



CBD



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Distr.
GENERAL

ENGLISH ONLY

INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS REGARDING THE RESUMED SESSION
OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY
TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Vienna, Austria
15 to 19 September 1999

Information for Participants

Informal consultations regarding the Resumed Session of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the Adoption of the Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held from Wednesday, 15 September to Sunday, 19 September 1999. The meetings shall be held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria.

Venue: Vienna International Centre (VIC)
A-1400 Vienna
Wagramer Strasse 5 (22nd district)
Tel.: (43-1) 211-31-3328/4193
Fax: (43-1) 263-3807

The informal consultations will be conducted in English. The first two days will be dedicated to consultations within the negotiating groups. Informal exchanges between the negotiating groups will be held on the third day. The last two days shall be devoted to resolving differences on pending core and related key issues.

Information on room allocations for the negotiating groups will be available at the meeting.

Access to the VIC

Participants coming to the VIC by taxi are advised to leave the vehicle in the side lane of the Wagramer Strasse, walk up the stairs or ramp to enter through gate "1" at the VIC and walk across the Plaza to the entrance of building D (this is more convenient than entering by any of the other gates).

Participants coming to the VIC by underground transport (U-bahn) should take line U-1 and alight at the "Kaisermühlen-Vienna International Centre" station. Leave the station at the front of the train following the signs to the VIC, enter through gate "1" and proceed as above. Tickets for the subway are available at ticket machines at every U-Bahn station and at the Morawa Newspaper stand in the rotunda of the VIC, as well as at the "Tabak-trafik", shops and kiosques. A variety of tickets are available in sets of 5 or 10, valid for one continuous journey anywhere within the Vienna City limits, at a cost of Austrian Shilling (ATS) 19.⁰⁰ per ticket. One journey tickets may also be purchased at the underground stations where they are available from machines at a cost of ATS 21.⁰⁰.

Participants coming on foot can take the ramp or stairs to gate "1" from the Wagramer Strasse, just south of the buildings.

Registration and Identification Badges

Registration will commence on Wednesday, 15 September 1999 at 8:00 a.m. Security regulations at the VIC require that all participants be registered. It is therefore crucial that all participants complete the attached pre-registration form and return it to the Secretariat within the specified time frame (**31 August 1999**). Based on the list of participants, badges will be ready at the registration desk in the main lobby (Rotunda). The security guard at gate "1" will have a copy of the most updated provisional list of participants and will direct participants to the registration counter to complete a registration form prior to picking up their badges.

For security reasons, the display of name badges is necessary for admittance to the VIC as well as to the Conference premises. Participants are reminded to bring and present their own personal identification (passport or other official document) when entering VIC grounds through gate "1" in order to gain access to the registration area.

Documents

The following documents, which have been previously distributed, namely, the Draft Report of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties for the Adoption of the Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/L.2/Rev.1) and the Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Open-Ended *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Biosafety (UNEP/CBD/EXCOP/1/2) will be used for these consultations. Delegates are kindly reminded to bring their copy of the documents as they will only be available in Vienna in limited quantities for reasons of economy.

Services to Delegates

A post office on the first floor of building C provides all regular postal services, including cable, fax

and telephone services, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Creditanstalt-Bankverein has a branch on the first floor of Building C and Bank Austria at the entrance level of Building D. Both banks provide full banking services. Working hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

American Express and Rosenbluth International are at the disposal of participants requiring assistance. The travel offices are located along the corridor along the Main Lobby in Building C with Building F. The office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Commercial coin-operated coffee machines shall be available near the meeting rooms.

Personal Electronic Equipment

All personal electronic equipment, e.g. cellular phones and lap tops, brought to the VIC must be shown and registered with security on your arrival at the entrance gate. Failure to comply with the above may result in the risk of not being able to take the equipment outside of the building.

Medical Services

Medical attention is available from the clinic operated by the Joint Medical Service located at the VIC, Building F, 7th Floor (ext. 2224, and for emergencies 2222) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Pharmacy products can be purchased commercially at the Pharmacy located adjacent to the Clinic (Room F-0715) which is open daily, Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Catering Services

A cafeteria, restaurant and delegates lounge are located in Building F, entrance level. The restaurant is open from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cafeteria is open from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The restaurant is open from 11:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Access to Vienna

The international airport in Vienna is Schwechat Airport.

Hotel Information

As September is a very high season month for Vienna, it is **highly recommended** to arrange for your hotel bookings as soon as possible. ~~Delegates are responsible to make their own hotel accommodation arrangements.~~ Please find enclosed a booklet containing a list of hotels and pensions in Vienna. This information is also accessible on the Vienna Tourist Board's website, at <http://info.wien.at/>. "Wien-Hotels", the Vienna Tourist Board's reservation service can also be reached by telephone, at (43-1) 211 14 444, fax,

at (43-1) 211 14 445, and e-mail, at rooms@info.wien.at. For your information, the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for Vienna is US\$ 173 for August 1999.

General Information

Austria is located at the cross-roads of Central Europe and has borders with the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland. In the west and south the terrain is mountainous (Alps) and along the eastern and northern margins mostly flat or gently sloping. The capital, Vienna, is a vibrant city set within the gilded glories of Austria's Imperial past; and boasts some of the most impressive architecture in Europe and an unrivalled musical tradition.

Time Zone

Austria is currently observing on Daylight Savings. Vienna is GMT + 0200 hours.

Weather

The range of temperatures for September, autumn in Austria, is 8°C to 15°C with a possibility of rain showers.

Electricity

220 Volts, 50 Hertz

Telecommunications

Direct dial telephone and fax services are available. Telephone credit cards of the following companies may be used through the appropriate operator: AT&T, MCI, Sprint, and Bell Canada. Public telephones operated by Post and Telekom Austria (PTA) are distributed around the VIC. PTA credit cards are available at the VIC Post Office.

Visas

Please find attached a list of Countries whose nationals require a visa for Austria (Annex I).

Official Language

The official language of the Republic of Austria is German, but English is understood in hotels and restaurants.

Currency

The official currency of the Republic of Austria is the Schilling (ATS). The ATS is pegged to the German Mark at a constant 7-to-1 ratio. The current exchange rate vis-à-vis the US dollar stands at approximately ATS 12.84 for one US dollar. Numerous automatic teller machines (ATM) are available.

Credit Cards

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

**INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE RESUMED EXCOP
REGARDING A BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL
VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 15 – 19 SEPTEMBER 1999**

Pre-Registration Form (Please print)

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. / Amb. / Dr. / Prof.

FAMILY NAME: _____

First name: _____

Representing:

GOVERNMENT : _____

Ministry/department/agency : _____

Official

Address : _____

Telephone : + (_____) _____

Fax : + (_____) _____

Telex : + (_____) _____

E-MAIL : _____

URL: _____

Signature : _____ Date: _____

Please return duly filled by 31 August 1999 to :

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
World Trade Center
393 Saint-Jacques St., Suite 300
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
H2Y 1N9
Fax : + 1 (514) 288-6588
E-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org
URL: <http://www.biodiv.org>

ANNEX 1

LIST OF COUNTRIES WHOSE NATIONALS REQUIRE A VISA

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