

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF MICHELIN CITIES (INMC) GENERAL MEETING**APRIL 18, 2024****9:00 AM LOCAL TIME****IN PERSON AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE****CO-PRESIDENTS**

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

VICE-PRESIDENT

- DAVID MITCHEL – BRIDGEWATER (CANADA) – TREASURER
- LUIS NAVA GUERRERO – SANTIAGO DE QUERÉTARO (MX) – COOPERATION MONITORING
- MAIDER ETXEBARRIA – VITORIA-GASTEIZ (ES) – COMMUNICATION (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- ANTONIO LINAJE – ARANDA DE DUERO (ES) (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL)
- OSCAR PUENTE – VALLADOLID (ES) (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL)

GOVERNANCE MEMBERS ARE ELECTED EVERY TWO YEARS AT MEETINGS IN THE HOST CITY. HOWEVER, SOME GOVERNANCE MEMBER CITIES MAY HAVE ELECTIONS IN THE MEANTIME AND MAY CHANGE MAYORS. THEREFORE, THEY ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT CONFERENCE.

Agenda:

- 1 – Activity report and project monitoring
- 2 – Financial report – Update on membership payments
- 3 – Proposed budget for 2025
- 4 – Selection criteria for membership applications from new cities
- 5 – Host city of the fifth INMC Conference in 2026 – Presentation of Cuneo's candidacy
- 6 – Election of the Executive Committee
- 7 – Other questions
- 8 – Ukraine presentation by Vitalii Maletskyi, Mayor of Kremenchuk, and the city of Odesa

TRANSLATION INTO SEVEN LANGUAGES

INTERPRETERS: ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH, ITALIAN, PORTUGUESE AND UKRAINIAN

The General Meeting was held in Anderson, SC, and online on **April 18, 2024, at 9:00 AM** local time.

Twenty-two cities, nine of which were represented in person by their mayors, attended the General Meeting:

In person:

- Clermont-Ferrand (France) – Mayor
- Anderson (SC, USA) – Mayor
- Bridgewater (NS, Canada) – Mayor
- Magog (QC, Canada) – Mayor

- Kings County (NS, Canada) – Mayor
- Greer (SC, USA) – Mayor
- Bad-Kreuznach (Germany) – Mayor
- Aranda de Duero (Spain) – Mayor
- Kremenchuk (Ukraine) – Mayor
- Norman (OK, USA)
- Regensburg (Germany)
- Karlsruhe (Germany)
- Valladolid (Spain)
- Cuneo (Italy)
- Braga (Portugal)
- Guarulhos (Brazil)
- Pictou (NS, Canada)
- Salford (England)

Virtually:

- Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain)
- Homburg (Germany)
- Odesa (Ukraine)
- Yokohama (Japan)

Proxies:

- The Mayor of Guarulhos (Brazil), Gustavo Henric Costa, is represented by Adam Akihiro Kubo, Deputy Health Officer.
- The Mayor of Regensburg (Germany), Gertrud Maltz-Schwarzfischer, is represented by Toni Lautenschlager, Councilor for Economic Development.
- The Mayor of Karlsruhe (Germany), Frank Mentrup, is represented by Anke Karmann-Woessner, Director of Urban Planning.
- The Mayor of Cuneo (Italy), Patrizia Massanero, is represented by Luca Serale, Deputy Mayor.
- The Mayor of Valladolid (Spain), Jesús Carnero, is represented by Alejandro Garcia, Councilor for the Environment.

AGENDA

Terence ROBERTS, INMC Co-President and Mayor of Anderson, opened the meeting by thanking the many cities that came to Anderson and the teams that prepared this fourth Conference.

Olivier BIANCHI, INMC Co-President, greeted the attendees, and especially the many mayors (nine) present at this General Meeting. He presented the proxies for the elections to be held during the General Meeting.

Olivier BIANCHI presented the general agenda and stated that a specific time would be given to the Ukrainian cities of Kremenchuk and Odesa at the end of the General Meeting to inform attendees of the worrisome situation in Ukraine. He reminded attendees of the wishes signed by the cities in favor of Ukraine at the third Conference in Querétaro.

1 – Activity report and project monitoring

The floor was given to **Hélène LUCCHESI**, International Projects Manager at the City of Clermont-Ferrand, and responsible for the INMC Secretariat.

Hélène LUCCHESI reminded attendees that the activity report covers the period from September 13, 2023 (date of the last General Meeting) to today. She presented the significant events:

➤ **Second meeting of German cities in Regensburg**

This meeting followed up on the initiative of the city of Bad-Kreuznach in 2019 to bring together the German cities of the INMC. The cities are affected by the same government regulations, so the meeting offers them an opportunity to discuss their challenges and identify the best initiatives to address global issues. The floor was given to **Toni LAUTENSCHLÄGER, Councilor for Economic Development of the City of Regensburg**, to provide feedback on the experiences shared by the four cities present on the topic “Strategies for sustainable economic development”.

➤ **Participation in the Global Parliament of Mayors in Skopje (North Macedonia)** at the invitation of Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga and President of the Global Parliament of Mayors. **Hélène Lucchesi** reminded attendees of the importance of strengthening ties between networks of cities that work on the same themes and share the same values.

➤ **Meeting with Vladan Vasic, Mayor of Pirot**, Serbian city of the INMC, and the establishment of a summer youth camp with Clermont. After Regensburg, Clermont and Pirot, the objective is to develop summer camps at INMC cities to encourage sharing between young people of different cultures, as in 2019 with the participation of six INMC cities.

➤ **Meeting of four INMC cities (Braga, Anderson, Magog and Clermont)** in Ostrava (Czech Republic) during the Start-up Summit, which allowed the establishment of the Start-up contest and the “Incubator Corridor” project, a collaborative partnership of seven INMC cities.

➤ **Artist residencies in Clermont, Regensburg and Anderson, and the INMC stand at the Carnet de Voyages festival in Clermont.**

Olivier BIANCHI took the floor to recognize the organization of the meetings within a single country, which were very fruitful and strengthened the INMC’s identity, recalling that the Network is what everyone makes of it.

Olivier BIANCHI appealed to the cities’ mayors to develop partnerships like summer camps and artist residencies between INMC cities and recalled that the more residences, ideas and multilateral collaborations there are, the livelier and denser the network will be.

Terence ROBERTS confirmed the importance of developing creative partnerships.

David MITCHELL and **Peter MUTTART** thanked Clermont-Ferrand for creating this network and for giving cities within a country the opportunity to meet and work together without having to wait for the next Conference.

Antonio LINAJE also thanked Clermont-Ferrand for creating this network and agreed with Olivier Bianchi that the aim should be to develop and promote creativity and innovation in our public society. Antonio Linare fully approved of the artist residency project, which he wishes to develop in Aranda.

Decisions of the General Meeting:

The activity report was adopted unanimously.

2 – Financial report – Update on membership dues

The floor was given to the INMC Treasurer **David MITCHELL**, who presented an update on the 2023 situation with the participation of 23 cities, 20 of which had paid their membership dues. The balance is €126,217.70, which allows INMC to finance projects for the first time since its creation.

David MITCHELL presented the expenses, which are simply bank fees and Start-up contest prizes (US\$5,000 and a trophy) and addressed a few topics.

1) Membership payments are not made by all cities at the same time and therefore require that a payment window be established, since some cities pay at the end of the year, skipping payment for the current year. **David MITCHELL** excluded from this situation cities under economic pressure (e.g., in Ukraine) and recalled that the Conferences have a cost and are financed by Clermont, the host city and the Network, since membership dues cover the cost of registration, hotels and other expenses for the member cities.

So, what should be done about cities that attend the conferences but do not pay their dues?

Olivier BIANCHI agreed with **David MITCHELL**, stating that it is now important and necessary to establish financial rules for defaulting cities, in the name of justice and equality in the treatment of all members. Some cities say they are going through an economic crisis, but this is not injustice. Injustice exists when members do not follow the rules of the group but benefit from the advantages of the group.

Jérôme AUSLENDER agreed that a strict framework should be established for membership dues and proposed that the few cities in arrears be permitted to remain members of the network but be required to pay all their expenses to attend events like Conferences.

Jérôme AUSLENDER reminded attendees that the network is no longer in a consolidation phase but in a deployment phase. The ever-sensitive issue of international relations requires a return on investment and the concrete projects financed by the INMC are an excellent proposal. The organization of summer camps between several INMC cities, among other things, is of great value and must be developed as it is this year in Pirot, where young Clermont residents will have an opportunity to discover the Balkan region.

Nathalie PELLETIER agreed fully and asked that the criteria used to determine the amount of membership dues be read.

Olivier BIANCHI summarized the various discussions, proposing that a letter signed by the President and the Treasurer be sent, stipulating that cities that are not active and/or are in arrears, will be required to pay all expenses.

The floor was given to **Antonio LINAJE**, who suggested establishing a payment schedule, since each city is required to have its budget approved before it is able to pay.

Peter MUTTART agreed that the procedure must be documented, and encouraged cities not to wait until the last moment to pay.

The floor was given to **Breea CLARK**, who added that it is important to document the criteria for exemption from membership payment (emergency cases) to avoid abuse. It is essential to establish the new measures so that actors such as universities, for example, can learn about the functioning of the Network.

The floor was given to **Emmanuel LETZ**, who stated that it is important to establish the decisions in the bylaws. Some points are not clear, so it is better to document them for all members.

Olivier BIANCHI also considered it necessary to adopt financial rules and to incorporate them in the bylaws to preserve the memory of the INMC, which aims to evolve based on the elections but also at the administrative level. He summarized the discussions as follows:

1 – Non-members are required to pay for activities

2 – Differentiate between active members having paid and active members not having paid: the latter will be required to pay for their participation in activities

3 – Collection process with deadlines based on each city's budget year: a letter will be sent to each member asking for information on its operating methods

David MITCHELL suggested that dues be paid by June 30, otherwise cities would have to pay for conferences, meetings and other expenses.

Breea CLARK reminded attendees that Norman's budget is voted in July, so it would be unable to pay the membership dues before August. **Breea CLARK** also suggested offering the possibility of a city sharing its membership with its university, for example.

Olivier BIANCHI then suggested setting the payment deadline to six months after a city votes on its budget.

David MITCHELL suggested asking each city to provide the date of their budget vote so that each of them can be sent their corresponding payment deadline.

Antonio LINAJE stated that there is significant political fragmentation in Spain that often requires extensions. Therefore, a deadline must be established after budget approval and/or extension.

Statement from the city of **Vitoria-Gasteiz** by message: Vitoria confirms Antonio Linaje's statement.

David MITCHELL summarized the discussion, reminding attendees that the payment date is not important. What is important is that all members know that when they pay at the end of the year, they are paying for the previous year.

Anke KARMAN-WOESSNER thought that the number of attendees per city should be limited for the Conferences, since that has a direct impact on the cost. She considered this a question of fairness and a suggestion.

Anke KARMAN-WOESSNER explained that in Germany, a budget can be adopted for several years, as is the case for INMC membership dues, which was set for four years. She suggested this be done by other cities.

Peter MUTTART agreed with the discussion and suggested that a clear policy proposal be sent to all members and that each should have two or three months to amend it before approval and electronic signature.

Olivier BIANCHI concluded by stressing the importance of this point for the viability of the Network's finances. He stated that a letter would be sent that, once amended, would allow the Network's financial rules to be added to the bylaws.

Decisions of the Conference:

The financial report was adopted unanimously.

3 – Proposed budget for 2025

The floor was given to **David MITCHELL**, who proposed the following budget for 2025:

- Incubator Corridor: €10,000 (€2,500/host city), financial support to assist invited start-ups in four INMC cities
- Summer youth stays: €10,000 to finance the activities organized by the host city
- Social cohesion program: €10,000 to finance childcare
- Artist residency: €10,000 (€2,500/grant) for residencies in four cities
- Financial support for the organization of thematic expert meetings: €10,000

Decisions of the General Meeting:

The 2025 budget was adopted unanimously.

4 – Selection criteria for membership applications from new cities

The floor was given to **Hélène LUCCHESI**, who explained that several cities had joined together to participate in the activities and be part of the Network. Therefore, clear membership criteria should be defined as follows:

- new cities share the same values as those of the Network for sustainable urban development
- new cities already have strong ties (twinning, partnership) with an INMC city
- new cities show a strong interest in the Network and want to be actively involved in it

The floor was given to **Jérôme AUSLENDER**, who reminded attendees that the INMC had been created with the participation of cities having Michelin plants in their area, but also of cities twinned with Clermont-Ferrand. He proposed that the cities of the Network invite their twin cities and/or partners to join the INMC.

Olivier BIANCHI reminded attendees that Michelin was merely a pretext for developing multilateral international relations, and that the network will benefit if other cities wish to associate their partner cities.

Hélène LUCCHESI recalled that this was the case for the City of Greer (SC), which asked to join the INMC thanks to its close relations with Anderson (SC).

Breea CLARK suggested drafting an official standard letter, such as a membership protocol, that member cities could send to their partner cities.

Olivier BIANCHI agreed and proposed that new membership applications be voted on at the Conferences.

Decisions of the General Meeting:

The membership criteria and the preparation of a standard letter of membership were adopted unanimously.

5 – Host city of the fifth INMC Conference in 2026 – Presentation of Cuneo's candidacy

Olivier BIANCHI gave the floor to **Luca SERALE**, Deputy Mayor of the City of Cuneo, the only city to have submitted its candidacy for 2026.

Luca SERALE is proud to be a member of the Network since the beginning. He thanked Terence Roberts for his hospitality and briefly introduced his city of 58,000 inhabitants, which was founded in 1198 and is located in Piedmont, 30 km from France. It is a young city and the green capital of Piedmont, with one of the largest urban parks in Italy. Its city center is almost entirely pedestrian, so Cuneo works a great deal on developing soft mobility, with the “Bike to Work” program, among others.

Breea CLARK asked that a student/youth element be included in the program of future Conferences.

Lucas SERALE confirmed this proposal because the rector of the University of Turin was present in Clermont for the first Conference and knows the INMC well.

It was decided that the “Bike to work” project, which is of great interest to the cities, will be the subject of a specific workshop.

Olivier BIANCHI proposed submitting the candidacy directly to a vote to avoid wasting time and money with an online vote since there is only one candidacy. Since elections will be held in Clermont in March 2026, the Conference will have to be held in autumn 2026.

Decisions of the General Meeting:

The city of Cuneo is unanimously adopted “Host City 2026” (fall).

6 – Election of the Executive Committee

Hélène LUCCHESI reviewed the composition of the Executive Committee and its members.

The co-presidency is transmitted to the next host city, so the current host city normally takes over the vice-presidency in charge of project monitoring.

It was also proposed that since it transmitted the vice-presidency to Querétaro during the third Conference, Vitoria-Gasteiz should take on the vice-presidency in charge of communication for the assistance it provided in creating the promotional video clip and the Newsletter.

David MITCHELL confirms his desire to remain as Treasurer.

So, Vitoria must be asked if its city wishes to retain the vice-presidency in charge of communication.

The cities of Valladolid, Aranda de Duero and Norman confirmed that they wish to remain members of the Executive Committee.

Hélène Lucchesi pointed out that the Executive Committee is very important. For this fourth Conference, and for the first time, the Committee cities were invited to Anderson a year ahead of time to work on creating the program, work topics and workshops. So, other cities can join the Committee, which according to the bylaws, can be composed of one-third of member cities.

João RODRIGUES, Deputy Mayor of the City of Braga, asked for the floor. Braga has never been a member of the Executive Committee but has always participated actively in several sectors (cultural, start-up). Given the involvement of the current Committee and the organization of this Conference, **João RODRIGUES** asked that the city of Braga be permitted to join the Committee.

As Treasurer, **David MITCHELL** reminded attendees that the cities of the Executive Committee must have paid all their membership dues.

Therefore, the Administrative Committee is composed as follows:

- **Co-president: Clermont-Ferrand:**
- **Co-president: Cuneo until selection of the next host city**
- **Vice-president and Treasurer: Bridgewater**
- **Vice-President and Cooperation Monitoring : Anderson**
- **Vice-President and Communication: Vitoria-Gasteiz (to be confirmed)**
- **Executive committee: Valladolid, Aranda de Duero, Norman and Braga**

Any other cities wishing to join the Executive Committee can submit their request by email.

Decision of the General Meeting:

Proposal adopted unanimously

7 – Other questions

Olivier BIANCHI proposed moving directly on to the presentation of the situation in Ukraine to ensure interpreters are available.

8 – Specific presentation Ukraine by Vitalii MALETSKIY, Mayor of Kremenchuk, and the city of Odesa

The floor was given to the Mayor of Kremenchuk, **Vitaliy MALETSKIY**, who thanked **Terence ROBERTS** for his hospitality and for the opportunity to address many cities.

Vitaliy MALETSKIY expressed deep gratitude to the United States and to the Americans for their significant support over the past two years, as well as to Clermont-Ferrand and to Kremenchuk's other twin cities.

The supply of drinking water and schooling continue to be very problematic, as is the energy supply despite significant assistance from France in this area.

Vitaliy MALETSKIY presented a video of Kremenchuk's past and present and thanked the cities for their support.

The floor was given to **Ivan LIPTUGA** of the city of Odesa, who thanked his twin city Regensburg, but also Clermont and Anderson, for providing this opportunity to present his city and the situation in Ukraine which is similar to that of Kremenchuk. This is another reality than that lived right now here in Anderson. Odesa is being bombed daily, and its UNESCO heritage is in danger. **Ivan LIPTUGA** thanked Odesa's 30 partner cities and presented a video on the current situation in Ukraine.

Olivier BIANCHI reiterated INMC's support for Ukraine and proposed ending the General Meeting after the emotional presentation that made it difficult to resume discussions. Any further questions can be sent and dealt with by email or at an extraordinary general meeting.

Breea CLARK proposed taking a photo with all attendees in front of the Ukraine flag.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM local time.

Last name: BIANCHI
First name: Olivier
Position: Co-President

Date and signature: **02 AOUT 2024**



Last name: ROBERTS
First name: Terence
Position: Co-President

Date and signature: **02 AOUT 2024**



