

METREX	The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas
11-13 May 2011	METREX spring 2011 Athens Conference
Theme	Ways Forward in the Crisis
Host	Organisation for the Planning and Environmental Protection of Athens



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Theme	Ways Forward in the Crisis <p>Planning always has a positive role to play in difficult circumstances. Many European metropolitan areas have already experienced the consequences of deindustrialisation and decline and have planned their way to more promising futures. Many are still in the process of doing so.</p> <p>The present financial crisis has hit all European countries because of the globalised nature of the financial services sector. Many European countries were in the process of trying to develop their economies through borrowing and investment and this approach has now come to a dramatic halt. Economic growth and urban development has been curtailed. At the same time public sector revenue, particularly that based on property and development taxes, has also been severely reduced. A period of austerity is in prospect across Europe.</p> <p>In these circumstances all European metropolitan areas are taking the opportunity to reappraise their way forward. They are considering the fundamentals of their competitive positions and basis on which their future economies might be developed.</p> <p>It is in this context that the METREX Athens Meeting will be held. Its theme is "Ways Forward in the Crisis" and it has been structured to allow all METREX Members and Observers to attend and contribute their experience in an interactive and productive way. The following issues may help colleagues to think about the contributions that they can make.</p> <p>Metropolitan economy</p> <p><i>Has there been a reappraisal of the core metropolitan economic activities and how these can be sustained and developed? What is the way forward?</i></p> <p><i>How have the roles of the public and private sectors changed? How will investment programmes be continued? What is the way forward?</i></p> <p>Metropolitan development</p> <p><i>How much have rates of development, for example of housing and commercial development, been reduced? Is there a surplus of empty stock and how is this being dealt with? What are the financial implications and how are these being handled? What is the way forward?</i></p> <p><i>What has been the effect on major programmes and projects? Have they been cancelled or delayed? In particular, what will be the effect on major infrastructure programmes and projects? What are the consequences? What is the way forward?</i></p> <p>Metropolitan sustainability</p> <p><i>How will the energy, water, waste and pollution issues in the metropolitan area be affected? Given the prospects for energy and food costs and security of supply, can metropolitan areas become more self-sufficient? What is the way forward?</i></p> <p><i>What may be the environmental consequences for the metropolitan area? What is the way forward?</i></p> <p>Innovative and interactive conversational groups</p> <p>METREX has drawn on the experience of colleagues to devise an innovative and interactive approach to the workshops through which such issues can be explored. They will be based on 9 small conversational groups of 5-10 colleagues accompanied by some 20 observer colleagues. This will give every METREX Member attending the Athens Meeting the opportunity to make a short, up to 5 minutes, contribution within a conversational group and to participate as an active observer in two other group sessions.</p> <p>How the conversational groups will be arranged</p> <p>Facilitator for the METREX Managing Committee 5-9 colleagues forming a conversational group <20 colleagues as observers Rapporteur to record findings and conclusions</p> <p>90 minute workshop sessions 60 minute conversations with 5 minute inputs from all in the group 30 minute open discussion with <20 observers Language services in EN IT FR ES</p>

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	<i>The Athens Conference has been kindly hosted by the Organisation of Athens</i>
Wednesday 11 May	METREX Networking Day
Venue	Novotel
16.00 - 19.00	Working meetings of METREX Expert Groups as required
	Economic development and spatial planning Affordable housing Urban/rural relationships in metropolitan areas
16.00 - 19.00	METREX Managing Committee Meeting
20.00	<i>Reception in the Novotel</i>

Thursday 12 May	Athens Day
Venue	Novotel
Programme	METREX spring 2011 Meeting - Athens Day
9. 00	Coffee, tea and Registration
	<p>Organisation for the Planning and Environmental Protection of Athens</p> <p>The Organisation for the Planning and Environmental Protection of Athens is a Legal Entity of the Public Sector, with full administrative and economic independence, operating under the supervision of the Minister for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works. It is the body that has responsibility for the overall administrative management of physical planning, urban planning and environmental matters in Athens and its wider area. At the same time, it has the responsibility for integrating the various levels of planning, programmes and projects within the Athens metropolitan area.</p>
9. 30	Word of welcome and short introduction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Hannu PENTTILA, President of METREX • Organisation of Athens
10. 00	Orientation tour
	<p>Primary responsibilities</p> <p>Planning, Physical and Urban Planning Projects, Protection of the Environment, Building/Qualitative interventions</p> <p>Tasks and activities</p> <p>Monitoring and implementation of the Master Plan, Programmes and projects for sustainable environmental reconstruction and protection, sustainable heritage protection and the integration of metropolitan programmes and projects with the Master Plan</p>
13. 00	Lunch
14. 30	Presentations and discussions from Athens
	<p>Master Plan of Athens and its implementation</p> <p>Drawing up of a unified annual action programme (within the framework of a five year programme) for the implementation of the Master Plan and the Program for the Environmental Protection of Athens Recommendations made to the Region of Attica and the Prefectural Councils on issues regarding specific or European Union programs</p> <p>The completion, specialization and updating of the Master Plan of Athens, especially on major and interventions on issues concerning the wider area</p> <p>The monitoring of the evolution of the social and economical characteristics per productive sector and the spatial planning of productive units outside the city area</p> <p>The natural planning of the area outside the city and the promotion of relevant regulations for its legal safeguarding</p>
15. 30	Moderated discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Moderator to be confirmed at the Conference)
16. 00	Coffee break
16. 30	Presentations and discussions from Athens
	<p>Sustainable environmental and heritage safeguarding</p> <p>The monitoring of environmental policy and programs of the Member-states of the European Union, as well as the progress on the institution of new, more effective measures for the environmental protection, from the European Union.</p> <p>The institutional safeguarding of regulations, for the protection of massifs, landscapes of special natural beauty, rivers and ravines, environmentally sensitive areas and areas linked with the historical and cultural heritage of the Attica area.</p> <p>The rehabilitation, improvement and distinction of significantly deteriorated areas caused by human interventions</p> <p>The monitoring of the environmental condition of the urban area, in relation with the negative impacts of specific land uses.</p>
17. 30	Moderated discussion
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Moderator to be confirmed at the Conference)
18. 00	Close of the Athens day
20. 00	Conference Dinner at the Novotel

Friday 13 May	METREX Knowledge Day
Venue	Novotel
Programme	METREX spring 2011 Conference - METREX Knowledge Day
8. 30	Coffee, tea and Registration
9. 00 - 9. 30	The new METREX - a decentralised Managing Committee structure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hannu PENTTILA President of METREX <p>Open Forum with the new Managing Committee (MC)</p>
9. 30 - 10. 00	Ways Forward in the Crisis - Planning for Energy - E>MA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roger READ, Secretary General Tim Page - Head of Communications <p>Presentation and discussion</p>
10. 00 - 10. 30	Break
10. 30 - 12. 00	Parallel Workshops - Facilitated by the METREX Managing Committee (<85 delegates)
1 - Germany	Hamburg - Facilitator (9 + <20 observers) (DE language services) Berlin, Hannover, Mitteldeutschland, Rhein-Neckar, Frankfurt R-M, Nürnberg, Stuttgart, München
2 - Poland	Szczecin - Facilitator (6 + <20 observers) Wroclaw, Krakow, Warszawa, Poznan, Gdansk
3 - Iberian Peninsula	Madrid - Facilitator (9 + <20 observers) (ES language services) Catalunya, Andalucia, Pais-Vasco, Zaragoza, Eurociudad Vasca, Llisboa, Porto, Granada
12. 00 - 13. 30	Lunch
13. 30 - 15. 00	Parallel Workshops - Facilitated by the METREX Managing Committee (<85 delegates)
4 - Italy	Emilia -Romagna - Facilitator (8 + <20 observers) (IT language services) Piemonte, Torino, Lombardia, Veneto, Toscana, Campania, Napoli
5 - CADSES and Greece	Wien - Facilitator (9 + <20 observers) Zurich, Prague, Budapest, Soha, Oradea, Thessaloniki, Athens , Moscow
6 - Baltic	Stockholm - Facilitator Helsinki, Riga, Vilnius, Oslo, Tallinn, Copenhagen
15. 00 - 15. 30	Break
15. 30 - 17. 00	Parallel Workshops - Facilitated by the METREX Managing Committee (<85 delegates)
7 - France and Belgium	Ile-de-France - Facilitator (6 + <35 observers) (FR language services) Marseille, Lyon, Lille, Bruxelles, Antwerp)
8 - Netherlands and the UK	Amsterdam - Facilitator (7 + <35 observers) Rotterdam, den Haag, Glasgow, Manchester, South Coast Metropole, London
17. 00 - 18. 00	Facilitated Knowledge Exchange Outcomes
	Outcomes from the Workshop Rapporteurs
18. 00	Close of the METREX Knowledge Day
	<i>Evening free to visit the new Acropolis Museum (open until 22.00)</i>
Explanatory Note	<p>Form and content of the METREX Knowledge Day</p> <p><i>The Knowledge Day format is an innovation for METREX designed to offer all Members an opportunity to give a short, up to 5 minutes, conversational presentation, without visuals, of their responses to the Crisis. The objective is to return to the core purpose of METREX, which is the exchange of knowledge and the promotion of opportunities for networking on key issues of common interest.</i></p> <p><i>The Knowledge Day Workshops will take the form of an informal conversation between small groups of colleagues from geographic areas of Europe for perhaps 45-60 minutes. This conversation can be observed by up to 20 colleagues, who can then join in an open discussion facilitated by a colleague from the METREX Managing Committee.</i></p> <p><i>The Knowledge Day will be concluded with a session on outcomes contributed by Workshop Rapporteurs. The outcomes will be considered and taken forward by the Managing Committee and the Secretariat through formal (Expert Group) or informal Member to Member networking. They will provide real insight into the current concerns of Members and will be published in the Meeting Proceedings and included in the METREX DIRECTORY.</i></p> <p><i>Full Workshop language services will be provided so that delegates can converse freely.</i></p>

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Arrangements	Athens Conference contacts
	<p>Athens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lillian PALLA <p>Organisation for the Planning and Environmental Protection of Athens 1 Panormou str, 115 23 ATHENS Greece</p> <p>Phone 692 5909 E-mail l.palla@organismosathinas.gr Web site www.minenv.gr</p> <p>Registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> METREX Members and other participants can register from Monday 14 March on the METREX web site. The deadline for registrations is Monday 25 April. Hotel recommendations will be communicated on registration.
METREX	
	<p>President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hannu PENTTILA, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki <p>Secretary General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roger READ <p>METREX 125 West Regent Street GLASGOW G2 2SA Scotland UK</p> <p>Phone 00 44 (0)1292 317074 E-mail roger.read@eurometrex.org Web site www.eurometrex.org</p>
Venue	Novotel
	<p>Novotel 4 Michail Voda Str 10439 ATHENS Greece</p> <p>Phone 00 30 210 8200700 Fax 00 30 210 8200777 E-mail H0866@accor.com</p>