

Bologna Follow-Up Group Meeting

**Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria
5th and 6th of February 2018**

PRACTICAL NOTE

The Bologna Follow-Up Group meeting will take place at Boyana Residence on 5th and 6th of February 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

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.



Registration and Accreditation

The Bulgarian Presidency has implemented an online registration system for the official 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 completed, 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.

The Head of Delegations and the accompanying delegation would receive their badges by their respective Liaison Officers. All other participants would receive their badges at the Registration Desk which will be available at the National Palace of Culture. In cases when the delegates obtain their badges from the Registration Desks an identification document must be shown at the check points or before entering the shuttle buses.

For information regarding accreditation, kindly contact us on:

BFUG_meeting_Sofia@mon.bg

accreditation@eu2018bg.bg

Accommodation

The Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union has negotiated a block reservation for all delegates participating in the event. The recommended hotels and negotiated special room rates (per room per night) for the event are available in the accreditation system. The recommended hotels are:

"InterContinental Sofia" (<http://intercontinental.sofiahotels24.com/en/>);

"Central Park hotel" (<http://www.centralparkhotel.bg/>);

"Hilton Sofia Hotel" (http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/bulgaria/hilton-sofia-SOFHIHI/index.html?WT.mc_id=zELWAAA0EU1WW2PSH3Nano4DGBrandx&WT.srch=1&utm_source=AdWords&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=paidsearch&campaignid=764008691&adgroupid=38737221725&targetid=kwd-115575737)

and

"Ramada Sofia" (<http://ramada-sofia.hotel-rn.com/>).

You will receive a link by the Accreditation System through which you can make your reservation.

Kindly note that any individual expenses such as telephone, bar drinks, room minibar, laundry, extra paid TV, etc. are not included in the room rate.

Travelling and Transfers

Each delegation is kindly requested to cover its costs for transportation to Bulgaria.

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 "Metropoliten" 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/>

Taxis are available directly outside the Arrivals Hall at Sofia International Airport 24 hours a day. A taxi service booth is situated in the Arrivals Hall. Approximate price for taxi from the airport to the city-center of Sofia is about 10-15 BGN.

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 available throughout the official meeting programme. Collective transfer by executive minivans and coaches will be used from the recommended hotels to the venue and back, as well as for the dinner (if necessary). Information about the schedule would be available at the receptions of the relevant hotels, recommended for the event.

For further information kindly contact: BFUG_meeting_Sofia@mon.bg

Facilities and Services at the Meeting Venue

Free Wi-Fi, computers, monochrome photocopying and scanning facilities will be available at the meeting venue.

Dinner

A welcome dinner of the participants will take place on 4th of February 2018 at "Hilton Sofia" hotel, "Musala" hall (http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/bulgaria/hilton-sofia-SOFHIHI/index.html?WT.mc_id=zELWAAA0EU1WW2PSH3Nano4DGBrandx&WT.srch=1&utm_source=AdWords&utm_medium=ppc&utm_campaign=paidsearch&campaignid=764008691&adgroupid=38737221725&targetid=kwd-115575737).

The dinner will be hosted by the Ministry of Education and Science.

A gala dinner of the participants will take place on 5th of February 2018 at restaurant "Edno vreme" ("Once upon a time"). Further information about the restaurant can be found on the website:

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g294452-d1958270-Reviews-Edno_Vreme-Sofia_Sofia_Region.html



The dinner will be hosted by the Ministry of Education and Science.

Documents

As Bulgaria wishes to be a paper-free presidency, there will be no printed documents at the meeting venue. All relevant information would be available in the accreditation system.

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 (1BGN = 1.95583 Euro)

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 $\pm 10\%$ electrical supply. Supply frequency is 50Hz

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

Climate

Bulgaria is located in Southeast Europe, in the northeast part of the Balkan Peninsula. It falls within the southern part of the temperate climate zone with subtropical influence. Its location on the transition line between two climate zones influences the climate, soils, vegetation and animal species. All of them are characterized by great diversity.

The country's geographic position also determines the relatively wide angle of sunlight that falls on the country, making the country predominantly sunny. The Black and the Aegean Sea also influence the country's climate.

The average winter temperatures are around -2/-3 degrees C and the average summer temperatures are around +24/+25 degrees C.

Tourism

Bulgaria is proud of its pristine nature and amazing biodiversity, which is preserved in the mountains, parks and nature reserves. The country occupies only 2% of Europe's

territory but with more than 40 000 cultural monuments and artefacts, it is in third place in Europe. Seven of them are included in the UNESCO List of World Cultural Heritage Sites. This includes prehistoric artefacts, Thracian and Roman heritage, historical monuments from the First and the Second Bulgarian Kingdoms, and architectural landmarks from the Age of Bulgarian Renaissance.

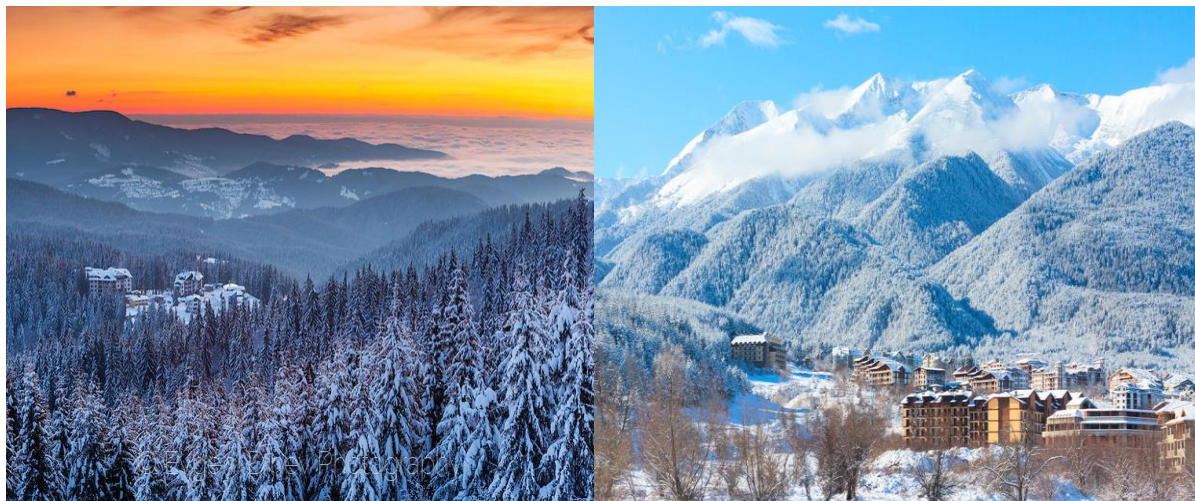


As a recognition of its ancient cultural heritage, the city of Plovdiv was selected as 2019 European Capital of Culture.



Traditionally known for its sun, sand and sea, the Bulgarian seaside also offers hiking, biking, golf, yachting and visits to natural, cultural and archaeological sites. The

country is one of the most popular skiing destinations in the Balkans with its major ski resorts Bansko, Borovets and Pamporovo.



The healing power of mineral springs has been used since the time of the Thracians and the Romans. With more than 600 healing mineral thermal spas, healing climate and curative mud, Bulgaria is a competitive and medical spa destination. Mineral springs located in the southern part of the country are influenced by the Mediterranean climate, other springs are also found in mountain regions and along the Black Sea coast.



You are welcome to discover and share Bulgaria as a four-season tourist destination.

www.tourism.government.bg

<http://bulgariatravel.org>

<https://ilovebulgaria.eu>

Contact person:

1. Ivana Radonova, PhD State Expert, Higher Education Directorate, Ministry of Education and Science, 2A Kniaz Dondukov Blvd., 1000 Sofia, BULGARIA
tel.: +359 2 9217 541; mobile: +359 884 600 832; fax: +359 2 9217 656; e-mail:
i.radonova@mon.bg
1. Diana Marinkova, Higher Education Directorate, Ministry of Education and Science, 2A Kniaz Dondukov Blvd., 1000 Sofia, BULGARIA;
tel.: +359 2 9217 632; mobile: +359 878 773 194; fax: +359 2 9217 656; e-mail:
d.marinkova@mon.bg