

V METREX General Assembly, Szczecin, Saturday 30 September 2006

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

MINUTES

SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 11.00 – 13.00

Prior to the METREX Szczecin Conference, on Wednesday 27 September 2006, the PolyMETREXplus Steering Committee met, as did the Expert Group on Lisbon Monitoring.

At the conclusion of the METREX 10th Anniversary Conference, on Friday 29 September, the Rapporteurs for the 14 Open Space sessions held during the event reported on their outcomes.

At the conclusion of the Conference the delegates adopted the Declaration of Szczecin, which provides an updated context for the development of the METREX agenda for the coming decade (see Appendix 2 of these Minutes).

Prior to the General Assembly, the Lead Partners for InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus presented position statements on both these Interreg IIC projects.

Prior to the General Assembly, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Hauptstadtregion Berlin-Brandenburg and the Metropolregion Hannover-Braunschweig-Göttingen were presented with their Membership Certificates and welcomed to METREX by the President, Dr. Bernd Steinacher.

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Forty five METREX colleagues, including representatives from twenty one of the forty-four METREX Member metropolitan regions and areas attended the Szczecin General Assembly, together with other colleagues participating in the Szczecin 10th Anniversary Conference. Five METREX colleagues sent their apologies by e-mail to the Secretary General. The attendance is shown in full in Appendix 1.

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 were approved by the General Assembly

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.

The Proceedings of the Madrid Congress will be published in book form and on a DVD by the Comunidad and copies will be made available to METREX Members in the near future

3B METREX Ambassadors

Fred de Rooter, 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. Professor Klito Gerardi, of Athens Technical University and former President of the Organisation of Athens, Dr. Alberto Seratossa, Adviser on spatial planning and development to the Generalitat de Catalunya, and Jussi Vuorinen, former Head of Master Plan for the City of Helsinki, have also agreed to act as METREX Ambassadors.

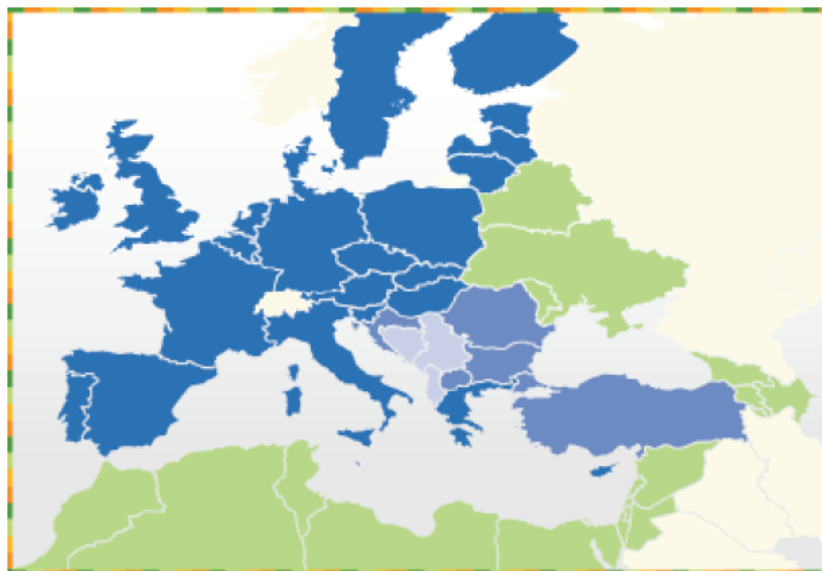
Through discussions with METREX Ambassadors during the METREX Conference it appears that an international dimension to METREX affairs might take the following broad form.

- 1 The development of relationships with the new EU neighbour countries of Russia (Moscow and St. Petersburg), Belarus (Minsk), Ukraine (Kiev and Odessa), Moldova (Chisnau), Turkey (Istanbul and Izmir) and Egypt (Alexandria). A strong working relationship already exists with the Institute for the Master Plan for Moscow (see item 3C below).

The EU now has in place a *European Neighbourhood Policy* (http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/policy_en.htm).

The EU offers our neighbours a privileged relationship, building upon a mutual commitment to common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development). The ENP goes beyond existing relationships to offer a deeper political relationship and economic integration. The level of ambition of the relationship will depend on the extent to which these values are effectively shared. The ENP is not about enlargement and does not offer an accession perspective.

The possibility of inviting the Commission to present this policy to METREX and to a number of invited neighbour metropolitan regions and areas, at a forthcoming METREX Meeting, will be explored



- 2 In the short term an exchange of knowledge and experience with colleagues in China, initially Shanghai and the Dongtan ecocity project.

The feasibility of exchange visits in 2007/2008 is being explored and proposals will be circulated to Members shortly

- 3 In the medium term, an exchange of knowledge and experience with colleagues in the Americas.

3C Moscow International Seminar

Sergey Tkachenko, Director of the Institute for the Master Plan of Moscow, and Alexander Kolontay, Deputy Director, attended the General Assembly for the formal signing of the Protocol of Intent and associated International Cooperation Programme (2007/2008), for co-operation between the Institute and METREX. Copies of the Protocol and the Programme were included in all Conference delegate packs.

The Programme has the following components.

- 1 Information exchange - including comparison of the statutory framework for planning and development in EU Member States and Russia, as a data-base.
- 2 System consideration of urban development problems - including comparative sectoral information, as a data-base.
- 3 Exchange of information on national events for consideration of major urban development projects - including major plans and projects.
- 4 Holding of international expert seminars - for example, using the InterMETREX Practice Benchmark as a basis.
- 5 Training courses and exchange of experience - including socio-economic planning, housing development and construction, the re-development of industrial estates, transport development planning, public services and the implementation of environmental policies.
- 6 Consultations - between international experts on key strategic issues such as transportation, implementation of urban development projects and environmental concerns.
- 7 Joint urban development activities - for example, holding an international design competition for high-density residential areas with affordable and mixed housing.

The General Assembly welcomed the signing of the Protocol of Intent and noted the form and content of the International Co-operation Programme

4 EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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

The President reported on the opportunities for METREX that PRO INNO Europe and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme could provide.

The General Assembly noted the position

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 10 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 7 METREX Members and representatives from the Interreg IIIC East Zone Secretariat. The Workshops will be chaired by Dr. Jürgen Ludwig, of the Verband Region Stuttgart, and the METREX Secretariat will give introductory presentations on the InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus projects. The Workshops will offer an opportunity for the dissemination of the final outcome of InterMETREX and the interim outcome of PolyMETREXplus.

An assessment of the 2006 Open Days experience will be given to the METREX 2007 spring Meeting to enable Members to consider whether to participate in the 2007 Open Days Programme

4C Resolution on Noise in urban areas

The President 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 and InterMETREXplus

InterMETREX concluded with a Workshop in Glasgow from Tuesday 30 May to Friday 2 June 2006 for all 28 current Partners.

The Lead Partner, through Dr. Grahame Buchan, Structure Plan Manager of the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee (GCVSPJC), presented an assessment of the outcomes of the project

An extension to the InterMETREX project (InterMETREXplus), to June 2007, has been agreed by the Interreg IIIC South Zone Secretariat to allow METREX and the GCVSPJC, Stockholm, Andalucia and the South Coast Metropole to pilot the calibration and application of the Tyndall Centre GRIP (Greenhouse Gas Regional Inventory Model) model to the metropolitan level. The intention will then be to put this before the InterMETREX partners who have also agreed to participate in the extension of the project, for peer review. The InterMETREXplus project could then provide the basis for an application to apply the GRIP model more widely across Europe under Interreg IV.

The Secretary General will report on progress with InterMETREXplus to the METREX spring meeting

The General Assembly met as the InterMETREX Steering Committee to hear a report by the Project Coordinator, Alastair Wyllie, on the need to reimburse the Lead Partner for 80% of the operational cost shares for Partners from Minsk and Sofia. The Steering Committee approved a levy of € 678.29 per Partner x 28 Partners to cover this sum.

Both Partner 29 Minskgrado and Partner 32 Municipality of Sofia have participated fully throughout the InterMETREX project. Both Partners participated in WK6-Barcelona. Minsk self-

assessed its practice against the Benchmark in WK8-Nürnberg. Sofia self-assessed its practice in WK9-Valletta. Sofia also participated in WK10-Glasgow, although Minsk was unable to attend.

Both Partners committed to the project on the basis of 20% Partner co-finance and 80% co-finance through the TACIS and PHARE European Funds. Applications for these funds have been unsuccessful, and participation in the project has been entirely at the Partners' own expense, with travel and accommodation subsidy from Partner 2 METREX, but without any European co-finance. All other InterMETREX Partners have an operational costs budget of EUR 11,870.

An equal share of the operational costs from project inception to 31 December 2006 (PR7) will amount to € 11,870.00. The sum of € 678.29 ($11,870.00 \times 2 \times 80\% / 28 = 678.29$) will be deducted by the Lead Partner from the next payment of EU co-finance to each Partner to cover the total amount owed, or will be invoiced for payment by any Partner who makes no further, or insufficient, claims for EU co-finance by the end of the project.

5B PolyMETREXplus

A meeting of the PolyMETREXplus Steering Committee was called by the Lead Partner for 14.00 on Wednesday 27 September. Unfortunately Oscar Chamat of IET, now the Project Leader in succession to Francesc Carbonell, was delayed and the meeting was chaired by the Secretary General. The opportunity was taken to review progress with the Representative Inter-regional Networking Activities (RINA). Subsequently, at the initiative of colleagues from Helsinki, a meeting took place at 9.30 on Friday 29 September between Oscar Chamat, Project Leader, Mxtus Alcaraz, Financial Co-ordinator, both of IET, and other partners. This meeting reviewed the financial and procedural position of the project.

In this context, the Lead Partner, through Oscar Chamat, Project Leader, of IET, presented an assessment of the current financial and procedural position of the project. It appears that the long-delayed first tranche of partner co-funding will be paid by the Interreg IIIC South Zone Secretariat by mid November (within 6 weeks). However, there remain problems with a further potential round of financial decommitment. There are also ongoing problems for partners who were not able to be included in the first co-funding claim and partners whose budgets have been affected by decommitment once already

5A/5B METREX Experience of the Interreg IIIC programme

Both InterMETREX and PolyMETREXplus have been major METREX promoted initiatives and have involved a large number of METREX Members. For future reference in relation to any further such initiatives under Interreg IV, the following issues will need to be taken into consideration.

- 1 The auditing procedures for some countries involve partner independent auditing and national auditing. After completion of these procedures some Lead Partners can then also require to go through a further process of independent and national audit before then submitting consolidated partner claims to the relevant Interreg Secretariat.

In the case of PolyMETREXplus and the South Zone Secretariat these procedures have seriously jeopardised the viability of the overall project with the first co-funding claim being made some 24 months in arrears. This experience stands in some contrast to the procedures adopted for InterMETREX by the West Zone Secretariat where partners audited claims are accepted without reference to any other auditing procedures and claims have been progressed quickly and efficiently within 3 months.

- 2 The funding of common operational costs, in arrears, puts a difficult burden on Lead Partners. The best arrangement, as suggested by the West Zone Secretariat, would be the creation of an operational costs fund, at the outset of a project, from shared partner

contributions. The fund could be held by the Lead Partner, replenished regularly by partners and audited independently.

5C Expert Groups

Major Infrastructure

The President announced that METREX Members would be invited to an inception meeting of the Expert Group on Major Infrastructure, in Stuttgart, from 23-24 November 2006

METREX/IAURIF and economic affairs

The Expert Group on Lisbon Indicators held an inception meeting on Wednesday 27 September chaired by Dominique Lecomte, of IAURIF, and attended by colleagues from Thessaloniki, Stuttgart, Rhein-Neckar, Helsinki, Oradea, Lisboa, Porto and Rotterdam. Mary Prezioso, of the University of Roma, Tor Vegata, submitted a discussion paper based on work for an ESPON project. The meeting explored the feasibility of using the fourteen key Lisbon Strategy indicators identified by IAURIF. The papers tabled at the meeting can be downloaded from the METREX web site (www.eurometrex.org).

It was agreed that the Expert Group should be established and that it would begin its work at a working session to be called by IAURIF in Paris, probably in the New Year

6 THE WAY FORWARD FOR METREX - Intentions

The General Assembly recognised that METREX activities for the coming decade would have a longer-term component, *Intentions*, and a more immediate component, the *Programme* for the coming two years to the next General Assembly. These could draw on four sources of opinion and conclusions that have emerged throughout the 10th Anniversary year.

- 1 Responses to the President's Questionnaire to Members in December 2005.
- 2 The concluding remarks of Professor Sir Peter Hall at the Madrid International Congress in May 2006.
- 3 The Powerpoint contributions of Members, Looking back/Looking forward.
- 4 The outcome of the METREX Szczecin 10th Anniversary Conference Open Space sessions reported to the closing session of the event on Friday 29 September.

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

7 ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE PERIOD 2006 TO 2008

The Secretary General confirmed that many warm expressions of support for the election of the President for a second term had been received.

The General Assembly elected 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, presented 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 as set out in Appendices to the General Assembly Agenda Notes and displayed on screen.

METREX is currently owed some €165k from subscriptions for 2006 in arrears (€72k), PolyMETREXplus co-funding in arrears (€69k), InterMETREX co-funding imminent (€10k) and IET invoices for support services (€14k). Cash flow forecasts to the end of 2006 indicate that when all income in arrears is received, probably by the end of 2006, and all outstanding financial commitments are met, then there could be a surplus at the beginning of 2007. It is understood that the PolyMETREXplus co-funding owed to METREX should be paid by mid November (within 6 weeks) and this will alleviate immediate cash flow problems.

The Secretary General will pursue the payment of outstanding subscriptions for 2006 and other invoices that are outstanding

(Note. Subsequent to the conclusion of the Conference and the General Assembly it emerged that a number of delegates had omitted to pay their Conference fees in advance, by bank transfer, or by cash or cheque at the Conference, as set out on the electronic Conference Registration form. These colleagues will be contacted about their arrears.)

8B METREX audit for 2006

The METREX Treasurer/Auditor, Olli Lahtinen of Helsinki City Council, audited METREX income and expenditure for the financial period 1 January to 30 June 2006 to his satisfaction

8C Draft METREX budget for 2007/2008

The METREX Budgets for 2007/2008, as set out in Appendix 2, were approved by the General Assembly

9 MEMBERSHIP

As was noted at the beginning of these Minutes, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Hauptstadtregion Berlin-Brandenburg and the Metropolregion Hannover-Braunschweig-Göttingen formally joined METREX at the Szczecin General Assembly, bringing the overall membership up to 45 metropolitan regions and areas and the representation from Germany up to eight (including the Planning Association for München, which helped to found METREX in 1996). Germany now leads the way for Europe in the formation of metropolitan areas.

The Secretary General reported that the Marseille metropolitan area, which was represented at the Szczecin Conference, had indicated an intention to join the Network. With the production of the METREX 10th Anniversary booklet *Impressions* and the addition of *Intentions* (see item 6 above) the President and the Secretary General will take a further initiative to attract members from Oslo, Tallinn, Vilnius, Warszawa, Wien, Bratislava, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Istanbul, Sofia, the English Midlands and Lyon. Members from these twelve areas would make METREX fully representative of the wider Europe.

The President and the Secretary General will report on their initiative to make METREX fully representative of the wider Europe at the METREX spring Meeting

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

Colleagues from Veneto and Zaragoza were able to confirm the following dates for the METREX 2006 spring and autumn Meetings.

10-13 May 2007 Veneto spring Meeting in Vicenza

End October/
beginning November Zaragoza autumn Meeting

10B Any other business

The General Assembly recorded its great appreciation for the efficient planning and management of the Szczecin Conference and the General Assembly by colleagues in the Municipality of Szczecin and the Radisson SAS hotel. They also expressed their thanks to the Deputy Mayor for the METREX 10th Anniversary Celebration hosted by the Municipality in the National Museum on Thursday 28 September.

APPENDICES

- 1 Sederunt**
- 2 Szczecin Declaration**
- 3 METREX Budget for 2007/2008**

Appendix 1 Sederunt

METREX Szczecin 2006 General Assembly			
1 Martin	AARTS	Expert Urban Planning	dS+V, Council of Rotterdam
2 Maria Jesus	ALCARAZ RODRIGUEZ	PolyMETREXplus Project Financial Manager	Institut Estudis Territorials, Generalitat de Catalunya
3 Daniel	ARBULU HORMAETXEA	Coordinador de cooperación transfronteriza	Agencia Transfronteriza de la Eurociudad Vasca
4 Javier	ARBUES		Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza
5 Ulrike	ASSIG	Project Coordinator	Gemeinsame Landesplanungsabteilung Berlin-Brandenburg
6 Jacek	BARSKI	Vice Director, City Urban Planning	Wroclaw Development Office
7 Cecile	BOST	Head of Strategy	Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Marseille
8 John	BROWN	Accountant	METREX Secretariat
9 Dr. Grahame	BUCHAN	Structure Plan Manager	Glasgow & Clyde Valley Structure Plan Joint Committee
10 Pablo	CALVO Y RUATA	Director	Diputación Provincial de Zaragoza
11 Francisco	COMPÉS MARTÍNEZ	Diputado	Diputación Provincial de Zaragoza
12 Maxwell	COWAN	Projects	METREX Secretariat
13 Dariusz	DOLGOSZYJA	Chief Designer, Land Use Structure, City Planning Office	Szczecin Municipal Government
14 Prof. Klito	GERARDI	METREX Ambassador & Professor of Urban and Regional Planning	National Technical University of Athens
15 Elzbieta	GERULA	Project Team Member	Szczecin Municipal Government
16 Douglas	GORDON	Architect	City Planning Helsinki
17 Tamás	GORDOS	Senior Project Manager	Central Hungarian Regional Development Agency
18 Klemens	GRÖGER	Economic Development	Verband Region Rhein-Neckar
19 Reinhard	HENKE	Bereichsleiter Europaprojekte	Planungsverband Ballungsraum Frankfurt/Rhein-Main
20 Dr. Alexander	KOLONTAY	Deputy Director	Institute of the Master Plan of Moscow
21 Maria	KRAUTZBERGER	Permanent Secretary for Transport & Environment	Senate Department for Urban Development, Berlin
22 Juliane	KÜRSCHNER	Urban Planner	Stad Amsterdam Physical Planninf Department
23 Markku	LAHTI	Project Leader	City Planning Helsinki
24 Olli	LAHTINEN	Project Coordinator	City Planning Helsinki
25 Alberto	LEBOREIRO	Subdirector Planificación Regional	Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio, Comunidad de Madrid
26 Dominique	LECOMTE	Economist	IAURIF
27 Dr. Jürgen	LUDWIG	Project Manager, European Affairs	Verband Region Stuttgart
28 Theofanis Rizos	MATIKAS	Architect Eng. Planner	Organisation of Thessaloniki
29 Dr. Gerald	MCGRATH	Honorary President	METREX
30 Tim	PAGE	Webmaster	METREX Secretariat
31 Manos	PAPANIKOLAOU	Director Manager	Organisation for Planning and Environmental Protection of Athens
32 Jim	PARKE	Head of Projects	METREX Secretariat
33 Hannu	PENTTILD	Executive Director	YTV Helsinki Metropolitan Area Council
34 Chris	POULTON	Planner	Greater London Authority
35 Roger	READ	Secretary General	METREX
36 Suvi	RIHTNIEMI	Chairperson	YTV Helsinki Metropolitan Area Council
37 Phil	ROBINSON	Policy, Conservation & Design Manager	Bournemouth Borough Council
38 Horst	SAUER	Referatsleiter	Gemeinsame Landesplanungsabteilung Berlin-Brandenburg
39 Jens	SHELLER	Deputy Director	Planungsverband Ballungsraum Frankfurt/Rhein-Main
40 Wilhelm	SCHULTE	Head of Department	Behörde für Stadtentwicklung und Umwelt, Hamburg
41 Albert	SERRATOSA	METREX Ambassador & Former President of IET	Institut Estudis Territorials, Generalitat de Catalunya
42 Dr. Bernd	STEINACHER	President	METREX
43 Sergey	TKACHENKO	Director	Institute of the Master Plan of Moscow
44 Jussi	VUORINEN	METREX Ambassador and former Head of Master Plan	Helsinki City Council
45 Polixeni Evangelia	ZEIKOU	Architect Eng. Planner	Organisation of Thessaloniki

Appendix 2 Szczecin Declaration



Szczecin Declaration

on the

Metropolitan Dimension to the Territorial Agenda of the European Union

- 1 Europe's metropolitan regions and areas need to be defined and recognised as key components of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union**

The Szczecin Declaration seeks the production of a European Commission Green Paper on the contribution of Metropolitan Regions and Areas to growth, competitiveness, sustainability and the social face of Europe.

The Szczecin Declaration also seeks effective co-operation between the European institutions* and Europe's metropolitan regions and areas through regular liaison meetings.
- 2 Many of the key issues for Europe, including economic competitiveness, social cohesion (particularly demographic change and migration) and environmental sustainability, can be addressed most effectively, and in an integrated way, at the metropolitan level**
- 3 Effective metropolitan governance will be a key requirement for the preparation and implementation of integrated strategies for European metropolitan regions and areas**
- 4 Europe's Metropolitan Regions and Areas have a key role to play in the achievement of the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda and, thus, to the global competitiveness of Europe**

The Szczecin Declaration recognises the initiatives that are now being taken in many European states to set up metropolitan regions and areas in response to the need for urban Europe to maintain its competitiveness on a sustainable basis.
- 5 The better connectivity of metropolitan Europe, on an environmentally sustainable basis, will also be a key strategic issue for the European Territorial Agenda.**
- 6 Europe's metropolitan regions and areas are a significant source of global greenhouse gas emissions and urban Europe must now take steps to make major reductions in these. This is a key strategic issue for the European Territorial Agenda.**

The sustainable energy future of Europe will be part of this issue as will the need for urban Europe to adapt to those aspects of climate change that are now unavoidable.
- 7 With the expansion of the European Union to a prospective 27 Nation States it will be important for European metropolitan regions and areas to continue to develop relationships of practical mutual value with the metropolitan areas of the new neighbouring States**
- 8 In an global economy it will also be important for Europe to recognise the international functions and roles that many Europe's metropolitan regions and areas fulfil and the value of the strong historic links of language and culture that they have with other parts of the world**

This Declaration was adopted at the Closing Session of the METREX Szczecin 10th Anniversary Conference by unanimous acclamation.

Szczecin 29 September 2006.

* The European Parliament, European Commission, European Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions and the European Spatial Planning Observatory Network.

Appendix 3 METREX budgets for 2007 and 2008

	Budgets 2007/2008
	€
Income	259000
Subscriptions	234000
Interest received	
Project funding	25000
Expenditure	257000
Secretary General	50000
Communications and management	30000
Project support - co-funded	65000
Project support - networking	20000
Interpretation and translation	35000
Travel, accommodation and subsistence	30000
Printing and copying	1000
Postage, stationary and telephone	5000
Accountancy	7000
Miscellaneous expenses	14000
Surplus/deficit	2000
Conference	
Income	
Expenditure	
Currency fluctuation	-1000
Profit/(Loss)	1000

RR/3/10/2006