

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF MICHELIN CITIES (INMC)
17 MARCH 2022
IN
QUERETARO - MEXICO
AND
VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Agenda:

- 1- Overview of the 3rd Conference of the INMC in Querétaro: projects potential, working priorities
- 2- Financial information - payment of fees
- 3- Tools and means of communication
- 4- Election of the Executive Committee
- 5- AOB

The General Meeting was held in **Querétaro (Mexico)** during the **3rd Conference** of the International Network of Michelin Cities which took place from **15 to 17 March 2022**.

An online connection (local time) was available from 09:30 to enable as many cities as possible to log on.

27 people representing 13 cities including 8 mayors took part in the meeting:

In person:

- Querétaro (Mexico)- Mayor
- Clermont-Ferrand (France)- Mayor
- Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain)- Mayor
- Aranda de Duero (Spain)- Mayor
- Norman (USA) – Mayor
- Valladolid (Spain)
- Braga (Portugal)

Online:

- Anderson (USA)- Mayor
- Regensburg (Germany)
- Karlsruhe (Germany)
- County of Kings (Canada)- Mayor
- Cuneo (Italy)
- Guarulhos (Brazil):
- Pirot (Serbia)- Mayor

Proxies:

The Mayor of Valladolid (ES), Oscar PUENTE, gave a proxy to Ms. Rosa HUERTAS

The Mayor of Regensburg (DE), Gertrud MALTZ-SCHWARZFISCHER gave a proxy to Toni LAUTENSCHLAGER

The Mayor of Cuneo (IT), Federico BORGNA, gave a proxy to Mr. Luca SERALE

The Mayor of Homburg (DE), Michael FOSTER gave a proxy to Mr. Benjamin BOHME

AGENDA

Mr. Olivier Bianchi, Co-Chair of the INMC, opened the meeting proposing that the participants introduce themselves then presented the INMC promotional video. Ms. Tania PALACIOS KURI, Deputy Mayor of Querétaro, responsible for Sustainable Development then took the floor.

1- Overview of the 3rd Conference of the INMC in Querétaro: planned projects, working priorities

Ms. Tania PALACIOS KURI gave a full and comprehensive overview of the first two days of the conference, highlighting the importance and the responsibility of cities and their Mayors in building a future for the planet and their citizens.

The programme proposed by the city of Querétaro focussed on the local requirements of cities from a global perspective.

Cities working together has made it possible to identify best practices leading to local practical solutions to implement SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) and improve citizens' lives.

More than 20 expert speakers took part in various discussions, debates and themed meetings, one of which was mentioned by Ms. Tania PALACIOS KURI:

Panel 1: SDGs- from global to local

- **Adriana TORRES NAVA**, Mexico City's Sustainability Ambassador recalled the importance of technology and innovation, providing concrete examples such as vertical gardens in Mexico City, which reduce heat, capture rainwater and produce oxygen.
- **Carlos DE REGULES**, Founder and Director of Mexico's Security, Energy and Environment Agency (ASEA) highlighted the importance of energy management and the direct interaction that exists between the 5 SDGs selected by the INMC.
- **Izarelly ROSILLO PANTOJA**, an international environmental consultant insisted on the need for common efforts between countries throughout the world to reduce inequalities in vulnerable areas, making use of the circular economy, which is essential for smart cities to operate. Querétaro is one of two states in Latin America to have a circular economy law.
- **Rafael LAURENTI**, a Circular Economy and Sustainability Expert pointed out that poor countries have to bear the brunt of the effects of climate change, which were caused in rich countries and insisted on the importance of public transport and bicycles.

Panel 2: The challenges of economic recovery

Among the participants in this very active and productive panel were:

- **Daniel ZAGA**, an Economic Development Expert highlighted the global consequences of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the need to boost industrial investment to restart the economy.
- **Mariana VILLASUSO**, A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Economic Recovery Project Coordinator proposed applying Agenda 2030 at local citizen level. The pandemic has not affected everyone equally and economic recovery must be considered according to specific situations, linked to the private sector, to both large and small companies to have a greater local impact.
- **Rosa HUERTAS**, Valladolid's Director of Innovation, Economic Development, Employment and Trade outlined the city's focus on small and medium-sized businesses and the self-employed in order to limit the impact of the pandemic and suggested designing governance models that make it possible to accelerate the energy transition

and the circular economy, while being attentive to citizen proposals and digitising municipal services. **The city must be a living laboratory for transformation.**

- **Alfredo MOLINA**, an Expert in "smart cities" pointed out that a smart city must be citizen-orientated and its internal management must be organised more efficiently to improve public services and therefore the quality of life of its citizens.
- **Katsumi ITAGAKI**, Consul General of Japan in Mexico mentioned that Japan has played an active role in designing SDGs by proposing the concept of "human security" adopted by the international community.
- **Gorka URTARAN**, Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz provided some of the most important conclusions in this conference, outlining the global challenge in fighting climate change and inviting INMC cities to work together more to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Miguel PARRODI**, Coordinator and Councillor for the City of Querétaro outlined the various actions implemented in the city during the pandemic such as direct financial support for citizens, support programmes for companies, and the online sale of products made in Querétaro.
- **Jessica MONCADA**, Deputy Mayor responsible for the protection of women presented the various programmes implemented in Querétaro to provide women with easier access to education, entrepreneurship, digitisation as well as the creation of a university for women.

In addition to the official agenda, there were also meetings with local stakeholders in Querétaro regarding water, culture and sport, giving invaluable insight for this conference through local experiences.

(We invite you to read the details of these meetings in the appended document).

2- Financial information– payment of fees

Given that David MITCHELL, Mayor of Bridgewater and Treasurer was absent, **Olivier BIANCHI** outlined a few financial items before opening the discussion.

- 50 Michelin cities were contacted when the network was created.
- A dozen cities that did not reply to letters and requests from the Network were excluded from the list of members when the association was officially created in July 2019.
- Today, 35 cities are considered members, 32 of which take part but only 19 pay a membership fee.
- **The current total amount available in the association's bank account is EUR 52,851.**

After overview of the first 5 years, the Network is based on a dozen or so extremely committed cities which saw it as an opportunity to exchange expertise and initiatives among cities throughout the world for the development of their local areas.

Today, Olivier BIANCHI recalled that it was important to meet, even in restricted numbers and in order to plan future conferences, **the issue of membership fees must be raised.**

Indeed, the cities that do not pay their fees create a sort of inequality as they benefit from the same advantages and services without contributing financially to the running of the Network.

During the last general meeting, it was suggested that non-active members be removed and a Network be created for new cities that want to join.

Mr. BIANCHI mentioned the case of the **city of Leon in Mexico that was not a Michelin city 4 years ago and which Luis NAVA offered to contact.**

This possible opening up to other cities led to the proposal to change the territorial organisation of the Network which would involve the creation of regional contacts to facilitate the day-to-day work and enable closer links between cities in the same zone.

Proposals submitted to the General Meeting:

1. **making it possible for new cities, whether hosting a Michelin site or not, to join the Network.**
2. **Promoting discussions and relations between cities in the same geographic zone (to be determined), through the creation of regional branches, one city in the zone will be appointed as a contact to coordinate the work of the member cities and report on the projects of the cities in the same zone.**
3. **moving active cities that do not pay their membership fee to associate member status if they do not reply to the 2022 payment reminder letter.**

Ms. Breea CLARK, Mayor of Norman (USA) took the floor to confirm that it is important to accept other cities, whether Michelin or not, if they have a desire to work within the Network. Geographic distribution is an excellent idea. **It would make it possible to work more on a local level, to involve and rally neighbouring cities such as Hardmore in the case of Norman. Ms. CLARK also suggested organising regional conferences on years in which an INMC Conference is not held.**

Ms. CLARK is also in favour of giving cities that do not pay their membership fees a different status, suggesting that they be reminded each year of the benefits that they could enjoy if they pay their fees.

Mr. Gorka URTARAN, Mayor Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain) suggested providing a reminder of the membership criteria for the Network to identify the problem of cities that are active but do not pay their membership fees, so that the amount of the latter may be adjusted in the event of financial problems.

Decisions of the General Meeting:

It is proposed that a letter signed by the co-chairs and the treasurer be sent to all cities outlining the following decisions:

- **Organisation of regional branches with applications from cities that want to present themselves as "regional contacts".**
- **Notification for cities that have not paid their membership fees that they will change status and will no longer enjoy the benefits of the Network.**

The letter will outline the membership criteria as well as the proposal from David MITCHELL at the last general meeting to invite cities in difficulty to contact him to notify him thereof.

Raquel GONZALEZ, Mayor of Aranda de Duero (Spain), took the floor to confirm her agreement to the sending of the letter and the reminder of the membership criteria to identify any difficulties that cities may have even though the membership fee is very reasonable.

Regional organisation is very interesting and will provide access for new cities that share the same vision and the same interests of the Network, even if they are not Michelin cities. It is important not to exclude, nor be exclusive.

Olivier BIANCHI recalled that between 2019 and 2021, despite reduced activities, three new cities paid their membership fees, so things are moving in the right direction.

Jérôme AUSLENDER, Deputy Mayor of Clermont-Ferrand (France), indicated that it is important to be very flexible with the membership criteria for new cities and gave the example of Montreal, which did not want to join but remains interested in the actions of the Network. Mr. AUSLENDER pointed out that it is also very interesting to **combine the networks between the cities and the twin cities with whom the Network's cities already cooperate and which can link up thanks to the regional contacts.**

Hélène LUCCHESI, International Project Manager with the city of Clermont-Ferrand and head of the INMC Secretariat, pointed out that **3 cities interested in the Network- Maebashi, Magog and Greer – which were not Michelin cities, nor twin cities, applied to join the Network, and were accepted at the general meetings on 31 May 2018 and 9 December 2020.**

3- Tools and means of communication

Olivier BIANCHI gave notification of:

- the creation and production of a promotional video for the Network, presented when the 3rd Conference was opened in Querétaro.
- the creation of a newsletter
- the upcoming redesign of the website

and pointed out that these tools as well as the logos are available for member cities to use.

A clause will be added to Article 14 of the Articles of Association to facilitate access to and use of these communication tools.

AOB

Wishes of peace and solidarity for Ukraine

Olivier BIANCHI, proposed the approval of a text in favour of peace and solidarity with the people of Ukraine and pointed out that, although sustainable development is the main goal of the Network, **solidarity, friendship between nations, and fraternity are essential values of international networks, which must be emphasized in times of crisis.**

The text was submitted to the members of the Network before the General Meeting. One city expressed its wish for "Russia" not to be mentioned.

In order to promote cooperation and in the hope that Russian cities will one day join the network, Mr. BIANCHI suggested removing the word "Russian Federation" and selecting a less stigmatising term. The floor was opened to those who wanted to react.

Joao RODRIGUES, Deputy Mayor of Braga (Portugal), took the floor explaining that he does not disagree with the proposed text **but wanted to call it like it is. The invasion of Ukraine was not the fault of foreigners, from France, Spain or Portugal, but was down to a regime that acts against what we hold dear as a society.**

Mr. RODRIGUES pointed out that the invasion and attack on Ukraine was the fault of one country alone: Russia.

Breea CLARK agreed with this position and suggested mentioning the Russian government and not the Russian people, who are suffering immensely.

Olivier BIANCHI, shared this moral view but pointed out that the views of the other cities must be respected and unanimity must be reached.

Peter MUTTART, Mayor of County of Kings (Canada), expressed via the chat and then by taking the floor that the position of Canada and that of County of Kings is unequivocal and agreed with Joao RODRIGUES that things must be clear. A country that wages war against another country is not acceptable. If there is no unanimity, it would be best not to take a position rather than adopting a weak position.

Gorka URTARAN, agreed with his counterparts and suggested going back to the original text "condemning the use of armed force by the leaders of the Russian Federation".

Breea CLARK, confirmed that it was important to use clear terms if we want to do things properly.

Terence ROBERTS, Mayor of Anderson (USA), wanted to point out that it is important to listen to everyone. The situation is changing each day and may require a firm declaration but before then, unanimity must be respected.

Olivier BIANCHI suggested returning to the original wording and using "Russian regime".

Decision of the General Meeting:

Text adopted unanimously

Declaration in favour of climate neutrality

The floor was given to Gorka URTARAN who presented 3 proposals:

- Declaration in favour of climate neutrality
- Project to boost the circular economy
- Global Training Programme

Gorka URTARAN, expressed the concern shared by all the cities regarding Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and **suggested that all INMC cities speak out publicly about climate change and the planet via the signature of a declaration of intent. Aware that each city has its own limits, Mr. URTARAN insisted that this is not about obligations but trade-offs to move forward together.** He stated that Raquel GONZALEZ wanted to change "zero-emissions public transport" to "non-polluting public transport".

Rosa Huertas, Valladolid's Director of Innovation, Economic Development, Employment and Trade stated that last year, Valladolid committed itself to be climate neutral by 2030 and supported the declaration proposed by Gorka URTARAN, wishing to add a few elements:

- the participation of citizens must be active and supported by City administrations as this is a trade-off by all.
- The development of the circular economy is one of the prerequisites of the Green Deal.

Toni LAUTENSCHLÄGER, Director of Economic Development with the city of Regensburg, supported the statement by Gorka URTARAN, pointing out that Regensburg has also made a climate commitment for 2035.

Olivier BIANCHI, also confirmed the support of the city of Clermont-Ferrand.

Decision of the General Meeting:

"The Declaration of Querétaro" in favour of climate neutrality was adopted unanimously with the signature of all cities present.

"The Declaration of Querétaro" will also be sent to the other cities not present for them to sign it should they wish.

Global Training Programme

Gorka URTARAN explained the benefits of the Global Training Programme which, under the initiative of the Spanish Basque Country, finances a 6-month professional placement abroad for young graduates. Mr. URTARAN thanked Querétaro, which welcomed 3 young graduates last year as well as other cities such as Braga and Clermont-Ferrand.

This programme demonstrates the importance of these exchanges. Being a member of the INMC is an opportunity to develop and progress through exchanges with young people.

Applications to host the next conference in 2024

Olivier BIANCHI gave notification that two applications have been submitted to the General Secretariat of the Network:

- Anderson (USA)
- Cuneo (Italy) – the Mayor stated his interest but also mentioned the current difficulties in submitting a formal application before the elections in Italy.

Mr. BIANCHI suggested organising an online vote such was the case with Vitoria-Gasteiz and Guarulhos. Following the results, the winning city would host the conference in 2024 and the other candidate in 2026, enabling cities to prepare and have visibility over the next 4 years.

Terence ROBERTS, Mayor of Anderson, was invited to speak.

Terence ROBERTS, was delighted to present Anderson's application to host the Conference in April 2024. Mr. ROBERTS pointed out that Anderson is the capital of the region bearing the same name, home to 350,000 residents and 550 major companies, including the headquarters of Michelin North America.

Beth BATSON, Deputy Mayor of Anderson presented the proposed application (PowerPoint) and emphasized the rapid growth in innovation in the region. Ms. Batson found the idea of regional contacts very interesting and pointed out the strong points of their region: Clemson University, CU-ICAR, the only national diploma in automobile engineering as well as a very active cultural sector.

Luca SERALE, Deputy Mayor of Cuneo was invited to speak.

Luca SERALE apologised, first and foremost, for not being able to submit an application like Anderson in time due to the municipal elections currently taking place in Cuneo.

Mr. SERALE pointed out the enthusiasm and interest of Cuneo in hosting the next conference and introduced the city of Cuneo, located in the Piedmont region, around forty kilometres from the French border.

Mr. SERALE is in favour of hosting the conference in 2026, after the elections.

Olivier BIANCHI proposed that Cuneo send a draft application within 15 days to be on an equal footing with Anderson as well as a letter stating that the city will be a candidate in 2026 to be eligible for the online vote.

Terence ROBERTS and Luca SERALE confirmed their agreement.

Breea CLARK confirmed her agreement to an election to select the host cities over the next 4 years.

Luis NAVA was sorry that he did not share the same opinion as his colleagues and pointed out that between now and 2026, other Mayors will be elected. These Mayors will not have the opportunity to take part in the selections nor to apply, thus losing an incentive that would enable them to participate fully in the Network. All cities must face elections. If there is only one official candidate today, it should become the next host city.

Raquel GONZALEZ agreed with Luis NAVA. By 2026, other cities may have joined the Network, the agreement ratified in 2022 will prevent them from applying to be a host for the 2026 Conference.

Olivier BIANCHI suggested that Cuneo send its formal application to H el ene LUCCHESI within 15 days so it can be sent to the cities before an online vote is organised to appoint the host city for 2024 only.

Decision of the General Meeting:

Motion adopted unanimously

4- Election of the Executive Committee

Reminder of the composition of the current Executive Committee:

- **Co-chair: Clermont-Ferrand**
- **Co-chair: Quer taro until the selection of the next host city**
- **Co-chair Treasurer: Bridgewater**
- **Co-chair in charge of cooperation: Vitoria-Gasteiz**
- **Co-chair Treasurer: Bridgewater**

By conferring co-chair status on the next host city, the latter will become co-chair in charge of project management.

It is proposed that Vitoria-Gasteiz, by transferring co-chair status to Quer taro, becomes co-chair in charge of communication thanks to the assistance it provided for the production of the promotional video and newsletter.

David MITCHELL gave notification by email to the General Secretariat of his wish to remain Co-chair Treasurer.

Decision of the General Meeting:

Motion adopted unanimously

Reminder of the member cities of the Executive Committee:

- Anderson
- Aranda de Duero
- Valladolid
- Bad-Kreuznach

The cities were invited to speak to confirm their wish to retain their position within the Executive Committee.

The cities of Anderson, Aranda de Duero and Valladolid confirmed their agreement.

The city of Bad-Kreuznach wanted to wait until after the elections.

Breea CLARK wanted the city of Norman to become part of the Executive Committee, but would need to wait until after the elections for this.

Olivier BIANCHI brought the General Meeting to a close by thanking Luis NAVA and Tania PALACIOS for their commitment, perseverance and the quality of the event they organised, which added new impetus to the Network of Michelin Cities.

Raquel GONZALEZ pointed out that **Aranda de Duero was selected as "European City of Wine" in 2022.**

The General Meeting ended at 11:00 (Querétaro time).

Surname: BIANCHI

Surname: NAVA GUERRERO

Forename: Olivier

Forename: Luis Bernardo

Position: Co-Chair

Position: Co-Chair

Date and signature:

Date and signature:

