Towards an attractive and sustainable metropolis in the Dutch delta

Development scenario 2040 for Amsterdam Metropolitan Area in an uniquely open and forthright process

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North Wing of the Randstad
Administrative Challenges

• New Dutch spatial planning Act (July 2008): new approach and role of tiers of government (national-provincial-municipal):
  – Structural vision: only binding the body that institutes it
  – Implementation affects citizens and other tiers of government
  – Legal instruments can be used and are binding to other parties
Administrative Challenges

- Decisive regional collaboration between 27 municipalities, 1 regional body and 2 provinces is an absolute necessity if the city region is to remain competitive.
Open and forthright process to discover:
• the metropolitan strengths, potentials, qualities and opportunities,
• but also the shortcomings and stumbling blocks this region might face as it develops into a strong European metropolis.
From children who illustrated their dreams for the future....
....to foreign essayists who shared their considered visions:
a great many interested parties and experts were consulted over the year.
Key Question: Building the Metropolis

*How can the polycentric Amsterdam region be transformed into a fully fledged metropolitan area that is internationally competitive?*
Unique identity >> unique competitiveness:

- History of city and water-landscapes
- Relative compactness (‘small world city’)
- Functional diversity
- Creative environment
- Spatial configuration
Delta subsoil
Northsea

IJsselmeer

Coast (protected area)

Haarlem

Amsterdam

Airport Schiphol

National protected landscape

National protected landscape

Range of Hills

Leiden

Markermeer

Almere
Amsterdam Metropolitan Area

Key Statistics (2007)

Dimensions 40 x 60 km
Surface area 1,815 km², of which almost 25% is water
Population 2.2 million, of whom 33% are of foreign origin
Population density 1,568 inhabitants/km²
Dwellings 987,000 units, with an owner-occupied to rental ratio of 43:57
Jobs 1.0 million, of which 85% are in the tertiary sector
Business ventures 58,000
Gross National Product a 47,000 per capita (2005)
Value added a 5.1 billion (2005)
AMS Airport Schiphol 46 million passengers; 1.5 million tonnes of cargo
Port of Amsterdam 84.4 million tonnes in cargo throughput
AMS Internet Exchange AMS-IX, the world’s busiest internet exchange
Aalsmeer flower auction a 1.7 billion in turnover
Four challenges >> Four actions

- Sufficient and attractive living and working environments >> no urban sprawl but clustering and bundling investments and urban transformation
- Congestion >> Regional public transport system
- Air quality and nature >> Metropolitan landscapes
- Climate change >> extra protection and watermanagement
Challenge: Urban development

>> No urban sprawl but clustering and bundling investments
Action 1: Urban transformation
Challenge: Congestion

>> Regional transport system for the metropolis
Action 2: Metropolitan accessibility, including region-wide public transport
Challenge: Air quality and nature

>> Metropolitan landscapes
Action 3: Green-blue features: the metropolitan landscape
Challenge: Climate change

>> extra protection and water management
Amsterdam Metropolitan Area

The Dutch coast: Lose and gain 800-1850 AD

Risk of flooding
Present level of protection

Delta works
Potential damage of Area’s sensitive for flooding

Amsterdam Metropolitan Area

Flooding 1953

Searise 2100/2200

Potential damage of Area’s sensitive for flooding
Special national advisory board (Deltacommissie) made public their advise early September for the Dutch government

Possible solutions:

- Suppletion of sand along the coastline and make higher dams and dikes (ten times higher protection in the coming 100-200 years)
- Special emergency flooding areas along the rivers, to make controlled inundation possible
- Compartmentalize the land to minimize damage in case of dike burst
- Extra protection for high value economic areas
- Better water retention in urban and rural areas (permeable hardening, partially floodable public space etc.)
- Development of housing, business etc. adapted to water.
- No developments in high risk areas
- Largest lake in the country (IJsselmeer) as a clean water reservoir
- Making the water systems self-supporting

Estimated investments 1.2 – 1.6 billion Euros every year up to 2050
Action 4: Sustainability: Climate change and water
“Metropolis in the Dutch delta”