

METREX SPRING CONFERENCE Brussels 2024

Forging a Metropolitan Europe

15-16 May, Brussels

As expressed in our METREX Manifesto for Metropolitan partnerships, we believe that metropolitan regions and areas are best in place to address many challenges we face: understanding the bigger picture and translating that to a metropolitan scale to find solutions with local partners.

Following the manifesto's launch we continue working to better prepare ourselves: by developing approaches on the urgent planning issues, our basic profession; by organising ourselves to be more agile, efficient and accessible for all, the way we are organised; and by inviting people to forge a metropolitan future for Europe.

At our Brussels conference we open these three flows of thinking to our members and beyond to then develop them over summer and report back at our Bucharest Conference in October 2024. We will approach members for their participation in these flows, which will appear online and/or live. We need members' input to make it work.

Join us to forge a Metropolitan Europe!

Observer and Rapporteur for this conference: Iván Tosics, PhD, Managing Director Metropolitan Research Institute Budapest, Hungary.

Registration via our website is mandatory. www.eurometrex.org

Wednesday 15 May

Optional pre-conference Program

13:30-15:30 **Tour & Taxis - Brussels Productive City Tour**

with Adrian Hill, METREX Productive City EG coordinator

Walking visit to Tour & Taxis district in Brussels. This is a remarkable destination that embodies the perfect blend of history, culture, and innovation. It will offer a nice cross section of services, production, logistics and leisure.

For more info: <https://tour-taxis.com/>

13:30 **Tour starts. Meeting point at Pannenhuis metro station** (Exit is on the Rue Charles Demeer)

3 Km Walk through the district stopping by:

1. Metro Pannenhuis
2. Parckfarm
3. Be.Here
4. Greenbizz
5. Centre Tir
6. Magasin 4
7. YouBuild
8. Former Citroen garage
9. Heidelberg cement
10. Upsite Tower
11. Parc Beco
12. Brasserie de la Senne
13. Tour et Taxis site
14. Gare Maritime
15. Metro Ribaucourt

15:30 **Tour ends at Ribaucourt metro station**

Take line 2 (Simonis) to the stop Porte de Namur (2 min walk to Perspective Brussels)

Conference starts at Perspective.Brussels

Venue: rue de Namur 59, Bruxelles

16:00 **Registration**

17:00 **Welcome**

[Jakub Mazur](#), President of METREX, Deputy Mayor of Wrocław

[Gianina Panatau](#), Vice President of METREX, Director, Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (ADIZMB)

[Antoine de Borman](#), Director perspective.brussels

Keynote speech

[Aileen Bouclé](#), Executive Director Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization / NARC

17:30 **Updates from METREX activities**

[Ioana Ivanov](#), BS Fellowship

[Frenk Bekkers](#), METREX Mapping

[Yurii Lukashevskyi](#), Lviv Agglomeration Association

18:00 Informal drinks

19:15 Walking transfer to dinner location

20:00 Dinner at *La Tricoterie*

Venue: *Theodore Verhaegenstraat 158, Saint-Gilles-Bruxelles*

Thursday 16 May

Venue: *Tricoterie, Theodore Verhaegenstraat 158, Saint-Gilles*

08:30 **Registration**

09:00 **Welcome**

Sandeep Shingadia, Vice President of METREX and Director of Strategic Partnerships and Delivery Integration, Transport for West Midlands

09:10 **Setting the scene: a strategy towards a Metropolitan Europe**

Henk Bouwman, METREX Secretary General

3 Interactive Roundtables with a core of experts from METREX and beyond, encircled by METREX members and guests.

09:30 **WHAT: New demands in Spatial Planning**

Addressing climate change has already added huge items to the spatial planning agenda: how do we deal with the 'technical issues' like sea-level rise, extremities in weather, restored or better-balanced ecosystems, urban sprawl etc. But we also need to deal with the 'behavioural' side of these issues, where the classic spatial planning instruments might fall short. In this roundtable we explore some of the urgent issues and see what process we need to accelerate: exchange of knowledge and experience, understanding the principles on how to translate to your own situation.

09:50 **Roundtable 1**

Moderator: **Henk Bouwman**, METREX Secretary General

Keynote from Antoine de Borman, Director perspective.brussels

Discussion with:

Prof. Roger Vickerman, Kent University (Mobility)
Ass. Professor Alexander Wandl, TU Delft (Circular Economy)

Jaromír Hainc, Prague Institute of Planning and Development

[Ilona Mansikka](#), Helsinki Uusimaa Region (Climate challenge)

11:00 **Break**

11:20 **HOW: Governance Structures and Strategies – Are we fit for the Future**

The complexity and interrelatedness of the spatial planning issues ask for **integrative thinking that goes beyond the local municipalities. The metropolitan** level seems the answer, but do we have enough capacity, resources, competencies. Are we organised good enough. Also, here we can improve by learning from each other's way of organisation, and in which state we currently are. What exactly do we ask from our (possible) partners on local, national and European level. Are there governance models possible that are informal and can be established right now, and that can grow formal over time?

11:40 **Roundtable 2**

Moderator: [Gianina Panatau](#) General Director, The Bucharest Metropolitan Area Intercommunity Development Association (ADIZMB)

[Keynote from Sandeep Shingadia](#), Director of Strategic Partnerships and Delivery Integration, Transport for West Midlands Combined Authority

Discussion with:

[Aileen Bouclé](#), AICP, TPO Executive Director/NARC
[Maciej Fijalkowski](#), Director Warsaw Metropolitan Association

[Prof. Valeria Fedeli](#), Politecnico di Milano

[Laura Papaleo](#), Genoa metropolitan city

[Filipe Ferreira](#), Lisbon metropolitan area

12:50 **Lunch Break**

14:30 **WHY: Visioning Europe
Forging a Metropolitan Future**

After an Age of Cities and accepting the ongoing coagulation of people into increasing agglomerations, can we imagine a Metropolitan Century? What are the future roles of nations, will there be a revival of 17th century rivalry between city regions, or

can we specialise and together build a Metropolitan Europe, competing with other global continents? How do we involve citizens and rurals from all backgrounds in forging their future?

14:50 **Roundtable 3**

Moderators: [Łukasz Medeksza](#), Deputy Director of the Strategy and City Development Department Municipality of Wrocław with [Sébastien Rolland](#), UrbaLyon Planning Agency

[Keynote from Professor Luděk Sýkora](#), Charles University Prague & MECOG project

Discussion with:

[Peter Defranceschi](#), Head of ICLEI Brussels Office

[Emiel Reiding](#), Director Metropolitan Region Amsterdam

[Idoia Postigo](#), Bilbao Metropoli30

[Tundé Adefioye](#), Lecturer St.Lucas School of Arts, Antwerp

16:00 **Debate & Conclusions**

Professor Em. Dr. [Eric Corijn](#), Professor in Urban Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels

17:00 **Close**

Final remarks from [Sandeep Shingadia](#), Vice President of METREX and Director of Strategic Partnerships and Delivery Integration, Transport for West Midlands