

Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

EXPERT WORKSHOP TO IDENTIFY OPTIONS FOR
MODIFYING THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY
OR BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE AREAS
AND DESCRIBING NEW AREAS
Brussels, Belgium, 3-5 February 2020

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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1. Opening and registration

The Expert Workshop to Identify Options for Modifying the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas and Describing New Areas will be held in Brussels, Belgium from Monday, 3 February to Wednesday, 5 February 2020.

Registration will take place at the meeting venue as of 8:00 a.m. on Monday, 3 February.

2. Venue

The workshop will take place at:



Federal Public Service for Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
Eurostation II
Place Victor Horta / Victor Hortaplein, 40 box 10
1060 Brussels
Tel. +32 (0)2 524.97.97

Meeting room: Bara (1st floor).

Bring your passport or other photo identification in order to be permitted access the venue.

The venue is located right in front of the “Bruxelles Midi/Brussel Zuid/Brussels South” train and metro station.

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 workshop documents, or to use paperless versions, as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the workshop. Documents will be made available on the following web page:



<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/EBSA-WS-2020-01>

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/>. Kindly note that the easiest access to the venue is by train.

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 about € 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) 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

A block booking has been made at the Ibis Brussels Centre Gare Midi Hotel <https://all.accor.com/hotel/3152/index.en.shtml> on behalf of all ***funded*** participants according to their flight arrangements. The accommodation includes a single room with wifi, breakfast and the meeting package (lunch and coffee breaks). Any additional hotel services, such as international calls, room service, bar, laundry, local transportation or additional meals, must be paid by participants upon check-out. The hotel is located on the other side of the Brussels South train and at the same metro station as the venue.

Self-funded participants who wish to stay at this hotel are invited to contact Ms. Cindy Doucé - Group Reservations Department, Tel: +32 2 541 89 12 - H1046-re@accor.com at the hotel directly:

The hotel details are:

Ibis Brussels Centre Gare Midi Hotel

Rue d'Angleterre 2-20

1060 Brussels

Belgium

Tel: +3226200425

Fax: (+32)2/5414445

E-mail : H3152@accor.com

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/3152/index.en.shtml>

The following are a few other hotel options near the venue:

OTHER HOTELS	Approximate room rates Subject to change (from web sites)
Pullman Brussels Centre Midi Website: https://pullman.accor.com/	Approximately 130€/night
Hotel Mercure Brussels Centre Midi Website: https://mercure.accor.com/	Approximately 140€/night

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 residual DSA will be disbursed to sponsored participants on the first day of the meeting in the form of a prepaid credit card. For identification purposes, these participants are kindly requested to bring their passports and boarding passes. These will be photocopied and returned to participants during the meeting. It is advisable that participants have some cash at hand to cover expenses that may occur between their arrival and the moment at which they are provided with the prepaid credit card from which they will access their DSA.

9. Official languages

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

10. Weather and time zone information



In February, average temperatures in Brussels usually range between a maximum of +6°C in the daytime and a minimum of 0°C at night. Please bring warm clothing. 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 CET Central European Time and is equivalent to GMT/UTC +1 hour.

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 7 January 2020 is € 1 = US\$1.11 (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.
