

**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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ENGLISH ONLY

REGIONAL BIO-BRIDGE INITIATIVE ROUND TABLE
FOR WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHERS GROUP
Brussels, Belgium, 21 September 2018

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

QUICK LINKS: (Control + click on icons for web page)

 Visa Information (page 3)
 Meeting Documents (page 2)
 Hotel Information (page 3)
 Weather Information (page 4)
 Currency Information (page 5)

INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

1. OPENING AND REGISTRATION	2
2. VENUE	2
4. DOCUMENTS	2
5. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO BRUSSELS, BELGIUM	2
6. VISA INFORMATION	3
7. HOTEL INFORMATION	3
8. PAYMENT OF THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE (DSA).....	4
9. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES	4
10. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION	4
12. CURRENCY	5
13. DISCLAIMER	5

1. Opening and registration

The Regional Bio-Bridge Initiative Round Table for Western Europe and Others Group will be held in Brussels, Belgium on Friday 21 September 2018 at 9 a.m.

Registration will take place at the meeting venue as of 8:30 a.m. on the same day.

2. Venue

The workshop will take place at the following:

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences

Meeting room: VIP Room

Vautier street 29

1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)2 627 42 11

Venue directions: <https://www.naturalsciences.be/en/museum/practical-information/2>

Meeting room info: <https://www.naturalsciences.be/en/professionals/events/room-to-rent/687>

3. Working language

The meeting will be held in English.

4. Documents

In order to minimize the environmental footprint of the workshop and in line with the UN policy towards greener meetings, participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the meeting documents, or to use paperless versions, as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the workshop. Documents are available on the following web page:



CBD

<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/TSC-WS-2018-02>

5. General information on access to Brussels, Belgium



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 € 45. Licensed taxis can be recognized by the blue and yellow emblem on vehicles.

(b) TRAIN

Brussels Airport-Zaventem train station is located on the basement level -1 of the terminal, at a small distance from the arrivals hall (2nd floor) and the departures hall (3rd floor). The train to the city centre takes about 17 minutes and costs about € 9 for one way (see below).

Information on the schedules of all Belgian and international train services can be found on the Belgian Railways web site at: <https://www.belgiantrain.be/en/news/launch-website>. Enter Brussels Airport – Zaventem as departure station or destination.

6. Visa information



Participants requiring 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. Please note that airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa.

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://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/embassies_and_consulates/belgian_embassies_and_consulates_abroad

Information on visa procedures can be found at the following direct link: https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/travel_to_belgium/visa_for_belgium

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

7. Hotel information

Participants are kindly reminded that **they must make their own hotel reservations, and that they should do so as soon as possible.**

There is a wide range of Hotels near the Institute as the Institute is located in the European Quarter in the city. Below please find a few hotels that Institute guests have recently used.

The following are a few hotels are near the venue:

HOTELS	Approximate room rates Subject to change (from web sites)	Remarks
1. Aqua Hotel Brussels Rue De Stassart, 43 B-1050 Brussels, Belgium Tel +32-2-213.01.01 Fax +32-2-213.01.02 E-mail: INFO@AQUA-HOTEL.BE Web-site: http://www.aqua-hotel.be/index.asp?taal=uk	Single : 105 € Double 125 €	Breakfast included Free WIFI Price includes tax
2. Argus Hotel 6 rue Capitaine Crespel B-1050 Brussels, Belgium Tel: +32 2 514 0770 E-mail: booking@argus-hotel.be Web site: https://www.argus-hotel-brussels.com/en/home	Single : 115 € Double 140 €	Breakfast included Free WIFI
3. Hotel Leopold Rue de Luxembourg 35 1050 Brussels, Belgium Tel : +32-2-511-18-28 Web site: https://reservations.cubilis.eu/hotel-leopold-bruxelles1	Single : 115 € Double 140 €	Breakfast included Free WIFI

Visitors to the Institute can check several web sites such as booking.com and Airbnb.com/s/Brussels.

Further information on hotels in Brussels is available at the following web site:

<https://visit.brussels/en> 

8. Payment of the daily subsistence allowance (DSA)

The DSA will be paid to eligible participants during the meeting.

9. Official languages

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

10. Weather and time zone information

In September, average temperatures in Brussels usually range between a maximum of +19°C in the daytime and a minimum of +10°C at night. Current weather conditions in the area can be found at: <http://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=191>.

The current time zone in Brussels is CEST Central European Summer Time and is equivalent to GMT/UTC +2 hours.

11. Electricity

The electrical currents are 230 volts, 60 hertz and the plugs used are shown below.



12. Currency

The currency in Belgium is the Euro (€). The current exchange rate as at 6 August is US \$1 = € 0.86 (rates are subject to change, source: www.xe.com).

13. 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, accident and travel insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.
