

**CONVENTION ON
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Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group
on Biodiversity and Climate Change
13-16 May 2003
Helsinki, Finland

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

The third meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change will be held in Helsinki, Finland, from 13-16 May 2003.

Venue

The meeting will be held at

The Finnish Environment Institute
Kesäkatu 6
00250 Helsinki
Tel: + 358-9-403 000
<http://www.vyh.fi/eng/contacts/fei/fei.htm>

Opening and registration

The Workshop will be opened at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 13 May and will be closed at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 16 May 2003. Registration will take place at the venue of the workshop at 9:00 a.m. the same day

Working language of the workshop

The Workshop will be held in English only.

Services to participants

Access to E-mail and Internet services will be provided free of charge. Participants in the Workshop may have lunch in the cafeteria of the Environment Institute. More information will be made available by the host country upon arrival.

Accommodation in Helsinki

Participants are kindly reminded that they are responsible for making their own hotel bookings. A list of a few hotels located in the vicinity of the workshop venue with indicative prices is attached as annex I.

It is to be noted that Hotel Marski is offering special rates to all participants attending the workshop. To benefit from these special room rates, please indicate when making your booking that you will be attending a **CBD Meeting, reservation code: YMP 130503** (Ministry of the Environment).

Access to Helsinki

Helsinki is serviced by Vantaa International airport (19 km North of Helsinki City centre). To reach the city centre, participants may use Finnair City Bus to the City Terminal (at the railway station in the City Center) departures every 20 minutes or by taxi. The journey takes about 20 minutes. The Marski 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 May is 15° C.

Voltage

220 volts, 50 Hertz.

Visas/Customs

Participants from countries listed in annex II hereto are strongly advised to approach the nearest Finnish Consulate or Diplomatic mission in order to secure an entry visa to Finland prior to departure.

Information on visa procedure including a list of relevant Finnish diplomatic missions are available on the website of the Ministry for foreign affairs: <http://www.formin.fi>

Language

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

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 I

List of hotels with indicative prices. (Participants are responsible for making their own bookings).

1. Scandic Hotel Marski

Mannerheimintie 10

Telephone: +358-9-680 61

Fax: +358-9-683 8111

Rates: 126 euro/person inclusive of breakfast. **Reservation no later than 29.4.2003**

e-mail: marski@scandic-hotels.com

Distance from the venue: 2.5 Km

Public service transportation available between the hotel & the venue.

2. Hotel Klaus Kurki (**)**

Bulevardi 2

Telephone: + 358-9-433 40

Fax: + 358-9-20123 4646

Rates: 130 euro/person. **Reservation no later than 14.4.2003**

e-mail: sales.helsinki@sok.fi

Distance from the venue: about 2 Km.

3. Helka Hotel

Pohjoinen Rautatiekatu 23, Helsinki

Telephone :+358 9 613 580

Fax: +358 9 441 087

Rates: 109-116 Euro/person

Distance from the venue: about 10 minutes walk. Cost by taxi: approx 7-10 Euro

Public Transit: not easily accessible.

4. Best Western Hotel Haaga

Nuijamiestentie 10, Helsinki

Telephone: +358 9 580 7877

Fax: +358 9 5807 8386

Rates: 98 -109 Euro/person

Public Transit: Direct line to meeting venue. Cost by taxi: approx. 7-10 Euro

Distance from the venue: about 5 km.

5. Radisson SAS Seaside Hotel, Helsinki

Ruoholahdenranta 3, Helsinki

Telephone: +358 9 69 360

Fax: +358 9 693 2123

Rates: 124 -184 Euro

Distance: 15 minutes by taxi. Cost: approx 10-15 Euros

Public Transit: Tram #6 goes by the hotel and stops near the Institute.

Annex II

List of countries whose citizens require entry to visit Finland

A	M
Afghanistan	Mauritius
Albania	Micronesia (Federated States of)
Algeria	Mongolia
Angola	Morocco
Antigua and Barbuda	Mozambique
Armenia	Myanmar
Azerbaijan	N
B	Namibia
Bahamas	Nauru
Bahrain	Nepal
Bangladesh	Niger
Barbados	Nigeria
Belarus	Northern Mariana Islands
Belize	O
Benin	Oman
Bhutan	P
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Pakistan
Botswana	Palau
Burkina Faso	Papua New Guinea
Burundi	Philippines
C	Q
Cambodia	Qatar
Cameroon	R
Cape Verde	Republic of Moldova
Central African Republic	Rwanda
Chad	Romania
China	Russian Federation
Colombia	S
Comoros	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Congo	Saint Lucia
Congo Democratic Republic	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Côte d'Ivoire	Samoa
Cuba	Sao Tome and Principe
D	Saudi Arabia
Djibouti	Senegal
Dominica	Seychelles
Dominican Republic	Sierra Leone
E	Solomon Islands
Equatorial Guinea	Somalia
Egypt	South Africa
Eritrea	Sri Lanka
Ethiopia	Sudan
	Suriname
F	Swaziland
Fiji	Syrian Arab Republic

G	T
Gabon	Tajikistan
Gambia	Tanzania (United Republic of)
Georgia	Thailand
Grenada	Togo
Guinea Bissau	Tonga
Guyana	Trinidad and Tobago
H	Tunisia
Haiti	Turkmenistan
Hong Kong	Turkey
I	Tuvalu
India	U
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Ukraine
Indonesia	Uganda
Iraq	United Arab Emirates
J	Uzbekistan
Jamaica	V
Jordan	Vanuatu
K	Viet Nam
Korea (Democratic People's Republic of)	Y
Kazakhstan	Yemen
Kuwait	Yugoslavia
Kenya	Z
Kyrgyzstan	Zambia
Kiribati	Zimbabwe
L	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	
Lebanon	
Lesotho	
Liberia	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	
M	
Macao	
Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic of)	
Madagascar	
Maldives	
Mali	
Marshall Islands	
Mauritania	