

V METREX General Assembly, Szczecin, Saturday 30 September 2006

Location SAS Radisson Hotel.
pl. Rodia 10,
PL-70-419 SZCZECIN,
Poland.

CONSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Statutes of the METREX Network, Section 5, (see the METREX web site at www.eurometrex.org for versions in EN\ES\IT\FR\DE\IPT) 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. The second General Assembly was held at the Torino biennial Conference in 2000, the third General Assembly at the Thessaloniki Conference in 2002 and the fourth General Assembly at the Barcelona Conference in 2004. The documents from previous Assemblies can be downloaded from the METREX web site.

AGENDA NOTES

SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 9.30 – 13.00

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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

2 MINUTES OF THE MADRID MEETING OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE (MC)

The Madrid Meeting of the Managing Committee took place on Saturday 6 May during the Madrid International Congress and the Minutes can be seen and downloaded from the METREX web site at www.eurometrex.org.

The General Assembly is asked to approve the Minutes of the Madrid Meeting of the Managing Committee.

3 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

3A Madrid International Congress

The Comunidad de Madrid hosted a most successful International Congress in May 2006 and kindly associated the Network with this as part of the METREX 10th Anniversary year programme. METREX Members were able to attend at no cost and were hosted throughout by the Comunidad. At the Madrid Congress dinner the President expressed his thanks to colleagues in the Comunidad for their enterprise and imagination in holding the Congress and for the excellence of all the arrangements. He also expressed his thanks for the generosity of the Comunidad to METREX.

The Proceedings of the Madrid Congress will be published in languages and on a DVD by the Comunidad and copies will be made available to METREX Members at the Szczecin Conference.

3B METREX Ambassadors

Fred de Ruiter, former Director Planning and Housing (ds+v) of Rotterdam City Council and of the Rotterdam Stadshaven project, kindly agreed, at the Madrid Meeting, to become the first METREX Ambassador, to foster an international dimension to METREX affairs. The Madrid Congress opened up these wider possibilities for the Network. Fred de Ruiter has suggested that a small team of 2-3 Ambassadors might be created and approaches will be made to other METREX colleagues who are in a position to act in this capacity.

Professor Peter Hall has agreed to help facilitate a METREX Expert Group visit to Shanghai and the Dongtan eco city being planned there. Dongtan was presented at the Madrid Congress.

The General Assembly could consider the form that an international dimension to METREX affairs might take. It may be that an Expert Group international visit and Seminar might be arranged between biennial Conferences, with a reciprocal return visit taking place to allow international colleagues to contribute to METREX Conferences.

3C Moscow International Seminar

METREX has maintained working contact with the Government of Moscow, Committee for Architecture and Urban Planning, through the Institute of Master Plan of Moscow. The Institute is one of the strongest planning organisations in Europe with a staff of over 600 working on all levels of planning and projects in Moscow. The Institute has been represented at METREX Meetings and events during recent years.

The Institute is responsible for the General Plan of Moscow, which sets the major directions for development and is the key document in the city planning and development process. The General Plan is currently being reviewed and updated to provide a context for development over the next 25-30 years.

As part of this process the Director of the Institute, Sergei Tkachenko, invited METREX to bring a representative delegation to Moscow, from Wednesday 28 June to Friday 30 June 2006, to discuss issues of common interest in an International Seminar on *Moscow and European Megalopolises – Experience of planning for sustainable development*.

The METREX delegation, comprising 26 colleagues from 12 European metropolitan regions and areas, was led by Silvana Sanlorenzo, Vice President of METREX and Minister responsible for spatial planning in the Provincia di Torino. Apologies were received from colleagues from Wroclaw, South Holland and Catalunya.

A Report has been prepared by the METREX Secretariat in consultation with the METREX delegation to the Moscow International Seminar and this can be downloaded from the METREX web site. Its purpose is to summarise the key issues arising from the proceedings and to suggest ways in which their consideration might be progressed, having regard to the Protocol of Intent agreed between METREX and the Institute of Master Plan of Moscow at the Seminar (see Appendix 1).

The intention is that the Report should be considered at the METREX General Assembly and by the Institute as a starting point for co-operation and action over the next two years to 2008

4 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

4A Talents, Tolerance, Technology – The METROPOLITAN future of Europe

The Madrid Meeting considered the outcome of the joint initiative promoted by the Verband Region Stuttgart and Hamburg Metropolitan Region, and supported by METREX, on 7 March 2006 at the offices of the Committee of the Regions in Bruxelles. After the Madrid Meeting the President wrote to the European Commission with a copy of the Working Paper.

The Commission has replied, through Vice President Günter Verheugen, to indicate that the renewed Lisbon Strategy has been progressed through PAXIS, the European Innovation initiative, and that *with PRO INNO Europe we are now entering a new and more concrete phase of regional cooperation in support of innovation*. The Vice President observes that a number of ideas brought forward in the Working Paper could be developed in this context.

The President will report on the opportunities for METREX that PRO INNO Europe and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme could provide. The General Assembly could then consider what action to take.

4B METREX and Brussels Open Days 9-12 October 2006 *Investing in Europe's Regions and Cities*

Two METREX Conglomerate Workshops, which will form part of the official Programme of events, will be held on Tuesday 12 October at Scotland Europa, Rondpoint Schuman 6, Brussels. They will be on the sub-themes of Connectivity for Competitiveness and Quality of life for Competitiveness and will involve 11 METREX Members.

Registration for the Open Days is through
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2006/index.cfm

All METREX Members have receive the Open Days Programme and been invited to attend the event

4C Resolution on Noise in urban areas

The President reported to the Madrid Meeting of the Managing Committee that, further to the submission to the European Commission of the Resolution on Noise after the Granada Meeting, he has been invited to participate in the discussions with the rail sector and to participate in the next UIC (International Union of Railways) rail noise Workshop on 26 October 2006 (see www.uic.asso.fr).

5 METREX INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

5A InterMETREX – the revised METREX Benchmark

InterMETREX concluded with a Workshop in Glasgow from Tuesday 30 May to Friday 2 June 2006 for all 32 Partners.

The METREX Szczecin Conference in September will provide an opportunity for the presentation and dissemination of the final outcomes and outputs of the project (the revised METREX Practice Benchmark). Please see the METREX Szczecin Conference Invitation and Programme on the METREX web site for details.

5B PolyMETREXplus

The METREX Secretariat has produced an Interim Report on the first phase of the project, the Planning Component, and this has been circulated to all Members for information. The Interim Report and its nine supporting Diagrams can be downloaded from the METREX web site as pdf's.

The second phase of the project, the Practice Component, began at an Inception Meeting in Barcelona from 3-4 April 2006. However, partners are now awaiting the outcome of negotiations with the Interreg IIIC South Zone Secretariat about the submission of one combined co-funding claim for the Planning Component, before proceeding further.

A meeting of the PolyMETREXplus Steering Committee has been provisionally arranged for the afternoon of Wednesday 27 September and the Lead Partner, the Generalitat de Catalunya through the Institut d'Estudis Territorials (IET), and the METREX Secretariat will report on progress to the General Assembly.

5C Expert Groups

Major Infrastructure

The President concluded at the Madrid Managing Committee Meeting that two Expert Groups might be set up, in response to issues raised through the 2005 Member Questionnaire, on Major Infrastructure and Metropolitan Data and Monitoring.

The proposed Expert Group on Major Infrastructure can be initiated by the Verband Region Stuttgart through the procedure agreed at the Madrid Managing Committee Meeting.

METREX/IAURIF and economic affairs

IAURIF has expressed a particular interest in economic affairs and the possibility of collaboration on this issue has been explored with the Verband Region Stuttgart. Dominique Lecomte, of IAURIF, presented a scoping paper on Lisbon Monitoring and a number of METREX Members expressed an interest in this. It was agreed at the Madrid Meeting of the Managing Committee that IAURIF would develop the scoping paper, having regard to the Expert Group initiation procedure agreed at Madrid, and that the Secretariat would then translate and circulate this for Member consideration and response.

IAURIF has received positive responses from colleagues in Thessaloniki, Stuttgart, Rhein-Neckar, Helsinki, Oradea, Lisboa, Rotterdam and Roma. Colleagues are sought from the UK and Spain in order to make the Expert Group sufficiently representative to be effective.

5D Projects after 2006/2007

An InterMETREXplus Inception Meeting took place at the Greater London Authority (GLA) from Thursday 9 March to Friday 10 March 2006. InterMETREXplus may now have to be progressed through an extension to the current project but without additional funding. This is because the rescheduling of the Malta InterMETREX Workshop from Autumn 2005 to Spring 2006 has taken InterMETREX beyond the 20% under spending maximum for project funding extensions.

The METREX Secretariat will report to the General Assembly on progress with the InterMETREXplus project on Climate change/Urban change

6 THE WAY FORWARD FOR METREX

The form and content of the Szczecin Conference was discussed at the Madrid Managing Committee Meeting and has been developed by the METREX Secretariat in consultation with the Municipality of Szczecin and interested METREX colleagues. The Conference now includes a number of inter active Open Space sessions, which are designed to promote productive debate on key issues for the future spatial planning and development of metropolitan regions and areas in Europe. The outcome of the 2005 Membership Questionnaire will also be relevant to this process.

The outcomes of the Szczecin Open Space sessions will be reported to the General Assembly and initiatives and action agreed to take these forward. This METREX Programme for the coming decade will then be developed in this context.

7 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE PERIOD 2006 TO 2008

The Secretary General has received confirmation from the President, Dr. Bernd Steinacher that he is willing to stand for a second term, from 2006 to the METREX General Assembly in 2008. Warm intimations of support have been received from Claudio Tolomelli of Regione Emilia-Romagna, who supported the President's original candidacy at the Barcelona General Assembly, and from Vice Presidents in Torino, Helsinki and Lisboa. No other nominations have been received.

The General Assembly is invited to elect Dr. Steinacher as the President of METREX for the period 2006 to 2008, by acclamation.

8 METREX ACCOUNTS FOR 2004 AND 2005, AUDIT FOR 2006 AND BUDGETS FOR 2007/2008

8A Financial Report - METREX Accounts for 2004 and 2005

The METREX Accountant, John Brown, will present the METREX Accounts for the financial years 2004 and 2005 and the Financial Report (Income and Expenditure and Profit and Loss) for the period 1 January to 30 June 2006. These are set out in Appendix 2.

Firstly, METREX subscription Invoices are sent out in December for the following year. Subscriptions become due on 1 January for payment by 31 March. Experience indicates that, usually, about half the subscriptions are paid by the time of the summer recess in August and half afterwards. One or two subscriptions are often paid in arrears during the following year.

Secondly, co-funding for the InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus projects is claimed, in arrears, in June and December each funding year. The first claim includes Pre Application costs, Equipment costs and Workshop staff costs and expenses. These payments have been made for InterMETREX but not yet for PolyMETREXplus. This has resulted in a shortfall of some €70,000 in METREX co-funding in 2004/2005.

8B METREX audit for 2006

The METREX Treasurer/Auditor, Olli Lahtinen of Helsinki City Council, will audit METREX income and expenditure for the financial period 1 January to 30 June 2006 and report to the General Assembly.

8C Draft METREX budget for 2007/2008

Draft METREX Budgets for 2007/2008 were tabled at the Madrid Managing Committee Meeting for consideration by all Members and are shown in Appendix 3. These are based on current levels of income and expenditure and may be modified if the membership develops as anticipated in item 8 below.

The METREX Budgets for 2007/2008, as set out in Appendix 3, are for the approval of the General Assembly.

9 MEMBERSHIP

The Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg has now joined METREX and will represent the recently formed Metropolitan Region of Hamburg. The joint planning office for the Land Brandenburg and the Land Berlin, through the Hauptstadtregion (Capital Region), has also joined and the Metropolregion Hannover-Braunschweig-Göttingen is in the process of doing so. Germany currently leads the way in the formation of metropolitan regions and areas and 7 are now Members of METREX. Strong interest was expressed by colleagues from Istanbul and Zagreb in joining METREX, during the Madrid Congress. It appears that the 10-year target of 50 METREX Member metropolitan regions and areas may be close to achievement in 2006.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10A Dates for Meetings/Conferences in 2006/2007/2008/2009

Colleagues from IAURIF indicated at the Madrid Managing Committee Meeting that a METREX Meeting in Spring 2007 could be difficult, as it would coincide with elections in France. Colleagues from Veneto kindly offered to consider the feasibility of bring their 2009 Veneto Meeting forward to 2007, allowing the Paris Meeting to then take place in Spring 2009. The prospective Programme of METREX Meetings and Conferences would then be as follows. Colleagues from London and Prague are still giving consideration to these arrangements.

- 2006 Madrid spring international Congress on the State of the Art
Szczecin autumn METREX 10th Anniversary Conference on the State of Practice
- 2007 Veneto spring Meeting
Zaragoza autumn Meeting on the 2008 International Expo
- 2008 Prague spring Meeting
London autumn Conference, possibly on integrated metropolitan strategies
- 2009 Paris spring global city Meeting with IAURIF
Wroclaw autumn Meeting

10B Any other business

APPENDICES

- 1 Protocol of Intent agreed between METREX and the Institute of Master Plan of Moscow at the Seminar**
- 2 METREX Accounts for the financial years 2004 and 2005 and the Financial Report (Income and Expenditure and Profit and Loss) for the period 1 January to 30 June 2006.**
- 3 Draft METREX Budget for 2007/2008**

Appendix 1 Protocol of Intent - Between the Institute of the General Plan of Moscow (GUP NIPI of the General Plan of Moscow) and METREX

The Institute of the General Plan of Moscow, represented by Director Sergei Borisovich Tkachenko, on the one hand, and METREX, the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas, represented by Secretary General Roger Read, on the other hand, both hereafter referred to as "the Parties", taking into account their common interest in the development of national metropolitan areas, have agreed the following.

- 1 **To maintain a regular exchange of information** on problems of the theory, methods, practice and legal aspects of territorial, economic and social planning and town and urban development and design.
- 2 **To consider, through a systematic approach, problems of planning, urban development and design and architecture that are of mutual interest**, including problems related to effective cooperation between the capital city and the metropolitan region, the content of territorial and urban plans and designs, improving economic, social, housing, transport and environmental policies, aspects of programming urban development and infrastructure and social and urban development standards.
- 3 **To inform the other Party about planned activities** connected with the consideration, at internal board meetings, of major urban development projects, which expert representatives or representatives of the other Party may participate in.
- 4 **To hold, on a parity basis, joint expert seminars and training course on territorial planning.**
- 5 **To plan short term (from two to four weeks) exchange visits of specialists**, under mutually acceptable conditions of the Parties.
- 6 **To provide consultancy services** on problems of planning and urban development, at the request of the other party and under agreed procedures, which will improve the quality of the outcomes.
- 7 **The Parties can carry out joint activities** in planning and urban design at the analytical, conceptual, planning and design stages.
- 8 The Parties will conduct their cooperation taking into account national and local legal requirements, the provisions of this Protocol and the Programme of Bilateral Cooperation to be adopted for two years after the signing of this Protocol of Intent.
- 9 This Protocol is made out and signed in two copies in the two languages of Russian and English.

Director of GUP NIPI of the General Plan of Moscow
Sergie Tkanchenko

July 2006 Moscow

Roger Read,
Secretary General,
METREX – the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

July 2006 Glasgow

Appendix 2 METREX Accounts for the financial years 2004 and 2005 and the Financial Report (Income and Expenditure and Profit and Loss) for the period 1 January to 30 June 2006

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the period ended 30 June 2006

	€	€	€
OPENING BANK BALANCE			(82,832)
MANAGEMENT			
Income			
Subscriptions	137,800		
Interest received	1		
Project co-funding	<u>6,873</u>		
		144,674	
Expenditure			
Secretary General	22,826		
Communications & management	18,721		
Project support - co-funded	20,498		
Project support - networking	-		
Interpretation & translation	24,493		
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	22,890		
Printing & copying	-		
Postage, stationery & telephone	2,435		
Accountancy	6,911		
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>140</u>		
		<u>118,914</u>	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		25,760	
CONFERENCES			
Income	-		
Expenditure	<u>-</u>		
		<u>-</u>	
NET INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) OF FUNDS			25,760
EXCHANGE DIFFERENCE			<u>572</u>
CLOSING BANK BALANCE			<u>(56,500)</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the period ended 30 June 2006

	Budget for year		Actual for year	
	€	€	€	€
MANAGEMENT				
Income				
Subscriptions	234,000		264,150	
Interest received	-		8	
Project co-funding	<u>34,000</u>	268,000	<u>3,284</u>	267,442
Expenditure				
Secretary General	49,600		27,136	
Communications & management	26,520		30,027	
Project support - co-funded	68,000		49,096	
Project support - networking	38,000		517	
Interpretation & translation	30,000		27,346	
Travel, accommodation & subsistence	30,000		23,125	
Printing & copying	1,000		-	
Postage, stationery & telephone	5,500		3,372	
Accountancy	5,500		3,817	
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>13,000</u>		<u>(2,831)</u>	
		<u>267,120</u>		<u>166,605</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		880		105,837
CONFERENCE				
Income	-		-	
Expenditure	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
		-		-
CURRENCY FLUCTUATION		<u>-</u>		<u>(235)</u>
PROFIT/(LOSS)		<u>880</u>		<u>105,602</u>

Appendix 3

Draft METREX Budget for 2007/2008

	Budget 2005	Actual 2005	Draft budget 2007/2008
	€	€	€
Income	268000	309854	259000
Subscriptions	234000	212800	234000
Interest received		34	
Project funding	34000	97020	25000
Expenditure	267120	266259	257000
Secretary General	49600	47489	50000
Communications and management	26520	21035	30000
Project support - co-funded	68000	81085	65000
Project support - networking	38000	14159	20000
Interpretation and translation	30000	42754	35000
Travel, accommodation and subsistence	30000	23517	30000
Printing and copying	1000	497	1000
Postage, stationary and telephone	5500	3601	5000
Accountancy	5500	9076	7000
Miscellaneous expenses	13000	23046	14000
Surplus/deficit	880	43595	2000
Conference			
Income			
Expenditure			
Currency fluctuation		-1167	-1000
Profit/(Loss)	880	42428	1000

RR/10/7/2006