

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF MICHELIN CITIES (INMC)**13 SEPTEMBER 2023****4 P.M. – PARIS TIME****VIDEOCONFERENCE****CO-CHAIR**

- OLIVIER BIANCHI - CLERMONT-FERRAND
- TERENCE ROBERTS – ANDERSON (SC-USA)

VICE-CHAIR

- DAVID MITCHEL – BRIDGEWATER (CANADA) – TREASURER
- LUIS NAVA GUERRERO – SANTIAGO DE QUERÉTARO (MX) – COOPERATION MONITORING
- GORKA URTARAN – VITORIA-GASTEIZ (SP) – COMMUNICATION (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- ANTONIO LINAJE – ARANDA DE DUERO (SP) (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
- OSCAR PUENTE – VALLADOLID (SP) (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

AS THE ELECTION OF GOVERNANCE MEMBERS TAKES PLACE EVERY TWO YEARS DURING THE MEETINGS HELD IN THE HOST CITY, SOME MEMBER CITIES MAY HAVE HELD ELECTIONS IN THE MEANTIME AND MAY HAVE CHANGED MAYOR. THEY ARE THEREFORE INDICATED AS 'SUBJECT TO CHANGE' UNTIL THE NEXT MEETINGS.

Agenda:

- 1- Activity report and follow-up of on-going projects
- 2- Financial update - payment of membership fees
- 3- Presentation of the provisional programme for the 4th INMC Meetings in Anderson
- 4- Opening of bids to host the 5th INMC Meetings
- 5- Application by the city of Kremenchuk (Ukraine) to join the INMC
- 6- Any other business

TRANSLATION INTO 8 LANGUAGES**INTERPRETERS: FRENCH, ENGLISH, GERMAN, SPANISH, ITALIAN, PORTUGUESE, UKRAINIAN, JAPANESE**

The General Assembly was held online at 4 p.m. on **13 September 2023** to enable as many cities as possible to connect, given the various time zones.

The meeting was attended by **48 people, including 9 mayors representing 18 cities in 10 countries:**

In person:

- Clermont-Ferrand (France) – Mayor
- Anderson (SC-USA) – Directorate responsible for organising the 4th Meetings

By remote access:

- Anderson (SC-USA)- Mayor
- Regensburg (Germany)
- Karlsruhe (Germany)
- Homburg (Germany)

- Bad-Kreuznach (Germany) – Mayor
- Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain)
- Valladolid (Spain)
- Aranda de Duero (Spain) – Mayor
- Cuneo (Italy)
- Braga (Portugal)
- Kremenchuk (Ukraine) – Mayor
- Maebashi (Japan)
- Guarulhos (Brazil)
- Bridgewater (Canada) – Mayor
- Magog (Canada)- Mayor
- County of Kings (Canada) – Mayor
- Greer (SC-USA)- Mayor

Proxy votes:

The Mayor of Guarulhos, Gustavo Henric COSTA, appointed Mr. Alan BEZERRA as proxy

The Mayor of Regensburg (Germany), Gertrud MALTZ-SCHWARZFISCHER appointed Georg BARFUSS as proxy

The Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain), Maider ETXEBARRIA, appointed Ms Maria NANCLARES as proxy

The Mayor of Karlsruhe (Germany), Frank MENTRUP, appointed Ms Anke KARMANN-WOESSNER as proxy

AGENDA

Mr Olivier BIANCHI, Co-Chairman of the INMC, opened the meeting by greeting the participants and in particular the many mayors present at this meeting (9) as well as the newly elected mayors of Vitoria-Gasteiz, Aranda de Duero and Bad-Kreuznach.

Mr Olivier BIANCHI presented the main points of the agenda, introducing the presence of Ms. Beth Batson, who is responsible for organising the Anderson Meetings, and the Mayor of Kremenchuk in Ukraine, whose membership of the INMC would be a true symbol of solidarity and fraternity.

After showing the INMC teaser video, **Mr. Olivier Bianchi** gave the floor to **Mr Jérôme Auslender**, Deputy Mayor in charge of International Relations and the INMC.

Mr Jérôme Auslender explained that from the very first day of Russia's aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, Clermont-Ferrand had been determined to support Ukraine and to commit the city to a twinning process. After numerous meetings by videoconference, the twinning agreement with Kremenchuk is due to be signed on 5 October at the Clermont-Ferrand City Council meeting, in the presence of the Mayor of Kremenchuk.

The twinning agreements provide for academic, economic and media exchanges, as well as visits by young people, which already started last summer when a group of young Ukrainians attended the summer camp organised by Clermont-Ferrand.

Jérôme Auslender emphasised the strong commitment between the two cities, pointing out that at the last General Assembly in Querétaro on 17 March 2022, all the INMC cities unanimously signed a pledge of solidarity with Ukraine.

The Mayor of Kremenchuk, **Mr Vitaliy MALETSKIY** took the floor

1- Presentation of Kremenchuk and application for RIVM membership

Mr Vitaliy MALETSKIY expressed his gratitude and the honour of being invited to take part in this meeting and conveyed his deep gratitude to the cities which, since the start of the war a year and a half ago, have given huge support to Ukraine and welcomed hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian refugees.

Mr Vitaliy MALETSKIY presented the city of Kremenchuk, which is located in central Ukraine on the banks of a large river, the Dnieper. The city has 220,000 inhabitants and over 20,000 refugees from the south and east of Ukraine who will return home after the victory.

The city is preparing for the winter and would like to thank the French government and all the European countries for their support in terms of generators and alternative power, which will enable them to face the winter with greater peace of mind. Thanks also to Denmark, whose loan enabled the purchase of alternative and mobile boiler systems.

Mr Vitaliy MALETSKIY is delighted to be part of this network because his region has the raw materials necessary to manufacture Michelin tyres, a project which was already under consideration before the war. The region has extensive production capacity for cars, trains and household appliances, which will be resumed on a large scale as soon as victory is achieved. Kremenchuk is also known as the capital of sugar, as it exports sugar to more than 50 countries.

The city is also home to a Danone factory, which played a very important role during the Russian occupation of Kharkiv and Kiev. When there were no trains, Danone was able to deliver food to the population by road.

Kremenchuk has a national university, a literary academy and a pedagogical school. It has numerous cultural sites and schools, and is keen to develop green energy and improve its ecological situation. Mr MALETSKIY invited the cities to come and visit Kremenchuk after the victory to get to know Ukraine as it really is, because despite the war, Ukrainians still consider themselves as Europeans.

Mr Olivier Bianchi thanked him for his comprehensive presentation and highlighted the concerns shared by all the cities, such as sustainable development and railway systems, which could be the focus of a future pooling of expertise. **Mr Olivier Bianchi** mentioned that Clermont-Ferrand is working with ACC, the company that is refurbishing the Orient Express trains. This is clearly a subject of shared interest.

Decisions taken by the General Assembly:

Membership for the city of Kremenchuk was unanimously approved.

2- Activity report – follow-up of on-going projects

Ms Hélène LUCCHESI, International Projects Manager at the City of Clermont-Ferrand and in charge of the INMC Secretariat, took the floor.

As the activity report had been sent out in advance of the General Assembly, **Ms Hélène LUCCHESI** only touched on some of the main points:

- The summer camp in 2022 organised by Clermont-Ferrand, which brought together young people from 6 INMC cities. The project was ambitious and complex, but the result was very positive and far beyond expectations.

- The numerous visits by delegations to Clermont-Ferrand demonstrated the appetite and need for cities to get together and exchange ideas. Clermont-Ferrand also travelled to Norman and to Germany to meet the new mayors.
- For the first time, in February 2023, the cities on the Executive Committee took part in the official announcement of the Meetings in Anderson and in drawing up the programme, enabling them to participate in identifying the working themes and in initiating the working groups.
- 1st conference on the SDGs organised in and by Regensburg. Several INMC cities took part and began working together with a view to the Anderson meetings.
- Organisation of the first INMC start-up competition to be launched in Anderson.
- Incubator corridor initiated during the visit by Magog to Clermont-Ferrand.

Mr Olivier Bianchi gave the floor to the cities to comment on the activity report. No comments.

Decisions taken by the General Assembly:

The activity report was unanimously approved.

3- Financial update – Payment of membership fees

The floor was given to **Mr David Mitchell**, Mayor of Bridgewater (Canada) and Treasurer of the INMC. **Mr David Mitchell** reported that 18 cities had paid their fees, one more than in 2022. There had been very few activities apart from the main payment of EUR 14,277.85 to Querétaro to finance the 3rd Meetings. The balance sheet is therefore very positive, with a current balance of EUR 122,162.70.

Mr David Mitchell pointed out that some cities are still members and have not yet paid their fees, a major problem that he proposed to address face-to-face when the cities meet in Anderson.

Mr David Mitchell welcomed the city of Kremenchuk and proposed exempting the city from paying membership fees until the end of the war.

In view of the ongoing joint projects, Anderson's significant fundraising efforts and the positive financial balance sheet, **Mr David Mitchell** proposed investing INMC funds in certain projects such as the summer camp, the start-up competition and the incubator corridor.

Mr Olivier Bianchi thanked **Mr David Mitchell** for his presentation and supported the idea of not charging Kremenchuk, suggesting that this proposal be put to the vote at this General Assembly.

Mr Olivier Bianchi fully agreed that the financial problems should be discussed at a major face-to-face debate in Anderson. Clermont-Ferrand had obtained aid from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to launch the INMC. It is therefore important that this issue be revisited.

Mr Olivier Bianchi gave the floor to the cities to express their views before the vote on these 3 points:

- to waive the membership fee for Kremenchuk until the end of the war
- a proposal for the INMC to contribute financially to joint projects
- to organise a major financial debate at the General Assembly in Anderson

No comments.

Decisions taken by the General Assembly:

The three above points were unanimously approved.

Mr Terence Roberts, Mayor of Anderson and Co-Chairman of the INMC, took the floor.

Mr Terence Roberts is looking forward to welcoming all the cities in the Network, as Anderson has been working hard for 2 years to prepare for these meetings. During these 3 days, Anderson would like to showcase American hospitality, and in particular the hospitality of the American South.

Mr Terence Roberts gave the floor to **Ms Beth Baston** to present the broad outlines of the programme.

Video presentation of the programme for the 4th Meetings in Anderson.

Ms Beth Baston thanked all the teams who had worked hard to put these meetings together and reminded the attendees that 4 nights accommodation would be provided on site, and highlighted the main themes that will be addressed.

Mr Olivier Bianchi confirmed that he and the city of Clermont-Ferrand would be attending Anderson and invited all the other cities to do likewise. For those who have never been to the Meetings, he reminded them that this is a special time for international and fraternal human relations, where people get to know each other and teams learn to work together.

Mr Olivier Bianchi informed the meeting of the opening of bids for the next host city in 2026. Cities must send in their bids before the meeting in Anderson so that a vote can be organised if there are several bids.

Mr Olivier Bianchi gave the floor to the cities and reminded them of the possibility of holding meetings with other cities in the same country, and of working together at a local level. The cities in Germany already do this and will be meeting for the second time in two weeks' time in Regensburg.

Ms Nathalie Pelletier, Mayor of Magog, took the floor, pointing out that it was difficult to take part in this debate with all the different languages and interpreters. She thanked everyone for their presentations and confirmed that both she and a delegation from Magog would be present in Anderson.

Mr Olivier Bianchi agreed with **Ms Nathalie Pelletier** on the issue of language and online communication, underlining the importance of the face-to-face Meetings, which take place in a warmer and more productive environment.

Ms Hélène LUCCHESI informed the meeting of the creation of a new Network website and asked the cities to send in information and articles for sharing.

The General Assembly closed at 5 p.m. (Paris time).

Surname: **BIANCHI**

First name: **Olivier**

Position: Co-Chairman



Surname: **ROBERTS**

First name: **Terence**

Position: Co-Chairman

