

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF MICHELIN CITIES (INMC)  
9 DECEMBER 2020  
VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Agenda:

- 1- Update and activities
- 2- Financial report
- 3- Visions/ Proposals for the 2021-2025 strategic plan and action for 2021
- 4- Organisation of the 3rd INMC Conference in Querétaro (MX)
- 5- AOB

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Due to the Covid crisis, the General Assembly was held virtually, at 6 pm (Paris time), to enable as many cities as possible to participate.

57 people (including 7 mayors) from 20 cities attended the meeting.

The Mayor of Cuneo (IT), Federico Borgna, granted proxy powers to Olivier BIANCHI, Mayor of Clermont-Ferrand and co-President of the INMC.

**1-** The meeting was opened by Olivier BIANCHI, co-President of the INMC, who was delighted to welcome the large number of attendees, evidence of the links which have already been established between the cities and of the importance of this meeting, albeit virtual. He addressed the Mayor of Querétaro, reiterating his hope and determination to travel to Querétaro to meet all the cities in the Network in person.

**2-** Jérôme AUSLENDER, Deputy Mayor of Clermont-Ferrand with responsibility for International Relations, spoke of how, despite the Covid crisis, stakeholders in the regions and local authorities have continued to work together, and reminded attendees that one of the objectives of this General Assembly is to set strategic directions for the next few years.

**3-** Before describing what has been done, Jean-François COLLIN, Director of International Relations for the city of Clermont-Ferrand, recapped the Network's objectives:

- To develop and share innovative public policies.
- To share expertise, skills and experience in the interest of sustainable development in the member cities.

## **AGENDA**

### **1- Update and activity report:**

Mr COLLIN reported on the 2nd Conference in Vitoria-Gasteiz in 2019, including the formal establishment of the INMC, the incorporation of the city of Maebashi (JP) as a new member that year, and the organisation of a meeting of the German INMC cities in Bad Kreuznach. Overview of the various projects carried out, cancelled and/or postponed.

### **2- Treasurer's report:**

David Mitchell, INMC treasurer and Mayor of Bridgewater (CA), was invited to speak. Mr Mitchell reported on membership fees and reminded the cities of the importance of paying these fees to ensure that the network can continue to develop and carry out its activities.

In view of the precarious economic climate created by the Covid crisis, it was decided not to ask for fees for 2020. A request for payment for 2021 will be sent out after the General Assembly. If they wish, those cities which have already paid their fees for 2020 will not be required to pay them for 2021.

Mr Mitchell then outlined the cost and financing of the 2nd Conference in Vitoria-Gasteiz. The costs shared equally by the cities of Vitoria-Gasteiz and Clermont-Ferrand have been paid, leaving a sum of 41,792 euros to be paid by the INMC.

Mr Mitchell proposed that this sum be paid to Vitoria-Gasteiz and reported that the INMC's account balance following this payment would stand at: 2,164.02 euros.

### **Decision of the General Assembly on the activity and financial reports:**

The proposals and motions were unanimously adopted.

### **3- The INMC's visions:**

**Proposals for the 2021-2025 strategic plan and action for 2021**

### **5 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and cultural exchanges**

It was proposed that the INMC's actions be structured around the United Nations' SDGs which are designed to address the global challenges which face all communities, particularly those goals which relate to poverty, inequality, combatting climate change, prosperity, peace and justice. At the request of a number of cities, this reference to the SDGs is now included in the INMC's articles of association.

A questionnaire was sent out to the cities in the INMC to ascertain which SDGs they felt should be prioritised. Judging by the replies received, the areas in which the cities wish to collaborate are:

- **Health and prevention (SDG 3)**
  - Communicable diseases: Medical research to help eradicate COVID-19
  - Health security (prevention, information, awareness-raising)
  
- **Quality education (SDG 4)**
  - Education in sustainable development
    - Skills and access to employment (student placements and vocational training)
  
- **Sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11)**
  - Regional development (measures to support local economic activity)
  - Consumption and production models based on proximity (circular economy)
  - Local democracy
  
- **Action to combat climate change (SDG 13)**
  - Resilience and adaptation
  - Education and ability to act
  - Mobility and sustainable lifestyles
  
- **Partnerships for the goals (SDG 17)**
  - Sharing of knowledge, experience and resources
  - Mobilisation of all (public and private) stakeholders and local residents
  
- **Culture as an antidote to secondary effects**
  - Heritage preservation (culture and tourism)
  - Culture as a platform for sustainable development

### Development of exchanges and placements for young people

It was proposed that exchange opportunities for young people should be increased between now and 2025, and that a trainee network should therefore be developed among INMC cities to enable both university students and those on vocational training courses to become effective ambassadors for the cities in the Network.

David Mitchell suggested creating a list on the website of universities in INMC cities which would be interested in organising exchanges between them; Breea Clark, the Mayor of Norman (USA), added that it is often very difficult to match up "study credits" between universities and proposed that consideration also be given to a second type of youth exchange with a cultural focus and the possibility of living with a host family.

Terence Roberts, the Mayor of Anderson (USA), welcomed this proposal, stressing that the role of local authorities also includes facilitating exchanges between institutions.

David Mitchell also supported this idea because cities such as Bridgewater, which do not have a university, can then also benefit from overseas trips for their young people.

Raquel Gonzalez, the Mayor of Aranda de Duero (ES), mentioned that her city and its twin towns have been organising trainee exchanges between local authorities for a number of years. The young people work for a month during the summer and are paid by the local authorities. They live with the family of the young person who, at the same time, is a guest in the partner city.

Raquel Gonzalez offered to share her experience in a working group.

**Decision of the General Assembly:** The creation of a working group on this topic was approved. Each city will need to select someone to participate in the workshop. The associations can also act as intermediaries.

#### **Production of a Newsletter**

Maidier Etxebarria, Deputy Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz, suggested that a newsletter be produced and sent to cities on a regular basis to keep them informed about the INMC's ongoing activities.

**Decision of the General Assembly:** proposal approved unanimously

#### **4- Organisation of the 3rd Conference in Querétaro (MX)**

Luis Nava, Mayor of Querétaro, was invited to speak.

Mr Nava explained how happy he is to see that the cities in the INMC all share the same philosophy of working for the good of their residents and stressed that now, more than ever before, it is vital that local authorities interact with one another because they represent the concerns, interests and prospects of millions of people. The pandemic is once again illustrating how cities can mobilise collective action, which is why a network like the INMC is so important.

Mr Nava reiterated his enthusiasm and delight in being able to welcome all the cities in the Network to Querétaro in September 2021.

Olivier Bianchi confirmed that he will be attending the Querétaro conference and called on the cities in the Network to make the same commitment. Mr Bianchi hoped that the cities would formally confirm their participation and attendance to enable the Mayor of Querétaro to organise the working teams.

A virtual conference will be held in February to allow the organisers to start planning the content of the Querétaro conference.

Jean-François Collin set out the 3 themes for the conference:

- New economic thinking for sustainable development- "The Doughnut Theory"
- Urban resilience
- The post-Covid age

On this subject, David Mitchell confirmed that he had invited Kate Raworth, the creator of the Doughnut Theory, to speak at the February conference and also in person in Querétaro. He is waiting for a response from her.

**Decision of the General Assembly:** The two formats for the next meetings (virtual in February and in person in Querétaro in September) were adopted unanimously.

7- **AOB:**

### **Applications to host the next conference**

Cities interested in hosting the 4th and 5th Conferences in 2023 and 2025 respectively can send their applications to the INMC administrative office. An online vote will then be held and the final decision announced at the 3rd Conference in Querétaro.

### **New INMC member cities**

Two cities have expressed a desire to join the INMC:

- Greer – South Carolina (USA) – 27,000 inhabitants, located in Greenville County (USA) and introduced by Terence Roberts.
- Magog- Quebec (CA) – 26,000 inhabitants, 120 km from Montreal and location of the head office of CAMSO, which was acquired by Michelin in 2019.

Olivier Bianchi was pleased to have received new membership applications, evidence of a keen interest in the Network which consequently opens up new opportunities for it.

Mr Bianchi proposed that membership fees be calculated according to population, as is the case for all the other cities in the INMC.

Terence Roberts confirmed Greer's interest. The Mayor, Rick Danner, is a friend of his and they have discussed the INMC together. He also supported the idea of using the same basis for calculating the membership fee as for all the other cities in the INMC.

**Decision of the General Assembly:** Proposal of the schedule for new host city applications and the memberships of Greer and Magog adopted unanimously.

An official letter co-signed by the two INMC co-Presidents will be sent to the new cities to confirm their membership.

The General Assembly ended at 7.30 pm (Paris time).

Surname: BIANCHI

Surname: NAVA GUERRERO

Name: Olivier

Name: Luis Bernardo

Position: Co-President

Position: Co-President

Date and signature:

Date and signature:

