



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group
on Biodiversity and Climate Change
21 – 25 January 2002
Helsinki , Finland

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change will be held in Helsinki, Finland, from 21 to 25 January 2002.

Venue:

The meeting will be held at

The Finnish Environment Institute
Kesäkatu 6
00260 Helsinki
Tel: + 358-9-403 000
<http://www.vyh.fi/eng/contacts/fei/fei.htm>

Opening and registration

The registration will start at 09:00 a.m. on Monday 21 January 2002. The meeting will open at 9:30 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m. on Friday 25 January 2002.

Services to delegates

The Finnish Environment Institute is located 2,5 km from the hotel. There are public transportation between the hotel and the meeting venue. Further information will be provided by the organizer on arrival. Delegates may have lunch in the cafeteria of the Environment Institute (approximate price for lunch is 5 Euros. approx. 1 Euro = 100 cents). Delegates will have an access to e-mail and internet services free of charge.

Accommodation in Helsinki

All participants are advised to take accommodation at the Hotel Marski. The hotel has offered a discounted rate 110 euros (about 100 USD) B&B. **Each participant must make his/her own reservation directly with the hotel by 7 January 2002.** On late arrival (after 6 o'clock p.m.) the reservation must be secured with a credit card. In order to benefit from the reduction in price all participants must advise the hotel at the time of booking that they will be attending **the CBD Meeting (Ministry of the Environment).**

Scandic Hotel Marski
Mannerheimintie 10
Tel: +358-9-68 061
Fax: +358-9-683 811
e-mail: marski@scandic-hotels.com

Access to Helsinki :

Helsinki is serviced by Vantaa International airport (19 km North of Helsinki City centre). The city centre can be reached by Finnair City Bus to the City Terminal (at the railway station in the City Center) every 20 minutes or by taxi, journey time 20 minutes. The hotel is located at the shopping centre of Helsinki and is 5 minutes from the Finnair City Terminal.

Fares

Bus: Airport/city centre 4,90 euros (one way)

Taxis: Airport/city centre 21,00 euros approx

Time Zone:

Helsinki is UTC (GMT) + 2 hours.

Climate:

The average temperature for January is 0- -10 degrees Centigrade.

Voltage :

220 volts, 50 Hertz.

Visas/Customs:

Early contact with the consular authorities of the Government of Finland is strongly advised to allow sufficient time for a visa to be issued as appropriate before departure for Helsinki. Information on visa procedure including a list of relevant Finnish missions are available on the website of the Ministry for foreign affairs <http://www.formin.finland.fi>.

Please find attached (Annex 1) a list of countries whose citizens require a visa to visit Finland.

Language:

The official languages in Finland are Finnish and Swedish. However, English is widely spoken in hotels, shops and restaurants.

Currency:

Finland's standard currency unit, the markka, will be replaced on the 1 January 2002 by the Euro (1 Euro = 100 cents). The exchange rate against the US dollar stands at approximately 1,10 Euros for one US dollar.

Credit cards

Major credit cards are accepted in most shops and restaurants in the city.

Further information

Other useful information can also be found on: <http://www.hel.fi>.

Annex 1
List of countries whose citizens require visas to visit Finland

Afghanistan	Albania	Algeria
Angola	Antigua and Barbuda	Armenia
Azerbaijan	Bahamas	Bahrain
Bangladesh	Barbados	Belarus
Belize	Benin	Bhutan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Botswana	Burkina Faso
Burundi	Cambodia	Cameroon
Cape Verde	Central African Republic	Chad
China	Colombia	Comoros
Congo	Congo Democratic Republic	Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Djibouti
Dominica	Dominican Republic	Egypt
Equatorial Guinea	Eritrea	Ethiopia
Federated States of Micronesia	Fiji	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Gabon	Gambia	Georgia
Grenada	Guinea	Guinea Bissau
Guyana	Haiti	Hong Kong
India	Indonesia	Iraq
Islamic Republic of Iran	Jamaica	Jordan
Kazakhstan	Kenya	Kiribati
Kuwait	Kyrgyzstan	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lebanon	Lesotho	Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Macao	Madagascar
Malawi	Maldives	Mali
Marshall Islands	Mauritania	Mauritius
Mongolia	Morocco	Mozambique
Myanmar	Namibia	Nauru
Nepal	Niger	Nigeria
Northern Mariana Islands	Oman	Pakistan
Palau	Papua New Guinea	Philippines
Qatar	Republic of Moldova	Romania
Russian Federation	Rwanda	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Samoa
Sao Tome and Principe	Saudi Arabia	Senegal
Seychelles	Sierra Leone	Solomon Islands
Somalia	South Africa	Sri Lanka
Sudan	Suriname	Swaziland
Syrian Arab Republic	Tajikistan	Thailand
Togo	Tonga	Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia	Turkey	Turkmenistan
Tuvalu	Uganda	Ukraine
United Arab Emirates	United Republic of Tanzania	Uzbekistan
Vanuatu	Western Samoa	Viet Nam
Yemen	Yougoslavia	Zambia
		Zimbabwe