in all EU Member States. The European Commission and the Dutch Presidency welcomed mayors, interest groups, European Commission staff and others persons involved in urban programmes in Europe. In 2002 the first City Summit took place in London, followed by Milan in 2003.

Cities are the motors of social and economic growth and innovation. They constitute the front line of sustainable social development and social cohesion. During the opening ceremony, Jacques Barrot, the Commissioner in charge of regional policy, said: 'The commission proposes to reinforce the role of cities in the next generation of European development programmes due to start in 2007'. Under this proposal the Commission proposes to raise the funds for urban projects and to reinforce the exchange of best practices.

The statement by the Commissioner is clearly of relevance to the InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus projects and the application and use of their outcomes and outputs in 2007

Dr. Bernd Steinacher and Oriol Nel.Lo, Minister for Spatial Planning in the Generalitat de Catalunya, attended the City Summit and concluded that it would be appropriate for METREX to prepare a Position Statement concerning the Structural Funds. A draft was circulated to Members prior to the General Assembly, in EN, entitled *From Cities to Metropolitan Regions: the need for an enlarged perspective* and this was also made available at the General Assembly in ES|IT|DE|FR. Dr. Steinacher and Sr. Ne.Lo spoke to the Paper and some adjustments were suggested to the text and agreed. The final text is included as Appendix 2.

The General Assembly agreed that the modified Position Paper, as set out in Appendix 2, should be submitted to the European Commission and copied to the Parliament, EESC and COR as the view of METREX with regard to the future of the Structural Funds and urban affairs

4 METREX INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

A InterMETREX project (with co-funding from the Interreg III C programme)

Five InterMETREX Workshops have been held during 2004 covering the European Union of the EU15. The findings and conclusion of these Workshops, in the form of a developed METREX Practice Benchmark, were considered by the InterMETREX partners at Workshop 6, on Tuesday 25 to Wednesday 27 October, held at the Auditorium Edifici Jaume 1, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (see also METREX web site for Workshop reports and documentation including InterMETREX project Discussion Notes 1 and 2). A key issue to arise from the project, *Testing the Plan*, was considered at Workshop 1 of the Conference.

A further four Workshops will take place in 2005/2006 to cover the Accession and other countries and to draw final findings and conclusions to be reported to, and disseminated at, the METREX 2006 Szczecin Conference.

The General Assembly noted the satisfactory progress with the InterMETREX project

B PolyMETREXplus

Four PolyMETREXplus Analysis Workshops were held during 2004 covering the extended EU27. The preliminary outcomes of these Workshops, in the form of range of Discussion Notes, were considered by the project Steering Committee on Wednesday 27 October and presented to, and disseminated at, the Plenary Session of the METREX Barcelona Conference on Friday 29 October (see also METREX web site for Workshop reports and documentation including all PolyMETREXplus project Discussion Notes).

A further four Synthesis Workshops will be held in 2005 and a programme of Representative Indicative Networking Actions (RINA's) agreed at a Steering Committee meeting to be held at the Granada Meeting in Autumn 2005. The RINA's will then be progressed in the period 2006/2007.

The General Assembly noted that the signing of the Subsidy Contract had been delayed until now, although the project started on receipt of the PolyMETREXplus approval in May. PolyMETREXplus is an exploratory project, a *work in progress*, and the initial Analysis Workshop phase had encountered some start up difficulties, particularly with the claiming of co-funding and the production of the planned documentation. It is hoped that, with the much-appreciated cooperation and support of the partners, these difficulties have now been overcome.

The General Assembly noted the developing progress with the PolyMETREXplus project

The Secretary General referred to procedural difficulties that had been encountered with both Interreg III C projects with regard to the recognition by the West and South Zone Secretariats, and some national Governments, of the concept of Operational Costs provided by one partner (METREX) and shared equally between all partners. In addition, there are continuing difficulties with staff co-funding in Greece and Italy.

The General Assembly noted the procedural difficulties that both InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus are experiencing

C Expert Group initiatives

METREX Expert Groups on Strategic Planning for Retailing, Major Urban restructuring, Urban requalification, Agriculture in Metropolitan Areas and Planning for Major Events reported to Workshop 4 of Conference. At a pre meeting of the members of these groups on Wednesday 27 October it was concluded that work should continue on all these topics, because of the inputs that had only recently been made or are still to be made, except for Planning for Major Events. The work of this Group has now been documented and published on a METREX CD, as has the earlier SocioMETREX project, and disseminated at the Conference.

The General Assembly Noted the continuing work of the Expert Groups, which will be reported to future Meetings, and published on CD, as it progresses

5 METREX SZCZECIN CONFERENCE 27- 30 SEPTEMBER 2006 (Provisional)

As has been noted under Item 3A, it is hoped to make the 2006 Conference in Szczecin a joint event with DG Regio focusing on issues of common interest such as Territorial Cohesion and the metropolitan dimension to this. Colleagues from Szczecin have kindly invited the Secretariat to a pre Conference meeting to explore the theme, programme, speakers, venue, hotels, excursions and budget.

After discussion it was concluded that Workshops might include fewer presentations and allow greater time for discussions. The management of time in Plenary and Workshop sessions has continued to be difficult. It was felt to be important that speakers recognise that presentations are most effective, within a very full Conference Programme, when they highlight key points that delegates can then pursue in more detail through reference to web site links and published documents.

The Secretariat and colleagues from Szczecin will present further thoughts on the form and content of the 2006 Conference to the Meetings in 2005

6 ELECTION OF THE METREX PRESIDENT FOR THE PERIOD 2004-2006

The Secretary General received one nomination for election as METREX President by the due date of 31 August 2004. On 12 August Dr. Bernd Steinacher, of the Verband Region Stuttgart, wrote to confirm his willingness to stand and Claudio Tolomelli, of Regione Emilia-Romagna, also wrote in support of his candidacy. No other nominations have been received.

The General Assembly elected Dr. Steinacher as the President of METREX for the period 2004 to 2006, by acclamation

7 METREX ACCOUNTS FOR 2002/2003/2004, AUDIT FOR 2004 AND BUDGETS FOR 2005 AND 2006

A Financial Report – METREX Accounts for 2002/2003 and 2004

The Secretary General explained that the METREX Accounts for 2002 and 2003 had been approved at previous meetings of the Managing Committee and were for ratification by the General Assembly. John Brown, METREX Accountant, presented the Income and Expenditure Statement and Profit and Loss Accounts for the period 1 January to 30 June 2004. These are set out in Appendix 2. John Brown referred to prospective variations in the expenditure on language services and projects and noted that appropriate modifications were included in the Budgets for 2005 and 2006.

B METREX audit for 2004

The METREX Treasurer/Auditor, through Hannu Kalajoki and Markku Lahti, has audited the Accounts for the period 1 January to 30 June 2004 and confirmed in writing to the Secretary General that the audit has clarified the purpose of selected expenses.

C METREX Budgets for 2005 and 2006

The San Sebastian Meeting of the METREX Managing Committee adopted a revised budget for 2004 and provisional budgets the period 2005 to 2006, having regard to the financial implications of the InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus Interreg IIIC project. The budgets for 2005 and 2006 are set out in Appendix 3.

The General Assembly approved the METREX Accounts for 2002 and 2003 and for the period 1 January to 30 June 2004, as set out in Appendix 2, received the report of the Treasurer/Auditor for the period 1 January to 30 June 2004 and approved the METREX budgets for 2005 and 2006, as set out in Appendix 3

8 MEMBERSHIP

The Secretary General reported to the San Sebastian Meeting of the Managing Committee that the Comunidad de Madrid, through the organisation ARPEGIO, had applied for Membership of METREX. Since that time the Planungsverband Ballungsraum Frankfurt/Rhein-Main, has also completed the membership procedures.

The General Assembly welcomed Madrid and Frankfurt/Rhein-Main to membership of the Network and the Honorary President presented the METREX Certificate of Membership to these new colleagues

Dr. Alexander Kolontay, formerly of Minskgrado and now Deputy Director of Planning for Moscow, addressed the General Assembly and suggested that closer links might now be made between METREX and Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Dr. Kolontay offered his assistance with these initiatives.

The Secretary General mentioned the kind support that has been offered by DATAR and IAURIF to secure greater participation in METREX affairs by French metropolitan regions and areas. The President will participate in a meeting in Nancy on 15 November, promoted by DATAR and colleagues from Nancy, on the theme of *What Governance for Metropolitan Projects?*

The General Assembly supported the priority given by the President, Dr. Steinacher, in his Electoral Statement, to the attraction of metropolitan regions and areas in France and the Accession countries to membership of METREX and welcomed the support offered by colleagues from France and Russia

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A METREX Calendars for 2005 and 2006 and dates for the Spring 2005 Budapest METREX Meeting and Autumn 2005 Granada METREX Meeting

Colleagues from Budapest were, unfortunately, not able to attend the General Assembly to confirm and discuss the arrangements for the intended Budapest Meeting in Spring 2005. The Central Hungarian Region Council, through the Pro Régió Agency, is a partner in the InterMETREX project and the intention was to combine InterMETREX Workshop 7, in Budapest, with the Spring Meeting.

The Verein Region Nürnberg kindly indicated that it may be able to host the Spring 2005 Meeting and, in order to enable the arrangements to be progressed, the General Assembly accepted this provisional offer with gratitude. It may be that the Network will be able to meet in Budapest on a future occasion.

The General Assembly noted the METREX Calendars for 2005 and 2006 and the opportunities these offer for networking/extended Network membership and approved the provisional dates for Meetings/the Conference in 2005 and 2006

B METREX web site

The General Assembly noted the development that has taken place in the presentation, structure and use of the METREX web site

C METREX colleagues

The General Assembly sent its good wishes to these colleagues who had retired in 2003 and 2004

The General Assembly convened for a short while during the Conference lunch on Thursday 28 October 2004 to invite Prof. ssa Mercedes Bresso MEP to accept the position of Honorary President. Prof.ssa Bresso accepted this position with pleasure and offered her continuing support for the Network in the development of its future European agenda

D Address by Dr. Bernd Steinacher

Dr. Steinacher then took over the Chair from the Honorary President and addressed the General Assembly. He referred to his Electoral Statement and, in particular, the key directions set out in the section entitled *The way forward for METREX*. For continuity and clarification these are included with these Minutes as Appendix 4.

The General Assembly endorsed the key directions set out by the President and these will be progressed with the support of Members and the Secretariat/Interpretariat

APPENDICES

- 1 Sederunt**
- 2 METREX Position Paper concerning the future of the Structural Funds. *From Cities to Metropolitan Regions: the need for an enlarged perspective***
- 3 METREX Budgets for 2005 and 2006**
- 4 Key directions from the Presidential Electoral Statement**

Roger Read,
Secretary General,
Glasgow/1/11/2004

APPENDIX 1 Sederunt

METREX - The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

Barcelona Fourth General Assembly of the Network

Friday 29 October 2004 from 16.30 to 18.00

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City of Amsterdam	Hans SMIT
Diputaci3n General de Arag3n	Pablo DOLZ MILLAN
Organisation for Planning and Environmental Protection of Athens	Lilian PALLA Manos PAPANIKOLAOU
Dekeyser Cabinet d'Avocats, Bruxelles	Mano3l DEKEYSER
Generalitat de Catalunya, Institut d'Estudis Territorials, Barcelona	Francesc CARBONELL LLOVERA Albert SERRATOSA I PALET
Leibnitz-Institute for Ecological and Regional Development, Dresden	Thorsten WIECHMANN
Regione Emilia-Romagna	Sivila GRASSI Claudio TOLOMELLI
European Economic and Social Committee	Alberto ALLENDE Joost VAN IERSEL
D3l3gation 3 l'am3nagement du territoire et 3 l'action r3gionale (DATAR), France	Vincent FOURCHIER
Planungsverband Ballungsraum Frankfurt / Rhein-Main	Reinhard HENKE
Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee	Grahame BUCHAN Vincent GOODSTADT
Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg	Wilhelm SCHULTE
Landeshauptstadt Hannover	Reinhard MARTINSEN
City of Helsinki	Hannu KALAJOKI Markku LAHTI
YTV Helsinki Metropolitan Area Council	Suvi RIHTNIEMI Antti VIREN
3rea Metropolitana de Lisboa	Jos3 Eduardo LEIT3O PINES COSTA Paulo MORGADO SOUSA
Regione Lombardia	Antonio LAMPUGNANI Julia ROTA
Greater London Authority	Kevin REID
Comunidad de Madrid	Alberto LEBOUREIRO AMARO
METREX Secretariat	John BROWN Gerald MacGRATH Roger REID Alastair WYLLIE
Architecture and City Planning Committee of Moscow	Alexander KOLONTAY
Bavarian Ministry of Economy, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology, Munich	Margit HILLER
Provincia di Napoli	Francesco Domenico MOCCIA
Verein Region N3rnberg	Gabriele ENGEL
Institut d'Am3nagement et d'Urbanisme de la R3gion d'Ile-de-	Dominique LECOMTE

France (IAURIF), Paris	
Prefecture of Piraeus	Varvara ANGELOPOULOU Ioannis AXARLIS Evangelia GIANNOPOULOU
Riga City Council City Development Department	Inguss VIRCAVS
City of Rotterdam	Rob GROENEWEG
South Coast Metropole, Bournemouth Borough Council	Philip ROBINSON
City of Stockholm	Per LUNDBERG
Stockholm County	Hans HEDE
Verband Region Stuttgart	Jürgen LUDWIG Bernd STEINACHER Dirk VALLÉE
City of Szczecin	Ewa KURJATA
Organisation for the Master Plan and Environmental Protection of Thessaloniki	Maria KIPOUROU Magda SEGKOUNI Polyxeni ZEIKOU
Provincia di Torino	Gianfranco FIORA Silvana SANLORENZO
Gobierno Vasco	Martin ARREGI SAN MIGUEL
Regione Veneto	Romeo TOFFANO
Vilniaus Planas	Linas SINKEVICIUS
Diputación Provincial de Zaragoza	Pablo CALVO Y RUATA Martin LLANAS GASPAS

**APPENDIX 2 METREX Position Paper concerning the future of the Structural Funds.
From Cities to Metropolitan Regions: the need for an enlarged perspective**

From Cities to Metropolitan Regions: the need for an enlarged perspective

The growing attention to cities as key factors for the future development of the European Union in the draft proposals for the new Structural Funds is essential for the future of the Continent and METREX strongly supports this. However, in order to really address the future of Europe, the European Metropolitan Regions and Areas plead for the adoption of an enlarged perspective with an emphasis, also, on metropolitan regions.

There are four reasons to do so:

Reason 1 The region is the city of tomorrow

In Europe, there are a growing number of metropolitan regions, each with a number of interlinked and interdependent municipalities and towns of various size and characteristics. This refers to Barcelona and London as well as to Stuttgart, the Randstad or the Öresund Region.

Within these diverse metropolitan regions,

- people live, work and relax in the whole region,
- businesses purchase, sell and invest in more than one community,
- scientific institutes have their location not only in the core city,
- ecological problems affect the whole region and
- large infrastructures always serve more than one municipality.

Thus, Metropolitan Regions need to be acknowledged by European and national policies, their problems addressed and their potential chances exploited.

Reason 2 Metropolitan regions contribute to Europe

The evolution of Metropolitan Regions will have a direct effect on four major European targets and policies:

- the Lisbon target,
- the ESDP,
- enlargement and
- cohesion.

There is no doubt that Europe needs successful metropolitan regions and, in turn, that metropolitan regions need Europe for their own success. They

- are hosts and promoters of competitiveness,
- have a role to play towards European urban balance and sustainability,
- will have to perform as the growth engines in the old and the new member states and
- form the backbone of development throughout the European Union and beyond.

Reason 3 Metropolitan regions need better internal integration

The global economy has ceased to be a hierarchically ordered structure of nation states and their economies. Today and in future, the vast majority of players use networks within and between metropolitan regions as their interface.

It is within these metropolitan regions that finance, knowledge, production, political decision making bodies and infrastructure meet on a regional, national, European and global scale.

Internal integration of metropolitan regions covers the cooperation and networking within the metropolitan regions and with their surroundings. It enables all forces of the business community, science and the public

bodies to cooperate for the common good. The core cities are important in this respect, but the potential for development can only be fully realised in the wider metropolitan regions.

Reason 4 Metropolitan regions need to be integrated in European networks

Metropolitan regions fulfil their gateway function by providing access to knowledge and contributing to the transfer of knowledge into practice. They also host most nodes of the trans-European traffic infrastructures. As well as this, European integration of metropolitan regions must also address networking on a European scale and the formation of strategic alliances of metropolitan regions in order to foster growth, competitiveness, and global integration zones.

In order to have the ability for European networking and integration as gateways, metropolitan areas need real and virtual infrastructure,

- Real infrastructure means provisions for passenger and freight transport on road, rail and air, trade fairs and research and teaching capacities,
- Virtual infrastructure means networks of firms and public bodies as well as being represented in key discussion and decision centres, such as Brussels.

Responses The proposals of the European Commission concerning the new structural funds need to address the Metropolitan Future of Europe

From the point of view of metropolitan regions there are five responses to be made on the proposals:

- 1 METREX supports the concentration of policies on the major tasks competitiveness, sustainability and employment as well as the aim to simplify the programme and funding system.
- 2 METREX stresses the potential that metropolitan regions in the old and the new member states have to contribute to the Lisbon Goal, to the Gothenburg Goal, to employment and to cohesion.
- 3 METREX asks the Member States, the European Parliament, and the European Commission as well as the EESC and the COR to adequately incorporate the problems and potentials of metropolitan regions, not only those of cities, in the priorities and programmes.
- 4 Concerning the Commission's proposals on the future programme for Structural Funds, METREX strongly recommends that they significantly be used also to cover such issues as urban renewal, social deprivation, economic restructuring and public transport, among others, problems which tend to concentrate in metropolitan regions. Furthermore METREX recommends, referring to COM(2004)495 final 14 July 2004:
 - 4.1 Under the target "Regional competitiveness and employment" (article 5)
 - the zoning of eligible areas through the member states must not result in the exclusion of Metropolitan Areas from Community intervention and project funding,
 - under item 3 the restriction "- outside major urban centres -" should be dropped,
 - a new item 4 "development of small and medium sized enterprises" should be inserted
 - 4.2 Under the target "European territorial cooperation" (article 6)
 - in all cooperation strands activities of Spatial Planning and Regional Development should be added.
 - in the strand "cross-border cooperation" the possibility of support for cross-border cooperation of metropolitan areas, because of their wide spread spill-over, service, infrastructure and employment effect, should be taken into account, even if they are not situated directly at borders. This would add a truly metropolitan dimension to cross-border cooperation.

- in the strand “transnational cooperation” the investment component and the overlapping of cooperation areas should be retained. Regarding the review of cooperation areas it should be kept in mind that borders of these areas don’t exhibit negative effects on the cooperation possibilities; moreover, the metropolitan areas offer to deliver their experience with the current zoning of cooperation areas as an input in the review.
 - in the strand “interregional cooperation” activities and finance aspects should be concentrated under the target European territorial cooperation. A national coordination would hinder the interregional activities and should be omitted.
- 5 The Metropolitan Regions and Areas of Europe offer their partnership for the design and implementation of the future structural policy of the European Union and look forward to a discussion of these issues with Member States, the European Parliament, and the European Commission as well as the EESC, the COR and other interested parties.

Decision of the METREX General Assembly during the METREX biennial Conference in Barcelona on 30 October 2004

METREX The network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

Dr. Bernd Steinacher
President

Roger Read
Secretary General

APPENDIX 3 METREX Budgets for 2005 and 2006

as approved at the Barcelona General Assembly on Friday 29 October 2004

	Original budget 2004		Revised budget 2004/2005/2006	
	€	€	€	€
Management				
Income				
Subscriptions	250,000		234,000	
Interest received	-		0	
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	
Project support - networking			38,000	
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>	
		<u>206,400</u>		<u>267,120</u>
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>

APPENDIX 4 Key directions from the Presidential Electoral Statement

Candidacy of Dr. Bernd Steinacher, Stuttgart Region

▪ The way forward for METREX

METREX as the network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas provides the unique possibility for planners and politicians to meet, exchange, co-operate, and express their views.

METREX has developed very well since 1996 with more than 30 metropolitan regions and areas, almost 20 successful meetings and conferences, a growing number of EU funded projects and the recent recognition by a number of organisations like the Irish EU Presidency, the European Economic and Social Council, and the OECD, whilst keeping its very close contact between its members.

The success of METREX is due to the commitment of its members as well as the work of its Presidents Dr. Gerald McGrath and Prof. ssa Mercedes Bresso, Secretary General Roger Read, and the METREX Secretariat.

Against the background of the tasks of Metropolitan Regions and Areas in Europe and the development of the METREX network, so far, the coming years will need to see a next step forward in the successful way of METREX. The main aspects will be:

- **Membership and member services**

The success of METREX as a network depends on its services to its members and the satisfaction of its members with the network. Thus, METREX has to secure the funding for the necessary services through the Secretariat. This includes to convince more regions to become a member of METREX, especially regions in the new member states and France, as well as in the North, in Germany, and the accession countries.

- **Better involvement in Brussels**

METREX has seen a tremendous increase in recognition over the last 12 months. Consequently, it needs to present itself in Brussels on a more regular basis to relevant organisations like the European Commission, the member states, the European Parliament, lobby organisations, other networks, and research institutions. This could be achieved by events and presentations, consultations, and the better involvement of the leading political figures of the METREX members. This will also help to secure the relevant support for METREX in the member regions.

- **Projects**

Successful completion of the InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus projects as well as designing further projects. The latter could be achieved by preparing projects in Expert Groups as well as looking for funding opportunities in further European Programmes, other than INTERREG.

- **Expert Groups**

Continuation and more intensive exchange on relevant topics in small groups. Preparation of guide books and policy statements as outputs and dissemination of the results to the members as well as to a wider public.

- **International Co-operation**

METREX as a European network should also be aware of the interesting potential for co-operation with Metropolitan Regions in the USA and Asia. American Regions have already expressed their interest in co-operations with European Metropolitan Regions during the recent NARC conference in Chicago.

- **Topics**

Metropolitan Regions and their development are influenced by a number of topics and developments. METREX should explore the possibilities to work on a broader set of topics, and, thus, provide even more added value to its members. This could include economic development, infrastructure, and transport.