



Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CONSORTIUM OF SCIENTIFIC PARTNERS

Third meeting
Brussels, Belgium, 21 October 2008

Information Note for Participants

QUICK LINKS (Control + click on page number to directly access text in document)




Visa Information (pages 3, 5).



Meeting Documents (page 2)



Hotel Information (page 3)



Weather Information (page 4)



Currency Information (page 4)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

| | |
|---|----------|
| 1. OPENING AND REGISTRATION..... | 2 |
| 2. VENUE | 2 |
| 4. DOCUMENTS | 2 |
| 5. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO BRUSSELS | 2 |
| (a) Taxi | 2 |
| (b) Train | 2 |
| 6. VISA INFORMATION | 3 |
| ANNEX A | 5 |
| 7. HOTEL INFORMATION | 3 |
| 9. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION | 4 |

1. Opening and registration

The third meeting of the Steering Committee of the Consortium of Scientific Partners will be held in Brussels, Belgium on Tuesday, 21 October 2008.

The meeting will start at 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 21 October 2008.

2. Venue

The meeting will be held at:

The Royal Institute of Natural Sciences

Vautierstraat 29
1000 Brussels
Belgium

For directions to the meeting venue and other information about Brussels, please click on the link below.

<http://www.naturalsciences.be/information/visitor/access/plan>

3. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English only.

4. Documents

Participants are kindly reminded to **bring their own copies of the documents** for the meeting as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the meeting. Pre-session documents are available on the Secretariat's web site at:



<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=CSPBSC-03>

5. General information on access to Brussels



Brussels is serviced by the Brussels Airport. More information about the airport and services are available at: <http://www.brusselsairport.be/en/>.

Transportation information from the airport to central Brussels is as follows:

(a) Taxi

Taxis are available in front of the arrivals hall. The fare from the airport to the city centre of Brussels is normally around € 35. Licensed taxis can be recognized by the blue and yellow emblem.

(b) Train

The airport train station is located below the terminal (basement level-1). Up to four trains per hour connect the airport to Brussels North, Brussels Central and Brussels Midi stations.

Information on the schedules of all Belgian and international train services can be found on the Belgian Railways web site. Enter BRUXELLES NAT AIRPORT as departure station or destination. The Belgian Railway web site is as follows: <http://www.b-rail.be/main/E/>

6. Visa information

Participants from countries listed in **annex A** below require an entry visa for Belgium (Schengen visa) and are strongly advised to contact the nearest Belgian diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure.

Information on visa procedures, including a list of relevant Belgian diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available on the website of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation: <http://www.diplomatie.be/en/travel/visa/default.asp>.

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat will issue upon request invitation letters to be attached to the visa applications.

7. Hotel information

Below is an indicative list of hotels located in the vicinity of the meeting venue. The list shows rates in Euro and prices are subject to change.

Participants are kindly reminded that **they have to make their own hotel reservations as soon as possible**.

| HOTELS | Approximate room rates | Remarks |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 1. Hotel Chambord 82, rue de Namur 1000 Brussels Tel: +32-2-548-99-10 Fax : +32-2-514-08-47 Web-site: www.hotel-chambord.be | Single small: 105 € Single standard: 139 € Double standard: 159 € Single Business Club: 159 € Double Business Club: 179 € Single Penthouse & terrace : 190 € Double Penthouse & terrace : 225 € | Price includes tax |
| 2. Sofitel Brussels Europe Place Jourdan 1 1040 Brussels Tel: +32 2 235 51-00 Fax: +32-2-235-51-01 E-mail: H5282@accor.com Web site: http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-5282-softel-brussels-europe/index.shtml | Classic room QSB: 155 € Superior room QSB: 175 € Luxury room QSB: 190 € Luxury 2 single beds: 190 € | |
| 3. Sofitel Brussels Le Louise 40 Avenue de la Toison d'Or 1050 Brussels Tel : +32-2-514-22-00 Fax : +32-2-514-57-44 E-mail: H1071@accor.com Web site: http://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1071-softel-brussels-le-louise/index.shtml | Superior room KSB: 190 € Superior 2 single beds: 190 € Luxury room KSB: 180 € | |

8. Official languages in Belgium

There are three official languages in Belgium: Dutch, French and German.

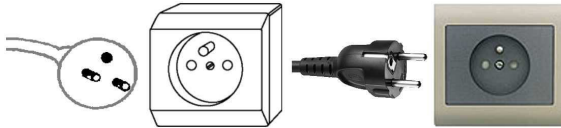
9. Weather and time zone information



In October, temperatures in Brussels usually range between a maximum of +15°C in the daytime and a minimum of 7°C at night. The standard time zone will be GMT + 2 hours.
<http://www.worldweather.org/053/c00191.htm>

10. Electricity

230 volts, 50 Hertz.



11. Currency



The currency in Belgium is the Euro (€). The current exchange rate is US \$1 = €0.69 and €1 = US \$1.44.

12. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.

Annex A

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHOSE CITIZENS REQUIRE VISAS IN ORDER TO ENTER BELGIUM (AS LISTED ON THE WEBSITE OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION)

Citizens of the following countries and territories require a visa to **visit** Belgium:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A | E (cont'd) | M (cont'd) | S (Cont'd) |
| Afghanistan | Eritrea | Malawi | Somalia |
| Albania | Ethiopia | Maldives | South Africa |
| Algeria | | Mali | Sri Lanka |
| Angola | F | Marshall Islands | Sudan |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Fiji | Mauritania | Suriname |
| Armenia | | Mauritius | Syrian Arab Republic |
| Azerbaijan | G | Micronesia, Fed. States of | |
| | Gabon | Moldova | T |
| B | Gambia | Mongolia | Tajikistan |
| Bahamas | Georgia | Montenegro | Tanzania, United Republic of |
| Bahrain | Ghana | Morocco | of |
| Bangladesh | Grenada | Mozambique | Thailand |
| Barbados | Guinea | Myanmar | The former Yugoslav |
| Belarus | Guinea-Bissau | | Republic of Macedonia |
| Belize | Guyana | N | Togo |
| Benin | | Namibia | Tonga |
| Bermuda | H | Nauru | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Bhutan | Haiti | Nepal | Tunisia |
| Bolivia | | Niger | Turkey |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | I | Nigeria | Turkmenistan |
| Botswana | India | | Tuvalu |
| Burkina Faso | Indonesia | O | |
| Burundi | Iran, Islamic Republic of | Oman | U |
| | Iraq | | Uganda |
| C | Israel | P | Ukraine |
| Cambodia | Ivory Coast | Pakistan | United Arab Emirates |
| Cameroon | | Palau | Uruguay |
| Central African Republic | J | Palestinian Authority | Uzbekistan |
| Chad | Jamaica | Papua New Guinea | |
| China | Jordan | Peru | V |
| Colombia | | Philippines | Vanuatu |
| Comoros | K | | Venezuela |
| Congo, Democratic Republic of the | Kazakhstan | Q | Viet Nam |
| Congo, Republic of the | Kenya | Qatar | |
| Costa Rica | Kiribati | | Y |
| Croatia | Korea, Democratic | R | Yemen |
| Cuba | People's Republic of | Romania | |
| Cyprus | Kuwait | Russian Federation | Z |
| | Kyrgyzstan | Rwanda | Zambia |
| D | | | Zimbabwe |
| Djibouti | L | S | |
| Dominica | Lao, People's Democratic Republic of | Saint Kitts and Nevis | |
| Dominican Republic | Lebanon | Saint Lucia | |
| | Lesotho | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | |
| E | Liberia | Sao Tomé e Príncipe | |
| East Timor | Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | Saudi Arabia | |
| Ecuador | | Senegal | |
| Egypt | M | Seychelles | |
| Equatorial Guinea | Macao | Sierra Leone | |
| | Madagascar | Soloman Islands | |

