

## **VI General Assembly, London, Saturday 18 October 2008**

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Location            Conference Rooms 4 and 5,  
City Hall,  
The Queen's Walk,  
More London,  
LONDON SE1 2AA.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The Statutes of the METREX Network, Section 5, (see the METREX web site at [www.eurometrex.org](http://www.eurometrex.org) for versions in EN|ES|IT|FR|DE|PT) set out the framework for the General Assembly. Section 5 deals with,

Article 10. Composition and Representation at the General Assembly  
Article 11. Powers of the General Assembly  
Article 12. Frequency of General Assemblies, Notification, Agenda and Minutes  
Article 13. Decision-making at the General Assembly

Members have to be notified of the General Assembly and the draft Agenda, by e-mail or fax, one month in advance, as required by Article 12. The Agenda and Agenda Notes are also published on the METREX web site.

The first General Assembly was held at the Nice biennial Conference in 1998, although not within the framework of the present Statutes, which were finally approved by the Managing Committee at the Meeting in Bologna in 1999. Subsequent General Assemblies have been held as follows.

Second General Assembly at the Torino Conference in 2000  
Third General Assembly at the Thessaloniki Conference in 2002  
Fourth General Assembly at the Barcelona Conference in 2004  
Fifth General Assembly at the Szczecin Conference 2006

The documents for previous Assemblies can be downloaded from the METREX web site.

### **AGENDA NOTES**

#### **SATURDAY 18 October 9.30 – 12.00**

##### **Preamble**

The Szczecin General Assembly Minutes (Agenda item 6 - THE WAY FORWARD FOR METREX – *Intentions*) record that,

The Secretariat will produce an early draft of METREX *Intentions*, to include the proposed two year Programme, for consideration by Members and confirmation at the spring 2007 Meeting

A text copy of *Intentions* accompanies these Agenda Notes. *Intentions* will be made available to all delegates, in printed and graphic form, at the London Conference. *Intentions*, which looks forward to the coming years, complements *Impressions*, which was published at the Szczecin Conference to celebrate and record the first 10 years of METREX.

*Intentions* provides the context for the London General Assembly

METREX Networking meetings have been arranged for the afternoon of Wednesday 15 October. They include a meeting of the Steering Group of the EU CO2 80/50 project and the partners of the USEUCO2 project.

The outcomes will be reported to the General Assembly under item 5A below

## **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](mailto:secretariat@eurometrex.org).

## **2 MINUTES OF THE AMSTERDAM MEETING OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE (MC)**

The Amsterdam meeting of the Managing Committee took place on Saturday 17 May and the Minutes can be downloaded from the METREX web site.

The General Assembly is asked to approve the Minutes of the Amsterdam meeting of the Managing Committee

## **3 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **3A European Neighbourhood Policy**

It was agreed at the Veneto (Vicenza) meeting that METREX would seek to arrange an event in Brussels, through DG RELEX (External Relations), to meet colleagues from key metropolitan areas in the EU Neighbour States and to explore the common interests that might be progressed within the framework of the funding available through the EU Neighbourhood Policy.

This approach has not yet proved fruitful and the Amsterdam MC meeting concluded that it might be more productive to invite neighbouring metropolitan areas to a possible METREX Meeting in Athens in 2011. The Veneto (Vicenza) Meeting in 2006 included presentations by Istanbul and Alexandria. An Athens Meeting might include Kiev, Chisinau, Odessa, Rabat and Tunis.

It was agreed at the Amsterdam MC meeting to explore the possibility of an Athens Meeting to include Neighbour Relations as a component of the Europe/METREX day. Discussions have continued with DG RELEX and the outcome will be reported to the General Assembly

Since the Amsterdam Meeting DG RELEX has been able to clarify the scope for supporting networking between metropolitan areas under the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (EPNI) and Cross Border Co-operation (CBC) programme. The details are summarised in Appendix 1 (The full Schedules can be downloaded from the METREX web site).

Cross-border Cooperation programmes concentrate on the implementation of actions under 4 objectives.

- 1 Economic and social development of the bordering regions
- 2 *Dealing with the common challenges vital for both sides of the border*
- 3 Assuring the efficiency and security of the borders
- 4 *Developing "people to people" contacts*

\* Objectives of particular relevance to METREX

Development of "People to People" contacts remains as one of the top CBC objectives and is included as a priority under each of the 15 programmes. The actions envisaged under this cooperation encompass activities like *networking in fields aiming at creation of direct links between citizens, institutions, societies, foundations and communities (opportunities for METREX)*.

The detailed actions in this regard are planned jointly by the CBC participating countries/regions and are included in the programming documents. They will be afterwards implemented through the Calls for Proposals, *focusing mainly on soft and smaller projects open for NGOs and other local players' participation (opportunities for METREX)*.

DG RELEX has indicated that St. Petersburg, Minsk, Lviv, Chisinau, Odessa and Alexandria could be eligible for these activities, if adequate partners can be found on the EU side

DG RELEX has also explained that under the ENPI Inter-Regional Programme €14 million are allocated for supporting cooperation between local and regional authorities, including cities. A new programme called CIUDAD will be launched shortly to enhance closer understanding, dialogue and cooperation between EU and ENP partners over the period 2008-11. Its primary objective will be to modernise and strengthen local and regional government with regard to capacity building for democratic governance and sustainable urban development. The programme will be open to the participation of local and regional authorities, cities and urban municipalities in the 27 EU Member States as well as our ENP partner countries and the Russian Federation. The first call for proposals is expected to be launched in summer 2008.

DG RELEX has indicated that most of the metropolitan areas mentioned above could be eligible except for Belgrade and to some extent Istanbul, as they don't belong to the countries eligible under the Enlargement financial instrument - IPA

### **3B METREX/Shanghai International Study Visit - 10-18 November 2007**

Vincent Goodstadt, Head of European Relations, participated in the Shanghai Study Visit and prepared a comprehensive Feedback Report, which can be downloaded from the METREX web site ([www.eurometrex.org](http://www.eurometrex.org)). He also gave a presentation to the Amsterdam Meeting that included the following 5 issues for further consideration.

- 1 Economic Development Policy
- 2 Social Cohesion Policy
- 3 Environmental policy/Climate Change
- 4 Implementation
- 5 Future Co-operation

It was agreed at the Amsterdam MC meeting that relationships with China and Shanghai might be progressed through METREX representation at a forthcoming Conference of the Urban Planning Society of China (UPSC) and Isocarp, from 19-13 September 2008 in Shanghai, on Urban Growth without Sprawl (see [www.isocarp.org](http://www.isocarp.org)). However, METREX finance did not enable this opportunity to be pursued.

The President, advised by Xiaocun Ruan, has invited Mr. Shi Nan, Secretary General of the Urban Planning Society of China (UPSC), and Mr. Liu Hai Sheng of the Shanghai Municipal Government Urban Planning administrative Bureau (SUPB) to attend the METREX London Conference. It would be mutually beneficial to have Chinese participation, as Observers, in the EUCO2 80/50 project.

### **3C Moscow International Seminar**

The International Co-operation Programme, signed at Szczecin, has been proceeding. Colleagues from Moscow confirmed that action on Training courses and the Exchange of experience (Item 5 of the Programme) was proceeding and the Secretary General reported that the production of the interactive Data base (Items 1 and 2) was about 50% complete.

### **3D Latin America Study Visit – October 2009**

METREX Members have been cordially invited to express a provisional interest, for preliminary planning purposes, in participating in a METREX Study Visit to South America in October (spring) 2009.

The visit is part of the international dimension to METREX affairs and follows the successful visits to Moscow in 2006 and Shanghai in 2007. Full reports on both these Study Visits can be downloaded from the METREX web site at [www.eurometrex.org](http://www.eurometrex.org)

Preliminary possibilities have been explored by Albert Leboriero, Coordinador, Programas de Planificación Regional, Comunidad de Madrid and these are set out in Appendix 1. The Planning Minister of Chile has kindly agreed to support the Study Visit and the City of Santiago will participate together with other invited South American metropolitan areas.

Responses have been requested by **Friday 26 September 2008** so that the Study Visit can be considered in detail at the General Assembly

## **4 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

### **4A Brussels Open Days**

The Amsterdam meeting of the Managing Committee noted that there had not been sufficient interest, after 3 years of active participation, to form a METREX Conglomerate to participate in the 2008 Brussels Open Days on the theme of *Regions and cities in a challenging world*.

The Managing Committee agreed that the Secretary General should continue to facilitate the formation of a METREX Conglomerate to participate in the Brussels Open Days, if future themes are of sufficient interest to Members

### **4B METREX/Washington Conference**

Some 120 delegates attended the Washington DC Conference, held from 9-12 April 2008. The outcome was the *Declaration of Cooperation between Metropolitan Regions and Areas of the United States and Europe* (see METREX web site).

Subsequently, colleagues became aware of the *EU Transatlantic civil society dialogues EU-USA Programme* of DG RELEX, under which US colleagues could be enabled to participate in the EUCO2 80/50 project. An Application was made by METREX in June 2008, under this Programme, to enable 21 selected US metropolitan areas to partner the 21 EU partners in the EUCO2 80/50 project and to participate as Observers.

A decision letter was received on 15 July 2008, which explained that the Application had been evaluated in terms of the quality, impact and cost-effectiveness but was not approved. It is understood that the Application was not approved because it was dependent on the decision on the EUCO2 80/50 project, which was originally expected in July 2008 but which has been delayed to late September 2008 (see also item 5A). However, the decision letter explains that DG RELEX “would encourage you to look out for opportunities under future Calls for Proposals”.

The Secretary General has sought clarification from DG RELEX on the possibility of a resubmission after the EUCO2 80/50 decision is received

#### **4C ESPON**

The background to the new ESPON 2007-2013 Programme was set out in detail in the Amsterdam MC Agenda Notes. Professor Cliff Hague, of the RTPi (the UK ESPON Contact Point) attended the meeting and explained the possibilities for future METREX/ESPOON cooperation and relationships under the Programme.

The Secretary General explained that of the 5 issues already tabled by METREX to ESPON as potential research topics (see Amsterdam MC Agenda Notes) the most potentially valuable one would be on *Comparative expenditure and consumption*. An initial scoping study might be the way forward and the Secretary General agreed to send an outline to Professor Hague for the forthcoming ESPON Slovenia meeting. Professor Hague has since written to explain that the call for Trans-national Networking Activities amongst ESPON Contact Points will not now go out until February 2009, and a decision will not be taken on the proposals until June 2009.

However, Professor Hague feels that there is a very real prospect of being able to get a substantial 2-year transnational activity tied to metropolitan development and planning going. He will contact METREX to develop this later in the year

The second ESPON Call for Proposals has now been published and the opportunities are outlined in Appendix 2, taken from the ESPON website. The timetable is as follows.

- 1 Call for Proposals (3) open on 20 August
- 2 Register for Brussels Information Day by 3 September
- 3 Brussels information Day on 9 September
- 4 Deadline for submitting Proposals 15 October

There would seem to be opportunities under Call 1 to suggest climate change adaptation projects, under Call 2 to suggest RINA (PolyMETREXplus) related projects and under Call 3 to take forward the work of the Expert Group on Lisbon Indicators and the definition of European metropolitan areas.

The role for METREX Members in this process would seem to be to suggest work briefs that ESPON could then help to progress. Alternatively, METREX Members could perhaps put forward projects in partnership with academic/research partners. Partners can also be contacted through the Brussels Information Day itself.

It is understood that METREX Members themselves have been considering the submissions under the 2008 ESPON Calls for Proposals and they may be able to update the General Assembly on these

#### **4D DG Regio Hearing on Territorial Cohesion at the European Level - 15 April 2008**

METREX was invited to participate in the Hearing on 15 April 2008 and made a written submission (see METREX web site).

Dr. Dirk Ahner, the new Director General of DG Regio who will be speaking at the METREX London Conference, has indicated that a Green Book will be published this year to look at disparities and present a common understanding of territorial cohesion and related concepts.

It is understood that the French Presidency (July to December 2008) will take a particular interest in this matter and it might therefore be an issue for consideration at the METREX Paris spring 2009 Meeting

## **5 METREX INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS**

### **5A EUCO2 80/50 project on Climate change/Urban change under Interreg IVC**

The EUCO2 80/50 project was duly submitted by the Lead Partner, the Metropolregion Hamburg, to the Interreg IVC Secretariat one week before the Interreg IV Application deadline of 15 January 2008. The project has 22 Partners, including METREX, representing 21 metropolitan regions and areas and a budget of €4.3m.

It is now understood that decisions on Applications will not be made until **18-19 September 2008**. On this basis provisional arrangements have been made for an Inception Meeting, in Hamburg, in early November and the overall project Programme has been modified to accommodate the delay in starting.

As mentioned in the Preamble to these Agenda Notes, a meeting of the project Steering Group had been arranged for **13.00 on Wednesday 15 October** in Committee Room 3, City Hall, GLA

The project is the most important initiative that METREX has promoted. The outcome of the Interreg IVC Application will be known by the time of the General Assembly. If it is approved, with or without conditions, then the project will be a focal point for METREX activities over the period to 2010. If it is not approved then consideration will have to be given to a resubmission. Interreg IVC decisions always come with assessments to explain and clarify any shortcomings. Climate change is such an important issue and the metropolitan dimension to this is so significant that METREX will have to continue with the EUCO2 80/50 project.

It is hoped that all METREX Members can be involved in the project in some way. Some have indicated an interest in being Observers and others could use the GRIP (Greenhouse Gas Regional Inventory Process – [www.grip.org.uk](http://www.grip.org.uk)) model on-line. The accompanying Metropolitan Mitigation Manual has been produced by METREX to clarify the EUCO2 80/50 project process for partners and prospective Observers.

The Lead Partner will report on the decision on the EUCO2 80/50 Application, and its implications, to the General Assembly

As mentioned under item 4B, above, the outcome of the EUCO2 80/50 Application is linked to the USEUCO2 project

### **5B InterMETREX**

After the Managing Committee meeting the InterMETREX Lead Partner, GCVSPJC, and the Project Coordinator, METREX, confirmed the outcome of steps that had been taken to recover the prospective overall financial deficit on the project. This stood at €41.34k prior to the Amsterdam Meeting but may be reduced to €7-8k if current steps are successful. The Lead Partner was also concerned at the number of partner contributions to the final Report that remain outstanding.

The Lead Partner, GCVSPJC, will report to the General Assembly on the position with regard to project finance and the final InterMETREX Report

## 5C PolyMETREXplus

Former Partners in the PolyMETREXplus project may wish to update the General Assembly on progress with their RINA (Representative Inter Regional Activities). (See also Appendix 1 of the Minutes of the Amsterdam Managing Committee meeting where all RINA are listed).

## 5D Expert Group on Major Infrastructure in Metropolitan Regions

The first meeting of the Expert Group on Major Infrastructure was held in Stuttgart from 22-24 November 2006. A full Report on the meeting can be downloaded from the METREX web site together with the presentations that were made.

A further meeting of the Expert Group, in Berlin, may have taken place by the time of the General Assembly and in this case the outcome will be reported

## 5E Proposed Expert Group on Employment relocation within metropolitan areas

Following the Amsterdam meeting of the Economic Expert Group, Thierry Petit, of IAU (Institut d'aménagement et d'urbanisme - Ile de France - formerly IAURIF), proposed a working project on *Employment relocation within European metropolitan areas* to include consideration of the following issues (see also Appendix 3 for more details).

- To what extent and by which means does the phenomenon take place?
- Which opportunities and threats does it imply?
- What responses could be considered from the metropolitan/urban planning process?

METREX Members have been cordially invited to express a provisional interest, for preliminary planning purposes, in participating in a METREX Economic Expert Group working project, led by IAU, on *Employment relocation within metropolitan areas*.

Responses were been requested by **Friday 5 September**, so that the work outlined in Appendix 3 can be completed in September for a first discussion on at the METREX London Conference (to be confirmed depending on the responses received). The outcome will be reported to the General Assembly

## 5F Expert Group on Polycentricity in Metropolitan Areas

Members will know that the Interreg IIIC PolyMETREXplus project, led by the Generalitat de Catalunya (through the Institut d'Estudis Territorials (IET), looked at polycentric relationships *between* metropolitan areas, as part of an overall *Framework* for better urban balance across Europe.

Hans Hede, of Stockholm County Council, has suggested that METREX colleagues might be interested in forming an Expert Group on *Polycentricity within metropolitan areas* (see Appendix 4 for more details). Such a Group could, at least initially, focus on the following issues.

- Concept/theoretical base of polycentricity
- Application of polycentricity in existing Metropolitan Plans/planning processes
- Implementation and Governance issue

METREX Members have been cordially invited to express a provisional interest, for preliminary planning purposes, in participating in a METREX Expert Group, led by Stockholm County Council, on the issue of *Polycentricity within metropolitan areas*.

Responses were requested by **Friday 26 September**, so that the establishment of the Group

can be considered in detail at the General Assembly. The outcome will be reported to the General Assembly

## **6 METREX AGENDA AND PROGRAMME - Intentions**

As mentioned in the Preamble to these Agenda Notes, *Intentions* can form the basis for discussion at the General Assembly on the METREX Agenda and Programme for the coming years.

There is one particular aspect of METREX activities that Members may wish to give further consideration to. One of the main reasons for forming METREX was to enable colleagues to benefit from the exchange, for their mutual benefit, of the substantial body of knowledge, information and expertise within the Network. As METREX now comprises over 50 major European metropolitan areas, representing almost all the countries of the wider Europe, this pool of knowledge is now very extensive.

A key function of the Secretariat is to facilitate any exchanges that Members wish to initiate, whether within smaller or larger groups and for shorter or longer periods of time. This was the original concept of Expert Groups. The idea was simply to bring together colleagues with common interests and to record the exchange of knowledge between them for their own use and for wider dissemination within the Network.

Knowledge transfer, at low cost but with high added value, is a key potential benefit of METREX membership. The General Assembly may wish to give further consideration to how this objective can be achieved most effectively

## **7 FINANCIAL REPORT, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT FOR 2008 AND BUDGET FOR 2009 TO 2010**

### **7A/B Financial Report and Accounts and METREX audit for 2008 (from January to June 2008)**

The President and the Secretary General made an appeal to Members, in the covering letter sent out in December 2007, to pay their annual subscriptions on time in order to enable the Network to meet its financial obligations in promoting the EUCO2 80/50 project Interreg IVC Application (and the related USEUCO2 partnership) and the METREX 2008 London Conference on *Climate change/Urban change*. Subscriptions are due on 1 January for payment not later than 31 March.

The Secretary General reported to the Amsterdam meeting of the Managing Committee, in May 2008, that the financial situation of the Network had now improved with the completion of the two Interreg IIIC projects, InterMETREXplus (leading to the EUCO2 80/50 project) and the PolyMETREXplus project. Most of the co-funding for these projects had then been received together with about 50% of the 2008 METREX subscriptions.

After the Amsterdam Meeting the Secretary General wrote to all Members whose subscriptions seemed to be outstanding to request payment. However, as of the end of August 2008 there appear to be 14 subscriptions, amounting to €87.7k, or about 30% of the Network's subscription income, still outstanding. This is now beginning to make difficulties for the financial management of the Network.

The Secretary General has contacted the Members concerned to ask them to ensure that their subscriptions are paid by the time of the General Assembly and an updated position statement will be made at this time



The Minutes of the Amsterdam meeting of the Managing Committee (Appendix 4) recorded that the London Conference budget was likely to be some €62,500 or about €400 per delegate assuming 150 paying delegates and maximum participation of 175 delegates. It was recognised that the London Conference would pose particular financial uncertainties because of high local costs and the prospect of a high level of participation.

The Greater London Authority (GLA), as host, has made provision for a contributory budget of €25,000 to cover venue and hospitality costs, including the River Thames orientation trip.

The Secretary General will report on the final Conference budget to the General Assembly

The METREX accountant, John Brown, will report on the METREX accounts from 1 January to 30 June 2008 (Profit and loss and Income and expenditure) and the Treasurer/Auditor will report on the auditing of these

## **7C METREX Budgets for 2009 and 2010**

Over the period since the current Budget of €259,000 for 2006 to 2008 was approved at the METREX Szczecin 2006 General Assembly the membership of the Network has increased to over 50 European metropolitan regions and areas. As a result the prospective income has increased to approaching €300,000. There are a number of new Members who are in the process of joining and it is felt reasonable to base the expenditure of the Network in 2009 to 2010 on the assumption that this level of income will be achieved.

If the EUCO2 80/50 project is approved then the METREX project budget of €245,000 over 30 months (2008 to 2010) will be funded from the Network Budget. However, Interreg IVC co-funding at 75% will provide an income of €183,750. This could amount to some €6,500 a month on average over 28 months (September 2008 to December 2010 – the decision date having been put back from June to September 2008). The net cost of participation in the project will be €61,250.

As co-funding is claimed 6 monthly, in arrears, the first co-funding payment will not be received until late 2009. This will be for the first claim period September to December 2008. The second payment will be for January to June 2009 and be received in early 2010. The third payment will be for July to December 2009 and be received in late 2010. On this basis Project funding income could be about €26,000 (for 4 months) in 2009 and €78,000 (for 12 months) in 2010. The balance of co-funding will be received in 2011 and be included in the Budget for this year.

The proposed METREX Budgets for 2009 and 2010 are shown below. In view of the experience with the InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus project it is felt appropriate to budget for working annual surpluses to cope with any cash flow problems that may arise from the EUCO2 80/50 project. If the project is not approved then the Budgets for 2009 and 2010 will have to be revised at the General Assembly.

As in all Budgets since the Network was founded in 1996 the membership subscription levels remain unchanged. This means that Members are receiving increasing benefits, as the membership has grown, at reducing costs in real terms after inflation. This is felt to be a material factor in retaining existing and attracting new Members.

The METREX Budgets for 2009 and 2010 are commended by the Secretary General and the Accountant to the General Assembly for approval. Revised Budgets will be tabled if the EUCO2 80/50 project is not approved or approved with Conditions

## Proposed METREX Budgets for 2009 and 2010

<b>Budgets</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Income	378,000	378,000
Subscriptions	300,000	300,000
Interest received	0	0
<i>EUCO2 80/50 Project funding*</i>	<i>78,000</i>	<i>78,000</i>
Expenditure	297,000	297,000
Secretary General	50,000	50,000
Communications and management	30,000	30,000
<i>Project support - co-funded*</i>	<i>105,000</i>	<i>105,000</i>
Project support - networking	20,000	20,000
Interpretation and translation	35,000	35,000
Travel, accommodation and subsistence	30,000	30,000
Printing and copying	1000	1000
Postage, stationary and telephone	5000	5000
Accountancy	7000	7000
Miscellaneous expenses	14,000	14,000
Surplus/deficit	81,000	81,000
Hamburg 2010 Conference		25,000
Income/Expenditure	81,000	56,000
Currency fluctuation	-1000	-1000
Profit/(Loss)	80,000	55,000

*\* Dependent on the Interreg IVC decision on the EUCO2 80/50 project*

## 8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 8A Dates for proposed Meetings/Conferences in 2009/2010/2011 (see also item 6)

#### 2009

Paris spring Meeting  
(Provisionally **13-16 May 2009**)

Consideration of the EU Green Book on  
Territorial Cohesion

Wroclaw autumn Meeting  
Santiago (Chile) Study Visit

#### 2010

Baltic spring Meeting (Riga and Vilnius)  
Hamburg autumn Conference  
St. Petersburg Study Visit (through  
Helsinki). Excursion to Tallinn

Conclusion of the EUCO2 80/50 project

#### 2011

Athens spring Meeting  
Istanbul Study Visit

Theme - EU neighbours

### 8B Presidential election

The METREX Statutes, Section 5, define the powers of the General Assembly, including the election of a President, and this provision is clarified in Article 11 of the METREX Statutes, Internal Regulations, as follows.

Article 11.

The President will normally be elected at a biennial General Assembly and will serve until the next General Assembly. A President may stand for a second term. Nominations for election as President shall be made in writing to the Secretary General up to three months before a General Assembly and shall be supported by another Member. If an election is needed it shall be by secret ballot of all voting Members (see Article 10) held at a General Assembly and conducted by the Secretary General or an agreed officer of the Association. A simple majority will determine the outcome. In the event of a tie there shall be a further ballot.

Article 11 means that the Presidential election will take place at the London METREX General Assembly and that the deadline for the receipt of supported nominations shall be **Friday 18 July**.

As was intimated and recorded at the METREX Amsterdam meeting of the METREX Managing Committee, the current President, Dr. Bernd Steinacher of the Verband Region Stuttgart, has indicated his willingness to stand for a third term, having served from 2004 to 2008. The Minutes of the Managing Committee are as follows.

8B *Presidential election*

*The Regulations do not specifically prohibit a President from standing for a third term and the Secretary General indicated to the Managing Committee that he would accept the nomination of the existing President unless any Member objected in writing, in which case the issue would have*

to be resolved by the London Conference General Assembly. In any event, the General Assembly may wish to consider and clarify the number of terms that a President can serve

The Secretary General received a formal letter of support for the candidacy of Dr. Bernd Steinacher on **8 July 2008** from the Senat der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg. No other nominations were received by the Secretary General by the deadline of 18 July 2008.

Dr. Bernd Steinacher therefore stands to be formally elected as METREX President at the London General Assembly for the period to 2010, when the next General Assembly will be held during the Hamburg 2010 Conference

#### **8C Membership**

Uusimaa Regional Council, which is the authority around Helsinki metropolitan area, was originally a Member of METREX but withdrew for a period. The Secretary General is pleased to report that Uusimaa has now been able to rejoin.

#### **8D Any other business**

## Appendix 1 The ENPI and CBC programmes

The **European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)** provides a specific and innovative feature of the **Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC)**. This component aims at financing “joint operational programmes” bringing together regions of the EU Members States and partner countries sharing a common land or sea border. The CBC Strategy Paper for 2007 – 2013 identified the eligible areas for 15 geographical programmes along the EU external border and provided them with indicative financial allocations of approximately **1.1 billion €** in total.

The drafting of the programmes - basing upon the principles of equality, partnership and regional ownership – was entrusted to their ultimate beneficiaries – the representatives of the participating countries and regions.

Cross-border Cooperation programmes concentrate on the implementation of actions under 4 objectives.

- 1 Economic and social development of the bordering regions
- 2 *Dealing with the common challenges vital for both sides of the border*
- 3 Assuring the efficiency and security of the borders
- 4 *Developing “people to people” contacts*

*\* Objectives of particular relevance to METREX*

Under these objectives a plethora of various actions is envisaged allowing the local populations and their authorities to coordinate their policies to the benefit of the whole regions.

They tackle specifically the issue of economic and social development of the bordering regions, concentrating on the development of capacities for free and enhanced exchange between the enterprises, societies and administrations.

Within the “common challenges” objective, regional/local actions with regard to environment and health are undertaken.

Due to the fact that migration deeply concerns the bordering regions, also this issue is treated as one of the common problems for the regions on both sides of the EU external border and as such is often included into the CBC programmes. Even though migration issues are governed usually on the central level, it remains vital to assure good working cooperation on this subject between the bordering regions, their services and citizens.

Also the energy related issues can be subject to CBC, as the provision of environment-friendly and sustainable energy is often perceived as a common challenge and being treated as the subject of the regional cooperation between the bordering regions.

Development of “People to People” contacts remains as one of the top CBC objectives and is included as a priority under each of the 15 programmes. The actions envisaged under this cooperation encompass activities like: identity building, improving knowledge of history and cultural heritage of the region, cooperation between local cultural and educational centres, cooperation between the civil societies, promotion of local governance and mutual understanding, *networking in fields aiming at creation of direct links between citizens, institutions, societies, foundations and communities (opportunities for METREX).*

The detailed actions in this regard are planned jointly by the CBC participating countries/regions and are included in the programming documents. They will be afterwards implemented through the Calls for Proposals, *focusing mainly on soft and smaller projects open for NGOs and other local players’ participation (opportunities for METREX).*

The CBC programmes have however one important limitation. As they are supposed to serve to the benefit of concrete regions, their potential beneficiaries must originate from the eligible programme area.

Below I attach the list of the eligible regions. Naturally, the municipalities from these regions are perfectly eligible for the participation in the future activities.

## **Appendix 2 Invitation for preliminary Expressions of Interest in a METREX study visit**

### **METREX and Latin America**

#### **Location**

Santiago, Chile

#### **Host**

Government of Chile, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, (Vivien Villagrán, Minister of Civil Works)

#### **Dates**

October (spring) 2009

#### **Participants**

METREX and colleagues from the Chilean Government, Santiago and other major South American cities, such as Buenos Aires and Bogota

#### **Possible Programme (5 days)**

Weekend travel to Santiago

Monday

Orientation study visit to Santiago

Tuesday agenda

South American context

Santiago metropolitan issues and responses

Wednesday agenda

European context

European metropolitan issues and responses - perhaps 4 sessions (morning and afternoon) with 2 Case Studies in each. Total 8 Case Studies

Thursday agenda

South American metropolitan issues and responses - perhaps 4 sessions with 1 Case Study in each. Total 4 case Studies

Friday agenda

Concluding comparison of experience in Europe and South America. Findings and conclusions and possible areas for continued exchange

Weekend travel to Europe or extended stays

## Costs

Hospitality will be provided by colleagues from Chile, including meals and local travel. METREX delegates will be responsible for their own travel and hotel costs. METREX will be responsible for the provision of language services (EN|ES but also other European languages as required).

For budgetary purposes, travel costs are likely to be in the following range.

- Group travel from Madrid, possibly €1-1200. 13 hour direct flight
- Hotel costs, possibly €1-150 a night.. Total cost for 6 nights (Sunday to Saturday) €6-900
- Total estimated cost range €1600-2100

Group travel and group hotel packages have not yet been investigated and it may be possible to arrange the Study Visit for a travel and hotel cost, per head of **€1500**. However, air travel costs next year may be higher, depending on fuel costs.



### **Appendix 3 ESPON Info Day in Bruxelles, 9 September 2008**

From the ESPON web site [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)

#### **Second round Calls for Proposals**

The second round of Calls for Proposals will be presented in **Bruxelles on 9 September 2008**. Potential beneficiaries who want to learn more about the current opportunities for taking part in ESPON project activities are invited to the event. The ESPON Info Day will focus on the presentation of the three calls for proposals opened on **20 August 2008** and the conditions for taking part.

The Calls for Proposals are the following.

#### **1 Call on Applied Research on the Following Theme: Climate Change and Territorial Effects on Regions and Local Economies (Relaunch)\***

The total available budget for this call is **1.000.000 €** and one single proposal will be selected.

*\* Possible metropolitan adaptation opportunity*

#### **2 Call on Targeted Analysis Based on User Demand on the Following 8 Themes**

1. The Case for Agglomeration Economies in Europe
2. The Development of the Islands – European Islands and Cohesion Policy
3. *Cross-Border Polycentric Metropolitan Regions*
4. Success for Convergence Regions' Economies
5. Potential of Rural Regions
6. *Spatial Scenarios: New Tools for Local-Regional Territories*
7. *Transnational Support Method for European Cooperation*
8. Territorial Diversity

The indicative available budget for this call amounts to **1.850.000 €**. The exact amount for each project will be communicated as part of the launch of the call. One proposal will be selected for implementation for each of the 8 themes indicated.

*\* Possible PolyMETREXplus RINA projects*

#### **3 Call on the Scientific Platform and Tools on the Following Theme: Territorial Indicators and Indices (Phase I)\***

The total available budget for this call is **100.000 €** and one single proposal will be selected.

*\* Possible Lisbon Indicators/metropolitan definition opportunity*

The deadline for submitting proposals for these calls is **15 October 2008**.

On the ESPON website by 20 August and at the ESPON Info Day an application pack for each of the calls will be available, including details on project specifications, the procedure for applying, the eligibility rules, the evaluation criteria.

In addition to the ESPON Info Day, participants will have the opportunity to network at the ESPON Partner Café, creating a forum for direct dialogue between potential project partners, enabling them to identify potential Transnational Project Groups, the consortia of partners that carry through ESPON projects.

The ESPON Partner Café is supposed to channel exchange of information on research interest, skills and resources. The ESPON Partner Café facilitates the building of future partnership and

will provide a platform for transmitting and receiving information in the field of applied research and targeted analysis.

Participation is free of charge.

Deadline for registration is **3 September 2008**

**You can register for the ESPON Info Day and the ESPON Partner Café through the ESPON web site at [www.espon.eu](http://www.espon.eu)**

#### **Appendix 4 Invitation for preliminary Expressions of Interest in a METREX Economic Expert Group working project on employment relocation within metropolitan areas.**

Thierry Petit proposes to interested Member to declare their readiness to write a short note to explain the general situation in their metropolitan area including the following points.

##### **Expert Group working project outline**

- 1 The long term employment relocation process (+/- 20 years depending on the metropolises), with particular focuses on manufacturing activities, R&D activities and services activities detailed between front office, back office and headquarters. This point should largely be treated in a literature way, with when possible some figures and one or two maps. The questions we would like to be answered here are,
  - Is there a transfer from the economic core to more peripheral areas in each metropolitan area?
  - How old is the phenomenon?
  - What is the extent of the phenomenon?
  - What kind of activities are involved?
  - What are the main driving forces (generally and regarding each kind of activities/functions concerned)?
- 2 Where did the employment relocate to, were there specific relocation sites regarding the activity/function, what means did this relocation process take (polycentric, sprawl...)?
- 3 Was this relocation process foreseen/organized/oriented by the urban planning? What threats, constraint and opportunities do the metropolitan areas see/experience in this process? How was it dealt by long-term plans? Did the public sector organize these relocations?
  - How do local actors adapt to these evolutions through urban planning
  - What level of ambition do they have in this matter?
  - How do they now anticipate the expected trends in economic relocations?

To illustrate this 3-4 pages note, we would wish each participant to write a short 1-2 pages focus about the latest remarkable trends experienced in their metropolis. For example, the Paris region will make its focus on the HQ relocation process, the Madrid metropolitan region may write a specific note on the R&D relocation process...

##### **End of September**

We propose to have this work completed by the end of September to be able to have a first discussion during the October London conference about the difficulties you may have encountered and questions in general.

##### **End of 2008**

The main aim of the London discussion would be to organize a one day Paris meeting at the end of 2008/beginning 2009, especially dedicated to the Economic Group. The aim of this special Economic Group meeting would be to exchange about our various experiences with, as far as possible, the participation of academic specialists.

## **Spring 2009**

After this one day Paris meeting, the minutes will be released to the participants in order to write the final report which will include the outcomes of our discussions and each metropolitan area note. This final report should be completed by the end of the first quarter 2009 for a presentation at the spring 2009 Paris METREX Meeting.

## **Appendix 5 Invitation for preliminary Expressions of Interest in a METREX Expert Group on Polycentricity in Metropolitan Areas**

Hans Hede, Stockholm County Council, has suggested that METREX colleagues might be interested in forming an Expert Group on Polycentricity within metropolitan areas.

Members will know that the Interreg IIC PolyMETREXplus project, led by the Generalitat de Catalunya (through the Institut d'Estudis Territorials (IET), looked at polycentric relationships between metropolitan areas, as part of an overall Framework for better urban balance across Europe. The outcomes of the project are being progressed by the Partners.

Hans Hede suggested the possible formation of the Expert Group following the presentation on Polycentricity made to the Amsterdam Meeting in May by Theo Toonen (see METREX Amsterdam Meeting CD). This emphasised the role of governance. Hans has made the following informal observations.

Expert Group purpose

*In my mind polycentricity deals with both Governance and Physical Planning and how they interact. Polycentricity is a key element in the existing Regional Development Plan for the Stockholm Region. It will continue to be so in the new Plan that will soon come out in a consultation process during the second half of 2008. The final new Regional Development Plan will be ready in 2010.*

*At the same time as we deal with Polycentricity at the Plan level we will increasingly work with the issue (growth cores/centres) in a more hands on way with the municipalities hosting these centres and other stakeholders. We are learning all the time.*

*We are not the only metropolitan region working with this but many others do as well in the METREX network. Perhaps there is a need to discuss this more in detail among interested parties. Exchange of knowledge, case studies etc.*

*Such a Group could, at least initially, focus on,*

- *The concept/theoretical base of polycentricity*
- *The application of polycentricity in existing Metropolitan Plans/planning processes*
- *Implementation and Governance issue*

*I think we could ask METREX Members before the summer holidays about their interest in participating. Have a start meeting in the autumn and then continue through 2009. Maybe a total of 3-4 meetings. We could probably volunteer to run/host such a Group as we have a clear interest in the issue.*