Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas

SUMMARY RECORD of the 8th SESSION

held on 5-6 June 2006
Bilbao, Spain

19 June 2007, 9:00 – 18:30
Ministry of Economy and Finance, Sala della Maggioranza,
Via Pastrengo 1, Rome, Italy

This document is submitted FOR APPROVAL to the 9th Session of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas, 19 June 2007, Rome, Italy.

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WORKING PARTY ON TERRITORIAL POLICY IN URBAN AREAS – 8th SESSION
5-6 JUNE, 2006 – BILBAO, SPAIN
SUMMARY RECORD

The 8th Session of the OECD Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas was kindly hosted by the “Association of Local Governments of The Basque Country” (EUDEL), Bilbao, Spain, with the support of the Spanish Central Government, General Directorate for Local Co-operation, Ministry of Public Administration. It was organised back to back with a “Local Workshop” on the experiences of collaboration among cities within the Basque country around two themes: Valuating Cultural Amenities for Urban Development; and Cities’ Network for Competitiveness.

Mr. Karmelo SAINZ DE LA MAZA, President of EUDEL, made an opening address to Working Party Delegates and the OECD Secretariat.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

1. Mr. Takayuki Hara, WPURB Chair, introduced the agenda of the 8th Session, which was approved by the Working Party. He welcomed the participation of Morocco as Observer and the participation of representatives from the World Bank and the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

Item 2: Approval of the Summary Record

2. The Working Party approved the Summary Record of the 8th Session.

Item 3: Election of the Bureau

3. Following the resignation of Mrs. Anne Ruden, Norway, Mr. Hara thanked Mrs. Ruden for her commitment to the activities of the Working Party as Delegate and Bureau Member and looked forward to the continued involvement of Norway in the activities of the WPURB. Two new candidates were proposed and their nominations supported by the Working Party, which agreed to enlarge the Bureau. Candidates concerned: Mr. Jaime Sancho (Mexico) and Mr. Dennis Alvord (United States). The Bureau was elected as follows:

   Chair: Mr. T. Hara (Japan)
   Vice-Chairs: Mr. Adam Ostry, (Canada)
               Mr. Vincent Fouchier, (France)
               Ms. B. Helff (Germany)
               Mr. Jaime Sancho (Mexico)
               Mr. José Manuel Rodriguez Alvarez, (Spain)
               Mr. Dennis Alvord (United States)

Item 3: Opening Remarks by the Chair and Statement by the Director of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate (GOV)

4. The Chair, Mr. Takayuki Hara, reported on the latest developments in the Working Party since it met in June 2005 for the International Conference and 7th Session of the Working Party, in Nagoya, Japan. Mrs. Odile Sallard, Director of GOV, briefed the Working Party on the latest developments within the OECD and reported on the preparations for the Programme of Work 2007-8 (see details in Item 4).
Item 5: 2007-08 Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) of TDPC: Contribution of the Working Party

5. The Director thanked delegates for their inputs regarding the Working Party’s contribution and described the new features of the TDPC Programme of Work for 2007-08, in particular those related to WPURB. These include the development of analytical tools towards the definition of metropolitan areas and improving the database (in collaboration with the Working Party on Territorial Indicators WPTI). Horizontal analysis focuses on the social dimension, migration issues, and enhancing the urban environment. Forthcoming metropolitan reviews in 2007 concern the case of Istanbul and the case of Madrid (June 2007). Other activities, subject to additional resources, concern city reviews on urban development strategies, and a regional network of cities, with a possible study on the Baltic Sea and the network of cities in South-East Asia. Mrs. Sallard highlighted important work on governance and the increasing involvement in work with non-member countries, “Global Relations”, as the OECD increasingly outreaches to new partners.

6. Delegates strongly supported the work programme and specific comments were made by delegates from Canada, France, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Delegates commended the national urban policy reviews, in particular, Mexico highlighted their relevance to the concerns of Member countries. The Netherlands congratulated the Secretariat on a focused work programme, in line with the views and vision of the political agendas in Member countries. Sweden expressed interest in functional regions across national borders, the importance to collaborate with the Espon Research Network on European cohesion policies; and to focus on the innovation and competitiveness dimensions of governance issues. Sweden and the United Kingdom highlighted the importance of rural-urban interlinkages and development strategies. Japan and the United Kingdom requested to include mention of co-operation with TDPC and other Committees in the final version of the work programme.

7. The Canadian delegate informed the Working Party that a metropolitan review of Toronto would be announced at the 15th Session of TDPC. He also mentioned the forthcoming UN Habitat meeting, Urban Policy Forum, to be held in June 2006 in Vancouver, as another good opportunity to share best practices between the North and the South on urban issues.

Item 6: Competitive Cities in the Global Economy: Horizontal Synthesis Report

Executive summary and issues for discussion

8. The Secretariat presented a synthesis of the work on metropolitan competitiveness and governance, "Competitive cities in the Global Economy” based on the analysis drawn on completed and ongoing policy studies in metropolitan areas and the urban policy conferences. Delegates discussed the report, which is also submitted for endorsement by TDPC at its 15th Session. The Working Party commended the quality and timeliness of the report. Interventions by Canada, Greece, Mexico, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Hungary, United Kingdom, and UCLG, brought to light the importance of issues related to the emergence of cities as key political actors, and evoked possible areas for future work, such as minority and migrant populations, and the role of central governments in urban areas. France and the UK described different experiences that could provide a framework for metropolitan co-operation, taking into account not only the economic but social aspect, as the attractiveness of a city depends on these components and should also fit into the international context. Greece suggested improving co-operation on clustering and solidarity among Member states. Mexico stressed that future research could be devoted to developing a typology of cities. Canada reported on the importance of governance and vertical partnerships; and the role of the private sector, as a factor for consideration by governments. Work in these areas could be broadened with regional indicators and statistical data. The representative of the United Cities and Local Government Associations (UCLG ) highlighted 3 dimensions: Institutional mechanisms in
big cities; how to improve and strengthen the level of political implications; and fiscal policy, an important problematic. The representative from UCLG mentioned the forthcoming Congress of Mayors in October 2007 in Korea, as another important opportunity to open a common agenda between OECD and UCLG.

**Item 7: Metropolitan Competitiveness and Governance: The Case of Milan**

9. Mr. Fabio Terragni (President of the Milano Metropoli Development Agency) highlighted the relevance and timeliness of the Review in the context of recent government changes at the national and municipal level. Metropolitan areas are getting high again on the national policy agenda after the new Italian government announced plans to enact special laws for large cities. The presentation of the Review by the Secretariat illustrated how Milan could maintain its competitiveness in the globalisation era by capitalising on the complementarities between its strong industrial fabric and its advanced service economy to drive the growth of Northern Italy and to become a creative service hub. The discussion among Delegates (especially France and Spain) suggested that a large part of Milan's future success will be determined by its ability to implement appropriate metropolitan governance mechanisms. Mr. Hans Pluckel, peer reviewer and representative of the Regio Randstad (Netherlands), underlined that the national government could have a significant role to play in a context of complex horizontal and vertical coordination challenges. The report is submitted for endorsement by TDPC at its 15th Session.

**Item 8: City Regions: The Case of Newcastle**

10. The “Case Study of Newcastle and the North East of England” was introduced by Mr. Jonathan Blackie (Regional Director, Government Office for the North East), Mr. Ian Stratford (Chief Executive, Newcastle City Council), and Ms. Pat Ritchie (Director of Strategy and Development, One North East). Newcastle is a medium sized metropolitan area which has experienced long term decline as it has undergone a transition from an old industrial region. The Secretariat briefly illustrated the challenge of developing and managing appropriate but also aspirational growth objectives in a region with a diverse economy and no sectors dominating or exhibiting particular strengths, and with particular human capital and innovation capacity weaknesses. Representatives of peer reviewing countries, Mr. Marco Magrassi (Italy) and Mr. Jose Manuel Rodriguez (Spain) presented their viewpoints. They highlighted the importance of strategic planning and relations across levels of governments, evoked the city region project and the question of urban policy in relation to regional planning and the EU. Delegates commended the report. Spain commented on the importance of negotiation at the local, regional and the national level in the absence of a concerted European urban policy. The report is submitted for endorsement by TDPC at its 15th Session.

**Item 9: Sustainable Urban Development**

**Interim Report on “Socially Sustainable housing”**

11. The Secretariat presented the report “Socially Sustainable Housing”, which reviewed and analysed housing policies to strengthen social cohesion, focusing on two types of housing-related issues: (1) exclusion through housing (i.e., residential segregation) and (2) exclusion from housing (i.e., housing affordability problems and exclusion of disadvantaged households from housing), both of which could significantly undermine sustainable urban development. The report identified recent policy developments and provided recommendations for designing better government policies to address these issues. Delegates (Japan, Canada, Korea, and The Netherlands) congratulated the Secretariat on the quality of the report and in their comments drew connections between this and the PPI paper, discussed under the same item. Japan highlighted the relevance of both reports and stressed that housing problems are a high priority on the political agenda in Japan and a major concern in numerous Member countries. The Netherlands commended the high quality research and good input for a debate. The United Kingdom highlighted the
this crossing cutting issue should be part of an integrated approach, embracing the economic, environmental and social dimensions, and the need to address the issue across different levels of government, at the local, regional and national level. He mentioned the lessons from the United States, Brookings Institution, as leader in this field of research, on which joint work has been carried out with the UK. Canada emphasised the fundamental importance of the reports, which are a horizontal and integrated activity, and provide an excellent tool to enhance social cohesion and the competitiveness of urban centres.

**Interim Report on the “Role of Private Participation in Major Infrastructure Provision”**

12. The report focused on improving policy frameworks for private participation to encourage more positive roles of the private sector in providing infrastructure that is strategically important for enhancing regional competitiveness. The new dimensions of the private roles as innovative planner or initiator of projects and the public roles for accommodating these active private roles are examined in terms of three pillars of the policy frameworks: planning, structuring and supporting projects.

13. The Netherlands pointed out that the basic issue on PPI is how to better balance the interests between public/private partners. Canada suggested that input on brown field remediation could be useful. The United Kingdom stressed that the social aspects related to PPI need to be strengthened. He added that in the UK in depth policy discussions on social issues include the location selection for social infrastructure (e.g. hospitals and universities). The Korean delegate elaborated the policy measures (e.g. reinvestment of development profits, specifying minimum area for development) to guarantee public interests and minimize the adverse effects from the private sector’s active roles in developing Enterprise Cities.

14. The Secretariat thanked the Working Party for their input, which will also be submitted to the TDPC for comments and approval and will be taken into account in the final version of the report (December 2006).

**Item 10: Roundtable discussion on Urban Policy Developments**

15. The roundtable discussion was divided into three sessions devoted to the discussion of the keys issues that emerged from the previous roundtable discussion at the 7th session of WPURB in Nagoya, Japan, in June 2005, and on new policy perspectives in member countries. Session I began with a presentation by Mr. Marco Magrassi, Italy on “stakeholders’ participation in urban policy making”; Session II was introduced by Mr. Roberto Villarreal, Mexico, who made a presentation on “fighting poverty in urban areas”; and Session III, focused on “urban policy development in non-member countries”, including presentations from Mr. Mohamed Souafi, Morocco, and Mrs. Yoko Katakur and M. Guy Fleuret, from the World Bank. Presentations followed with specific interventions from Member countries - Czech Republic, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, Sweden and the United Kingdom- and a general discussion among delegates on urban policy trends and developments.

**Item 11: Other business**

16. The Chair, Mr. Takayuki Hara expressed special thanks to the “Association of Local Governments of The Basque Country” (EUDEL) in Bilbao for its hospitality. He thanked delegates for their participation before adjourning the meeting. The 9th Session of the WPURB will take place on 19 June in Rome, Italy, kindly hosted by the Government of Italy, back to back with the 14th WPTI and the 17th Session of the TDPC.
During the “Local Workshop” OECD Working Party Delegates had the opportunity to hear the experience of collaboration among cities within the Basque country. The session was organized around two themes: Valuating Cultural Amenities for Urban Development; and Cities’ Network for Competitiveness. The Working Party honoured the presence of key-note speakers: Mr. Ibon Areso, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Bilbao; Mr. Ryuji Kikuchi, Mitsubishi Estate Co. Ltd.; Mr. Alfonso Martinez Cearra, Director of Bilbao Metrópoli 30, Mr. Kepa Korta Murua, Director of The Strategic Plan of Donostia- San Sebastian and Mr. Juan Antonio Castro, Strategic Planning Service Manager of Vitoria- Gasteiz). The Case of Randstad- Holland, was presented by Mr. Hans Pluckel, Head of the Brussels Office, Regio Randstad, the Netherlands.

The Cities’ network is as an important tool for medium-sized cities to increase their critical mass needed to compete internationally with largest metropolitan areas. Bilbao Metropoli 30, as a soft model of metropolitan governance, is praised for its capacity to mobilise stakeholders around a common strategic vision for the area. The debate provided an opportunity for policy makers, local actors, practitioners, to exchange experiences on key urban policy developments.
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