



Convention on Biological Diversity

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LIAISON GROUP ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR BIOSAFETY

Tenth meeting
Budapest, Hungary, 7 - 9 April 2014

Information Note for Participants

QUICK LINKS (Control + click on icons for web page, click on page number to directly access text in document)


Visa Information (page 3)

Meeting Documents (page 2)

Hotel Information (pages 3, 5)

Weather Information (page 3)

Currency Information (page 4)

INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

1. OPENING	.....	2
2. VENUE	.....	2
4. DOCUMENTS	.....	2
5. GENERAL INFORMATION ON ACCESS TO BUDAPEST, HUNGARY	.....	2
6. VISA INFORMATION	.....	3
7. HOTEL INFORMATION	.....	3
ANNEX A – HOTEL LISTING (BUDAPEST)	.....	5
10. WEATHER AND TIME ZONE INFORMATION	.....	3

1. Opening

The tenth meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-building for Biosafety will be held in Budapest, Hungary, from Monday, 7 April to Wednesday, 9 April 2014.

The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 7 April 2014. Participants are kindly requested to arrive by 8:30 a.m. for registration.

2. Venue

Conference facilities have been provided by the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development. The meeting will be held in the main conference room:

Ministry of Rural Development of Hungary

Kossuth Lajos tér 11

H-1055, Budapest

Hungary

Phone: +36-1-795-3816

Fax: +36-1-795-0069

E-mail: gmo@vm.gov.hu, Rita.Andorko@vm.gov.hu

3. Working language of the meetings

The meeting will be held in English.

4. Documents

Documents for the meeting will be made available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=BSLGCB-10>. Participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of documents for the meeting as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the meeting. Relevant documents will be sent to participants through e-mail.

5. General information on access to Budapest, Hungary



Budapest is served by Liszt Ferenc International Airport Budapest (<http://www.bud.hu/english>) which is approximately 23 km to the city centre and the journey takes approximately 30 minutes. Taxis are available outside the airport at “Főtaxi” booths. As of 1 September 2013 a new Taxi Decree was introduced in Hungary regulating the price* of the taxis at a fixed tariff of 280 HUF/Km (0.95 EUR/Km) in addition to the one-of basic fee of 450 HUF (1.50 EUR) and waiting fee. A ride to the city center should typically cost around 6,500 HUF (22 EUR) depending on traffic conditions. All cars are equipped with a POS terminal, therefore credit cards are also accepted. Public transportation (buses) and Airport Shuttle Minibus service are also available. More information can be found at the following link: http://www.bud.hu/english/passengers/access_and_parking.

6. Visa information



Participants from certain countries require a Schengen visa for Hungary and are strongly advised to contact the nearest Hungarian 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 airlines will not allow boarding without a valid visa.

Some information about visa procedures and Hungarian diplomatic/consular missions abroad can be found on the official website of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at: <http://konzulizsolgalat.kormany.hu/en>

A list of countries that do not require a visa for travel to Hungary can be found on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary at the following link: <http://konzulizsolgalat.kormany.hu/visa-waiver-agreements>

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

For participants who encounter difficulties and need assistance for the visa process, please contact Ms. Beatrix Haulik: Ibolya.Beatrix.Haulik@vm.gov.hu, Tel.: +36-1-795-586.

7. Hotel information



Participants are kindly reminded that **they have to make their own hotel reservations as soon as possible**. A listing of hotels in the vicinity of the meeting venue can be found below in Annex A.

Further information on hotels in Budapest can be found on the following web site: http://www.hotelsradar.com/City/Budapest_1.htm

8. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)

Sponsored participants will receive their DSA on the first day of the meeting.

9. Official language in Hungary

The official language in Hungary is Hungarian. English and German is understood in most of the hotels and restaurants.

10. Weather and time zone information



In April, temperatures in Budapest, Hungary average at a maximum of 20°C in the daytime and a minimum of 9°C at night. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.worldweatheronline.com/Budapest-weather/Budapest/HU.aspx>; <http://www.woeurope.eu/Hungary/Budapest.htm>

The standard time zone is UTC/GMT +1 hour.

11. Electricity

The electrical currents in Hungary are 230 Volts, 50 Hertz, the plugs are as shown in the illustration below.



12. Currency

The currency in Hungary is the Hungarian Forint (HUF). The current exchange rate as on 10 March 2014 is US \$1 = 224.797 HUF and € 1 = 311.915 HUF.

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 Listing (Budapest)

LIST OF HOTELS CLOSE TO VENUE

Prices are approximate and subject to change

Hotels 4 stars	Website	Approximate cost per night	Distance from venue
Best Western Hotel Parlament 1054 Budapest, Kálmán Imre street Tel: +36-1-374-6000	http://www.parlament-hotel.hu/	Single room: € 86	About 6 blocks away
NH Budapest 1137 Budapest, Vígyszínház street 3. Tel: +36-1-814-0000	http://www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/hungary/budapest/nh-budapest.html	Single room: € 70	About 8 blocks away
Hotel President Budapest 1054 Budapest, Hold street 3-5. Tel: +36-1-373-8200	http://www.hotelpresident.hu/	Single room: € 110	About 9 blocks away
3 stars			
Hotel Central Basilica 1051 Budapest, Hercegprímás utca 8. Tel: +36-1-328-5010	http://www.hotelcentral-basilica.hu/	Single room: € 85	About 14 blocks away
Lord Apartments 1066 Budapest, Lovag Street 8. Tel: +36-20-500-0720	https://lordapartments.com/	Single room: € 55	About 10 blocks away
