



Convention on Biological Diversity

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REGIONAL BIO-BRIDGE INITIATIVE ROUND TABLE
FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND THE
CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS
Minsk, Belarus, 26-28 February 2018

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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1. Opening

The Regional Bio-Bridge Initiative Round Table for Central and Eastern Europe and the Central Asian Republics will be held in Minsk, Belarus from Monday, 26 February to Wednesday, 28 February 2018.

The round table will start at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 26 February at the main building (the Presidium) of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, at 66 Nezavisimosty (Independence) Avenue, Minsk, BY-220072 (the underground station “Akademiya nauk). Registration will take place from 9:00 a.m. After the opening session participants will move to the main Conference Room in the Central Botanical Garden, at 2-v Surganov Street (an approximately 5-7 minutes’ walk), for the rest of the round table sessions.

2. Venue

The round table will be held at:

Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences

1 Akademicheskaya Street, Minsk BY-220072,

Republic of Belarus

Phone: +375 (17) 284-14-84

Fax: +375 (17) 284-14-83

E-mail: office@cbg.org.by

Website: <http://cbg.org.by>

3. Working language of the round table

The round table will be held in English with interpretation into Russian.

4. Documents



Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the pre-session documents for the round table as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the round table. Pre-session documents will be available on the Secretariat’s web site at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=TSCWS-2017-04>.

5. General information on access to Minsk, Belarus



Minsk is serviced by the Minsk National/International Airport (Minsk-2) which is approximately 42 km outside the city centre. Taxis are available at the airport at an approximate cost of US \$15-20 and the journey takes about 40-50 minutes. There are also buses 300Э and 173Э available to the city centre (Central bus station – <http://www.minsktrans.by/en/>) about every hour during the day and every 2 hours during the night, the cost is about BYR 3,79 – 4,00 and the journey takes approximately 50 minutes. There are also minibuses available (№1400-TK and №1430-TK), the cost is about BYR 30,00 – 55,00 and the journey to the Central Bus Station takes approximately 45 minutes. The bus timetables can be found at the following link: <http://airport.by/en/transport/regular-route-bus>. The Central Bus Station (CBS) located close to the center of the city. There are the underground stations and bus/trolleybus stations near CBS.

6. Visa information



Participants from 80 countries do need an entry visa if they travel only through the Minsk National Airport “Minsk 2”. Information on visa-free travel via the checkpoint “Minsk National Airport” can be found at: <http://mfa.gov.by/en/visa/visafreetravel/e0ced19bb1f9bf2c.html>

Participants of the countries does not listed at the website mentioned above require a visa for Belarus and are strongly advised to contact the nearest Belarusian diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure.

General information related to the visa-free travel is available at <http://mfa.gov.by/en/visa/visafreetravel/c4bbfb78b29bccdc.html> web-page. A list of relevant Belarusian diplomatic/consular missions abroad is available at: <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/belarus>.

Information on visa procedures for Belarus can be found on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at following link: <http://mfa.gov.by/en/visa/> (in English) and <http://www.mfa.gov.by/visa> (in Russian). A Visa application form for Belarus can be found at the following link: <http://mfa.gov.by/en/visa/info/visa-applications.html>.

The following documentation is required to complete the visa application.

1. Application form duly completed
2. One recent passport-sized photo affixed to the form
3. Original passport with 2 blank pages
4. Visa support documents (i.e. invitation)

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

7. Hotel information



Participants should make their own hotel reservations as soon as possible. A list of hotels near the round table venue is provided in the Annex A below.

8. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)

Funded participants will receive their DSA during the round table.

9. Official languages in Belarus

The official languages in Belarus are Belarusian and Russian. English is understood in some hotels and restaurants.

10. Weather and time zone information



In February, temperatures in Minsk, Belarus range between a maximum of -3°C in the daytime and a minimum of -10°C at night. Please bring warm clothing for cold winter weather. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/106/c00205.htm>.

The standard time zone in Belarus is GMT/ UTC +3 hours.

11. Electricity

The electrical currents in Belarus are 220 Volts, 50 Hertz, the plugs are as shown in the illustrations below.



12. Currency



The currency in Belarus is the New Belarusian Ruble (BYN). The current exchange rate as at 22 January is US \$1 = 1.988 BYN and € 1 = 2.436 BYN (rates are subject to change, source: www.xe.com).

International credit cards, including VISA, MasterCard, American Express, JCB and Diners club are widely accepted at major hotels, department stores, restaurants and retail outlets. Check with your credit card company for details of merchant acceptability and other services which may be available.

13. Disclaimer

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

Annex A – Hotel List

LIST OF HOTELS WITH INDICATIVE ROOM RATES (The rates are indicative and subject to change)

HOTELS	ROOM RATES (Rates on certain holidays / special events may not be available)	DISTANCE TO THE ROUND TABLE VENUE	REMARKS
1. Minsk Hotel Nezavisimosti Ave 11 Minsk, 220030, Belarus Reservations: Tel.: +375(17)209-90-62/75/78/80 Reservations: reservation@hotelmink.by http://www.hotelmink.by	A 1-bed 1-room rate is \$85. Breakfast \$15 (additional pay). Check the hotel website for more details.	Hotel is approximately 6.5 km from the meeting venue (15 min in total by subway and walk).	
2. Bonhotel 2 Pritytskogo St., Minsk, 220073, Belarus Tel.+375 (17) 389-7-388 + 375 (29) 104-33-77 Reservations: info@bonhotel.by http://bonhotel.by/en/mainen/bonhotel/	Standard single and double room rates vary from 59 Euro (without breakfast) to 69 Euro (with breakfast). Check other room rates at the hotel website.	Hotel is approximately 8 km from the meeting venue (30 min in total by trolleybus and subway).	
3. Yubileiny Hotel 19 Pobediteley Ave. Minsk, 220004 , Belarus Reservations: Tel.: +375 (17) 226-90-37 http://www.yhotel.by/en/contacts/	Room rates/per day are as follow (with breakfast): single - \$76, twin - \$98,91, Suite - \$144,25, LUX - \$164,86	Hotel is approximately 5.6 km from the meeting venue (13 min in total by trolleybus and subway).	
4. Sputnik Hotel 2 Brilevskaya street Minsk, 220039, Belarus Tel. +375 (17) 220 3619 Reservations: info@sputnik-hotel.com http://www.sputnik-hotel.com/	Standard single room rate start from \$32 (without breakfast) and \$43 (breakfast included). Check other room rates at the hotel website.	Hotel is approximately 11 km from the meeting venue (13 min in total by walk and subway).	
5. Hotel «IBB» 11 Gazety Pravda Ave., Minsk, Belarus Tel.: +375 17 270 3994 +375 17 270 7004 Reservations: hotel@ibb.by www.ibb.by	Standard single and double room rates start from 45 Euro. Check the rooms rates at the hotel website.	Hotel is approximately 11km from the meeting venue (20 min in total by walk and subway)	
6. Zvezda Hotel 47 Avenue gazeti "Zvyazda" Minsk, 220116, Belarus Tel/fax. +375 17 272 85 42 Reservations: hotelzvezda@tut.by http://hotelzvezda.com/contacts_eng.php	Standard single room is 75 Euro Check the hotel website for more details.	Hotel is approximately 13 km from the meeting venue (25 min in total by trolleybus and subway).	• Fitness center available for free • Free high-speed wired/wireless Internet in all rooms

7. Hotel Orbita 39 Pushkin Avenue Minsk , 220092 Belarus Reservations: Tel.: + 375 17 206 77 81/83 Reservations: info@orbita-hotel.com ; reservation@orbita-hotel.com Website: http://www.orbita-hotel.com/eng/hotel/ourcity/	Single room rates start from \$32. Check the hotel website for more details.	Hotel is approximately 9 km from the meeting venue (20 min in total by subway and walk).	
8. Victoria Hotel 59 Pobediteley Avenue Minsk, 220035, Belarus Reservations: Tel. +375 (17) 239 77 44, 204 88 44 Reservations: Website: http://eng.hotel-victoria.by/#contacts/	Single and double room rates start from \$56. The cost of the room includes: habitation, breakfast (buffet), VAT, taxes and dues.	Hotel is approximately 7 km from the meeting venue (36 min in total by trolleybus or bus and subway).	Website is in Russian only but the personnel is speaking in English.
9. Hotel “Akademicheskaya” 7 Surganova street, Minsk, 220072, Belarus Tel.+375-17-284-27-01 +375-17-284-27-01 Website: http://academhotel.by/	Single and double room rates vary from \$25 to \$30. Breakfast does not included but there is a cafe at the first floor.	Hotel is approximately 0.7 km from the meeting venue (10 min by walk).	Website is in Russian only but the personnel is speaking in English.

More hotels can be found at the websites: <http://hostelsminsk.by/ad-category/hotels/> and <http://booking.com>
