



## General Assembly of City Delegates

11-04-2025, 13:30 – 15:15 CEST

Venue: Stazione Roma Tiburtina – Casa delle Tecnologie Emergenti, Rome

### Minutes

Participants	
Willem van Heijningen	Representing City of Amsterdam
Adrià Gomila	Representing City of Barcelona
Veronica Sanchez	Representing City of Barcelona
Brendan O’Brien	Representing City of Dublin
Mikael Ivari	Representing City of Gothenburg
Jenny Olsson	Representing City of Gothenburg
Tina Wagner	Representing City of Hamburg
Pedro Fernandez	Representing City of Madrid
Orest Oleskiv	Representing City of Lviv
Oleh Zabarylo	Representing City of Lviv
Michèle-Angélique Nicol	Representing City of Paris
Anna Donati	Representing City of Rome
Chiara di Majo	Representing City of Rome
Gregor Stratil-Sauer	Representing City of Vienna
Simone Rangosch	Representing City of Zurich
Burkhard Horn	IMPACTS Secretary
Sarah White	Assistant of IMPACTS Secretary

#### **1) Welcome by President and Secretary**

Burkhard Horn welcomed everyone to the General Assembly. Enough cities are represented to make formal decisions. Due to other obligations, no representatives from the City of Berlin could take part apologizing for their absence.

#### **2) Approval of Draft Agenda**

The agenda was adopted without amendments. However, it was unanimously decided to change the order of the agenda items in the way it is documented with these minutes.

#### **3) Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the last regular GA on June 16th, 2023 were approved.

## 10) The future of IMPACTS (open discussion)

Burkhard Horn shortly introduced to this topic referring to the discussion in Madrid a year before and the development since then (no success in getting new member cities, difficulty to have significant attendance of Deputy Mayors (or similar), nevertheless interesting conferences valuable for the participants, stable finances).

Willem van Heijningen opened the discussion by describing additional chances and risks of keeping IMPACTS the way it is now (advantages: “like a family”, openness of conversation, risks: no relevance for politicians, withdrawal by Burkhard Horn from his job as IMPACTS secretary within the next years). He suggests to think about a collaboration with POLIS which is getting more political and has started to set up a working group for capital cities. POLIS could be a facilitator by providing the necessary organizational resources and giving the frame for IMPACTS conferences in the usual way attached to other POLIS events. This could also lead to better exchange and more interest of other cities in IMPACTS.

From the following intense discussion, these points can be stated as a summary:

- Everybody emphasized the benefit of IMPACTS for his/her own work. The network has its own value compared to other city networks even if the political level is not represented at the conferences. The conferences are an excellent format as they offer more strategic analysis than other network conferences, giving the possibility to learn. For several members, they are more valuable than conferences organized by other networks. Actually, there already has been an additional substantial improvement in the outcomes of the IMPACTS conferences in the last years.
- However, everyone also agreed that it would enhance the benefit if more Deputy Mayors (or other participants from the political level) would join the conferences. The point of view from the politicians is very important for the discussions – and of course the direct and trustful exchange between the Deputy Mayors has its own value. This door should be kept open.
- Regarding a possible collaboration with POLIS, there were some reservations. POLIS is very different from IMPACTS. In its current formats, it doesn't allow open discussions in the way IMPACTS does. The cost/benefit relation of IMPACTS is estimated to be much better. Finally, some IMPACTS member cities are neither members of POLIS nor capitals which could make a collaboration difficult.

Therefore, for the broad majority of the participants there is no reason to put the future of IMPACTS in question. Still, everyone agrees to the final proposal of the secretary that Willem van Heijningen, Burkhard Horn and Karen Vancluysen could meet over the summer and discuss the options for different kinds of collaboration.

## 9) Future activities in 2025/26

### a. Tomorrow Mobility World Congress in Barcelona 2025

See agenda item No. 4

### b. Annual Conference 2026

The City of Lviv has offered to host the next annual IMPACTS conference in 2026. They are sure they can organize an interesting conference which is safe for the participants including the transport options. However, currently in some countries there are regulations that wouldn't allow the IMPACTS members to travel to Ukraine. Referring to various visits in Lviv from other cities during the war Oleh Zabarylo and Orest Oleskiv are confident that solutions can be found. Every member is asked to check possible travel restrictions for her/his city and report this to the secretary.

A possible date for the conference could be in June 2026, more details will be decided until the end of the year involving the IMPACTS EMB. A possible umbrella topic for the conference could be resilience, including aspects like climate change, accessibility, conditions for disabled people or overtourism (and of course unexpected developments like in Ukraine).

In case that until the end of this year the uncertainties for having the conference in 2026 in Lviv are too big Gothenburg would be able to offer a backup solution.

**c. Other activities**

Regarding the IMPACTS conference in 2027, Hamburg and Berlin have made a joint offer to host the conference. Details would have to be clarified in time.

**6) Election of a new president**

According to the discussions about the annual conference in 2026 and the procedural rules for IMPACTS Oleh Zabarylo from the City of Lviv is unanimously elected as new IMPACTS President.

**7) Election of executive committee**

The following representatives were (re-)elected unanimously to the IMPACTS executive committee (also called executive management board):

- Oleh Zabarylo from Lviv (as new IMPACTS president)
- Rupert Wimmer from Zurich (as IMPACTS Treasurer)
- Willem van Heijningen from Amsterdam, Adrià Gomila from Barcelona, Brendan O'Brien from Dublin, Mikael Ivori from Gothenburg and Michele-Angélique Nicol from Paris (also acting as Secretary general)

**4) Activities since last GA**

**a. Tomorrow Mobility World Congress in Barcelona, November 2024**

In November 2024, IMPACTS for a third time co-hosted a side event to the Tomorrow Mobility World Congress (TMWC) in Barcelona, in cooperation with the City of Barcelona and FIRA Barcelona. This time, it was split up in two parts: it started with a panel discussion at the TMWC Agora open for everyone interested on the topic "Challenges for European cities on mobility - what kind of SMART we need?" The second part was a workshop on invitation only dealing with the use of public space with a special focus on intelligent access in cities and curb space management.

Although the number of participants from cities is still rather low Adrià Gomila and other participants considered the event as quite successful. Therefore, it was decided that also this year such an event should be organized, provided FIRA guarantees the same terms as in the past (taking care of the main organizational aspects and covering the costs of the speakers for travel and accommodation by FIRA, IMPACTS can set the theme and the main messages of the event). There will be a meeting between FIRA and the City of Barcelona shortly, Adrià Gomila will inform about the results.

**5) Financial Issues**

**a. Report of the General Situation (bank account, budget)**

As IMPACTS treasurer Rupert Wimmer couldn't take part in the General Assembly on short notice due to urgent personal matters IMPACTS secretary Burkhard Horn gave a short report on the current financial situation of IMPACTS. The situation continues to be stable with a balance of about 60,000 EUR at the end of 2024.

**b. Approval of the account 2024, approval of the budget 2025**

Both the account for 2024 and the budget plan for 2025 (based on a membership fee of 3,000 EUR per city) are approved unanimously. The cities of Amsterdam and Barcelona still have to pay the memberships fee for 2023, Dublin for 2024.

**c. Membership Fee**

It was decided unanimously that the membership fee for 2026 will also be EUR 3,000.

**d. Other issues**

Rupert Wimmer has asked to be replaced as treasurer in 2026. Burkhard Horn asked every participant about the possibility to step in and to tell him about possible applications until the end of the year.

**8) Report of the secretary**

**a. Yearly Conference in Rome**

Burkhard Horn thanked the organizers and hosts from Rome (especially Chiara di Majo) and Sarah White (supporting the secretariat). He shortly summarized his impressions from the conference. Again, it has been a very interesting and fruitful conference, including the inspiring site visits and the perfect side events. Similar to earlier conferences, time for discussion could have been more in some sessions. The “pecha kucha” format of the third session worked once again quite well as did the breakout groups in session 2. Still, more interactive formats could be helpful. This first summary was supported by other participants.

**b. Membership News**

Tallinn’s membership is still suspended. However, the city has paid the membership fee for 2024.

**c. Expanding the network in Europe**

There is still the wish to extend IMPACTS up to 15 or 16 member cities. However, there have been no successful contacts to possibly interested cities since the last GA. Invitations to Brussels, Copenhagen, Helsinki, Chisinau and Ljubljana were sent out for the Rome conference, but not successful. It was agreed that the IMPACTS members should look for direct contacts and check possible serious interest in IMPACTS before an official contact is established.

**11) Any Other Business**

During the conference in Rome, there were not only taken pictures but also videos. Burkhard Horn thanked the organizers for this service. As the IMPACTS conferences take place in a non-public setting the videos should not be published generally. However, as soon they are ready it will be checked if a publication in the members area of the IMPACTS website might make sense.

Burkhard Horn thanked all participants of the GA for the discussion and closed the meeting.

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Oleh Zabarylo, IMPACTS President