

“Extraordinary meeting of the Employers' Group”

Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria

22 March 2018

PRACTICAL NOTE

The Extraordinary meeting of the Employers' Group (European Economic and Social Committee) will take place on 22 March 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The meeting would be dedicated to “Bridging the skills gap for growth and job creation – business perspective”

Venue

Boyana Residence was built as the governmental complex for the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in 1974. It is situated 10 km south of Sofia center in the foot of Vitosha Mountain and encompasses around 60 hectares of land. The governmental residence is a prime example of the leading trend in the 1970s, displaying a close-to-nature architecture. Despite the existing symmetry of both design and façade, the buildings appear perfectly blended with the environment. Specially designed window openings make the Vitosha mountain a dominant element in the interiors and let nature “flow inside”.

Nowadays it is a state complex consisting of several villas immersed in a luxury green park area. It is used as the official residence of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Currently Villa 1 houses the National Historic Museum and Villa 2 is a hotel and a congress center.

Registration and Accreditation

The Bulgarian Presidency has implemented an online registration system for all meetings. The Delegate Accreditation Officer or the participant himself/herself will receive an invitation that will give access to the accreditation process via a link. The Delegate Accreditation Officer or the participant can view the accreditation status in the system. Once the process is complete, accredited participants will be issued with a badge that will grant them access to the venue hosting the relevant events. Participants will not be admitted to the venue without the badge. Accreditation is personal and non-transferable.



Please be aware that the badge would allow you to use the special Presidency Lane at Departure's Hall at Sofia Airport. For that reason, we encourage you to keep it with you until you leave Bulgaria.

The participants will receive their badges by the respective representatives of the host organization at their hotels (or at the Registration Desk which will be available at the Boyana Residence). In cases when the delegates obtain their badges from the Registration Desks an identification document must be shown at the check points.

Travelling and Transfers

The delegates are kindly asked to organize and cover their own transport to and from Sofia International Airport.

Buses are available from Terminal 1 and 2 and Sofia Metro (railway) is available from Terminal 2.

Single trip card for metro and public transport: 1,60 lv.

The card for metro is issued by Transport Documents Machine at the entrances of the metro or by a cashier at the cash-desks of "Metropolitan" and is validated at the validator located on the barriers to the metro entrance. The card can be used for entrance to the metro up to 30 minutes after its issuance.

Single trip cards for bus lines 84, 184 and 384 can be purchased from the ticket offices of Sofia Urban Mobility Center, located in the Arrivals Hall of Terminal 2 or from the ticket machines at Terminal 1 of Sofia International Airport. Please perforate your single trip card after boarding the vehicle.

Further information can be found on the website:

<https://www.sofia-airport.bg/en/passengers/and-airport/public-transport>

<https://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/common>

<http://www.metropolitan.bg/en/>

Yellow Taxis are available directly outside the Arrivals Hall at Sofia International Airport 24 hours a day. A taxi service booth (OK Supertrans) is situated in the Arrivals Hall.

Further information can be found on the website:

https://www.oktaxi.net/onlineorder_en.php

Transportation to and from the Venue

Transport arrangements will be made available with collective transfer by coaches from the hotels to the venue and back.

Dinner

A gala dinner of the participants will take place on 22 March 2018 at The dinner will be hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee.



Other Practical Information

Important Numbers

Emergency calls 112

Time Zone

GMT/UTC + 02:00 hour (March-October)

GMT/UTC + 03:00 hour (October-March)

Currency

The currency in Bulgaria is the Lev (1Euro = 1.95583 lev)

Country Code

In order to make an outgoing international call to Bulgaria, the country code is +359.

Using Money in Bulgaria

Money can be exchanged in banks and change bureaus. Ask your liaison officer or at the hotel reception to recommend a bank or bureau nearby. Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Diner's Club cards are accepted at almost every establishment that accepts payment by credit card. If any of the following logos appear on your card: MasterCard, VISA, AMEX, Diners Club or Discover you will be able to withdraw money from the ATMs in Sofia. It is important to check whether your home bank has authorized your card for international use if you plan on using a debit card.

Power Supply

220V ±10% electrical supply. Supply frequency is 50Hz

Plug socket in use is the two-pinned Type F, also known as "Schuko"

