

SECOND MEETING OF THE

ITEM 2

RA VI MANAGEMENT GROUP

Original: ENGLISH

TALLINN, 14-15 May 2014
Sokos Hotel Viru Conference Centre
Alegro conference room

INFORMATION NOTE

Background

The Regional Association VI at its sixteenth session, held from 11 to 17 September 2013 in Helsinki, Finland re-established the RAVI Management Group with a revised composition and terms of reference through adoption of the Resolution 5.3/1 (RA VI-16) - RA VI Management Group (INF.7).

The re-established Management Group held its first meeting in Helsinki, on 16 September 2013. A summary of meeting' discussions is available on the following web link:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dra/eur/documents/RA6_MG1_SoD.pdf.

Dates and venue

The second meeting is planned to be held from 14 to 15 May 2014 in the Allegro conference room of Sokos Hotel Viru Conference Centre, located on Viru väljak 4, in Tallinn, Estonia. The map with exact location of the meeting venue is available on the following web link: <https://www.visitestonia.com/en/map/viru-conference-centre>.

Registration and information desk

A registration and information desk will be located in the Congress Center in front of the Allegro meeting room and will be open from 8:30 to 10:00 am and during coffee-breaks.

Agenda and programme

The provisional agenda and the tentative programme are attached as Doc.1 & 2.

Travel information

By air

There are direct or connected flights to Tallinn from very many European cities. Tallinn airport terminal is only 4 km from the city centre and provides a wide variety of services.

From airport by Bus - to reach the venue from the airport, please take Bus No 2 from the airport to the bus stop 'A.Laikmaa' where the hotel is situated just a short walk away. This costs 1,60 EUR, the bus ticket is valid for one ride and it can be purchased from the bus driver. The journey time is approximately 15 minutes and the timetable can be accessed here (the airport stop is named 'Lennujaam'): <http://soiduplaan.tallinn.ee/#bus/2/a-b/13413-3/en>

From airport by Taxi - taxis leave from the main gate of the airport and will cost 10-13 EUR depending on the taxi company. All prices are displayed on the window of each taxi but we strongly recommend using the taxi partner of the airport: Tulika Takso, Tallink Takso or Tallinna Takso.

By ferry

Ferries cross the Gulf of Finland between Tallinn and Helsinki several times a day. Ferry terminals are located close to the Old Town area.

From harbour by Bus - to reach the venue from the harbour, please take Bus No 2 in front of the ferry terminal A or D to the bus stop 'A.Laikmaa' in the city centre. The journey time is approximately 10 minutes. Bus tickets are valid for one ride and can be purchased from the bus driver (1,60 EUR). The timetable can be accessed here: <http://soiduplaan.tallinn.ee/#bus/2/b-a/en>

From harbour by Taxi - you can also get a taxi in front of the ferry terminal. We strongly recommend using the taxi partner of the airport: Tulika Takso, Tallink Takso or Tallinna Takso. The cost of the ride is approximately 7-10 EUR.

By train

International railway lines connect Tallinn to Moscow in Russia. From the railway station you can take tram No 1 or 2 to the stop named 'Mere puiestee' in the city centre. The journey time is approximately 5 minutes and the ticket can be purchased from driver (1,60 EUR).

Accommodation

A block reservation has been made at the Sokos Hotel Viru (<https://www.sokoshotels.fi/en/tallinn/sokos-hotel-viru>), where the meeting will be hosted. The Hotel is situated in the centre of Tallinn and is easily accessible by public transportation.

The participants are invited to make their reservation directly to the Sokos Hotel Viru. The room rates per night are shown on the attached reservation form.

Please send the reservation form back to the hotel e-mail: viru.reservation@sok.fi or fax: +372 6809 236 (phone: + 372 6809 300).

The deadline for hotel reservation is **2 May 2014**.

Entry visa requirements

As of 21 December 2007, Estonia has been part of the Schengen visa area.

Although documents are not checked when one crosses an internal Schengen border, it is still necessary for EU citizens (including Estonians) to carry a passport or ID card. Authorities (police, immigration officials) in Schengen states do have the right to check identification documents, if necessary.

To learn who does and who does not need a visa to enter Estonia, please access the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia: <http://www.vm.ee/?q=en/node/4039>.

If you need a visa to travel to Estonia, please contact the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the nearest Estonian representation.

Local currency

Starting from January 2011 the official currency of Estonia is EUR.

Time zone

This time zone changed to daylight saving time (DST) at 3:00 AM on Sunday, Mar 30, 2014. The GMT offset is currently UTC/GMT +3 hours (EEST). It will change back to standard time at 4:00 AM on Sunday, Oct 26, 2014. The new GMT offset will be UTC/GMT +2 hours (EET).

Electricity

The voltage in Estonia is 220 volts AC (HZ) and plug is two-pin, European style.

Local climate

The weather in Estonia in May is generally pleasant. Day temperatures are between 8 and 15 degrees while minimum night temperatures are between 3 and 7 degrees. It is recommended to bring light warm clothes and a raincoat.

The contact details of the local organizer:

For any further local information please contact:

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