

Ref: EDM/BS/CS/LR

12 October 2000

NOTIFICATION

Dear Madam/Sir,

Re: First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP), 11 to 15 December, 2000, Montpellier, France.

I have the honour to inform you that, pursuant to paragraph 4 of Decision V/1 of the Conference of the Parties and at the kind invitation of the Government of France, the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) will be held from 11-15 December, 2000, at the CORUM-Palais des Congrès in Montpellier, France. Meeting rooms will be available for informal regional consultations in the afternoon of Sunday 10 December 2000, at the same venue. Regional coordinators should contact the Secretariat to confirm whether their groups will be meeting on that day.

Please find attached herewith pre-session documents for the meeting, including the provisional agenda (Document UNEP/CBD/ICCP/1/1) and annotations thereto (Document UNEP/CBD/ICCP/1/1/Add.1. Other pre-session documents for this meeting will be sent to you shortly by courier. These will also be available on the website of the Secretariat: (<http://www.biodiv.org>).

A general information note including a pre-registration form for participants is also attached. Participants are kindly requested to fill in the form and return it to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience.

Kindly inform the Secretariat of the name and contact address of the officially designated delegate(s) of your Government at the earliest opportunity, preferably no later than **15 November 2000**, in order to enable travel arrangements to be made for eligible participants. Confirmation of travel assistance will be made in due course, provided that funds are available. In view of the budget constraints and in order to allow more countries to attend the meeting, the Secretariat will be using special-fare tickets, which impose restrictions about changing the passenger's name and dates of travel upon issuance of the ticket. In this respect, kindly note that it will not be possible for the Secretariat to accommodate such changes if they are received after **30 November 2000**.

/...



Depending on the status of contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund for Facilitating Participation of Parties in the Convention Process established by decision III/24, the Secretariat hopes to be in a position to finance the participation of one representative from each of the developing countries Parties to the Convention, in particular the least developed and small island developing States amongst them, and countries with economies in transition.

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: ICCP National Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where ICCP National Focal Points have not yet been designated).

Developing countries and countries with economies in transition



CBD



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Distr.
GENERAL

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY
Le CORUM – Palais des Congrès
Montpellier, France
11 to 15 December 2000

Information for Participants

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will be held from Monday, 11 December to Friday, 15 December 2000. The meeting will be held at Le CORUM - Palais des Congrès, Montpellier, France.

Venue Le CORUM – Palais des Congrès
Opéra de Montpellier
Esplanade Charles-de-Gaulle, BP 2200
34027 Montpellier Cedex 1, France
Tel.: +33 (0)4 6761-6761
Fax: +33 (0)4 6761-6700/6684

Registration and Identification Badges

Registration will commence on Sunday, 10 December from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Based on the received and fully completed pre-registration forms of participants, badges will be ready at the registration desk. For security reasons, the display of name badges is necessary for admittance to the Palais des Congrès 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 Le CORUM.

The official opening of the meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. on 11 December 2000. Information on room allocations for the plenary and the two Working Groups will be available at the meeting. Delegates are reminded that name badges are needed at all times to access the meeting venue.

Documents

Delegates are kindly reminded to bring their copy of the documents as they will only be available in Montpellier in limited quantities.

Access to Palais des Congrès – Le CORUM

Aéroport International de Montpellier-Méditerranée is 8 km away from the Palais des Congrès that is located in the pedestrian area in the centre of the city. It is about 15 minutes by bus/car from the airport to the Palais des Congrès or 10 minutes walk from the train station (Gare SNCF).

Public transportation is also available. From the airport, take the Downtown shuttle to the Gare routière (Bus Station) terminus and the fare is 30 FF. Taxi fares are approximately 100 FF from the airport to the hotel district.

Services to Delegates

Palais des Congrès offers a variety of services to delegates including a business centre (where delegates can purchase stamps and telephone calling cards, etc.), cyber café with computers for delegates, card operated telephones, a snack bar offering a variety of sandwiches, soft drinks, coffee and tea, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., as well as several informal lounges and meeting areas.

Medical Services

There will be a medical unit operating at the CORUM with one doctor and two nurses.

Hotel Information

Delegates are kindly reminded that they are responsible for making their own hotel accommodation arrangements. A list of hotels located in the centre and in the periphery of Montpellier is given below. Further information on hotel accommodation (address, fax, telephone) may be obtained through the centralized Le Corum Accommodation Service at the following address:

LE CORUM - Service Congrès - BP 2200 -
Esplanade Charles de Gaulle –
34027 MONTPELLIER CEDEX1 - FRANCE
Tel: + 33 (0) 4 6761-6761
Fax: + 33 (0) 4 6761-6684
E-mail: gestion@corum-montpellier.fr
www.corum-montpellier.fr

Categories of the Hotels

The quoted Hotel Rates are Subject to Change

Categories	Person/s	Low Season Price/ High Season Price (Indicative only)
4*	1 person	700 FF / 770 FF
	2 persons	770 FF / 1000 FF
3* Chaîne	1 person	430 FF / 580 FF
	2 persons	500 FF / 640 FF
3* Tradition	1 person	380 FF / 430 FF
	2 persons	380 FF/ 500 FF
2*	1 person	330 FF / 345 FF
	2 persons	360 FF / 400 FF

In addition to the listed prices, there is also a touristic tax (tax per day) that is not included in the table above. For one person for one night in the 4* category hotel, touristic tax is 7.70 FF, in the 3* category hotel it is 6.60 FF and in the 2* category hotel it is 5.50 FF. Please note that VAT taxes and breakfast are included in the quoted price of the hotel accommodations.

Hotels located in the centre of Montpellier:

4* category hotels: Holiday Inn Metropole, Sofitel Antigone and Jardin des Sens.

3* category hotels: Astron, Auberge de Valedeau, Demeure des Brousses, Frantour, La Maison Blanche, Le Guilhem, Les Myrthes, Mercure, New Hôtel du Midi, Novotel, Hôtel Royal, Ibis Suites

2* category hotels: Aiguelongue, Angleterre, Arceaux, Balladins Nord, Campanile East, Campanile Sud, Climat de France Antigone, Comédie, Commerce, Edouard VII, Floride, De France, Henri IV, Ibis Centre, Ibis Sud, Interhôtel, Lapeyronie, Les Fresnes, Mistral, Novahôtel, Palais, Parc, Paris, Strasbourg, Ulysse, Verdun Colisés

Hotels located in the vicinity/periphery of Montpellier:

3* category hotels: Golf de Massane (Baillargues), Neptune (Carnon), Golf de Fontcaude (Juvignac), Airhôtel (Mauguio), Amérique (Palavas), Eurotel and Sun Hôtel (Pérols), Cetus (Saint Aunès), Patio Del Sol (Saint-Jean-de-Védas)

2 * category hotels: Climat du Sud (Grabels), Etaphôtel, One Star Plus, Halhôtel and Mas de Couran (Lattes), Resthôtel Lamira (Mauguio), Héliotel (Montferrier-sur-lez), Brasilia, Midi and Patricia (Palavas), Campanile Nord (Saint-Clément-de-Rivière), Campanile, Prime Hôtel, Primevère, Relais Saint Jean and Yan's Hôtel (Saint-Jean-de-Védas)

Time Zone

Montpellier is GMT + 1 hour.

Weather

The average day-time temperature in the month of December is about 10-15°C. Evening-time temperatures could be lower (near zero).

Electricity

Hotels in Montpellier use 220 volts, 50 Hertz.

Visas

Please check with the nearest French Diplomatic or Consular Mission regarding visa and vaccination requirements.

Official Language:

The official language in France is French, but English is easily understood in hotels and restaurants.

Currency

The official currency in France is the French FRANC (FF). The current exchange rate vis-à-vis the US dollar stands at approximately FF 6.67 for one US dollar.

Credit Cards:

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

**FIRST MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY
MONTPELLIER, FRANCE, 11-15 DECEMBER 2000**

Pre-Registration Form (Please print)

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

FAMILY NAME: _____

First name: _____

Representing:

GOVERNMENT : _____

Ministry/department/agency : _____

OR

ORGANIZATION : _____

(Check one) UN/ Specialized Agency Inter-governmental organization Non-governmental
organization Indigenous community organization Media Industry Other

Official Address: _____

Telephone : + (_____) _____

Fax : + (_____) _____

Telex : + (_____) _____

E-MAIL : _____

URL: _____

Signature : _____ Date: _____

Please return duly filled by 15 November 2000 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>

Preferred language:

English

French

Spanish

Russian

Arabic

Chinese