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Parliamentary Dimension
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council
of the European Union



General Information

Meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Scrutiny Group on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)

- 2nd Meeting -

18-19 March 2018

National Palace of Culture Conference Center

Conference Hall 3

1 Bulgaria Blvd, Sofia, Bulgaria

Venue

National Palace of Culture Conference Centre

Sofia, Bulgaria 1463

["Bulgaria" Square 1](#)

Registration and Accreditation

The Bulgarian Presidency is utilizing an online accreditation system for all meetings. Please request accreditation for the event through a designated **Delegate Accreditation Officer (DAO)** of **your Chamber/Parliament**. He/She will be responsible for your successful accreditation via the system. Please, send the name, e-mail address, and phone number of your DAO to: s.tsvetkova@parliament.bg



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Your DAO will receive a link to the accreditation system via email, where he/she can follow the accreditation status of your delegation. On the accreditation system, please select one of the following categories:

- Head of delegation (red badge strings)
- Delegate (blue badge strings)
- Delegation staff (green badge strings)

Once the process is complete, accredited participants will be issued a badge that will ensure their access to the event venue. **Participants with no accreditation badge will not be admitted to the event premises.** Accreditation is **personal** and **non-transferable**. Booking of accommodation at recommended hotels will also take place through the accreditation system.

Should you require any additional information regarding the accreditation, please contact: s.tsvetkova@parliament.bg

The deadline for the accreditation is 2 March 2018.

Registration

The registration (receiving your badge in person) for the conference will be open at information desks at the hotels on Sunday, 18 March 2018, from 12:00 to 20:30h. Delegates arriving later will be given the opportunity to register at the conference venue in the morning of 19 March 2018.

Accreditation Badges

At registration all participants will receive their accreditation badge and an information package.

For security reasons, all participants are requested to wear their accreditation badge at all times during the event. In case of loss of the badge, please contact the information desk immediately.

Accommodation

Participants are kindly asked to book accommodation directly **through the accreditation system at their earliest convenience**. Please, see the list of recommended hotels here below, where special rates have been negotiated for the participants.



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Information on rates will be available on the accreditation system. The prices include accommodation per night per guest, buffet breakfast, and VAT. **All delegates are kindly requested to cover their accommodation costs.**

Please, note that the additional city tax of € 0,67 per person per night and any other additional services (e.g. phone, minibar, laundry, paid TV, etc.) are not included in the price and should be paid separately. Please, settle those additional expenses before departure.

For information on cancelation policy, please consult the hotel website or contact the hotel directly.

Hilton Sofia *****

Room Type	Preferential rate per room per night
Standard	approximately 157 €
Including	Buffet breakfast, WiFi, and VAT
	Check-in: 14:00; Check-out: 12:00

Address: 1 Bulgaria Blvd., 1421 Sofia, Bulgaria

Phone: +359 2 933 5000

Email: sofia.information@hilton.com

Website: <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/bulgaria/hilton-sofia-SOFHIHI/index.html>

Click [here](#) for a map of the area.

Central Park Hotel Sofia ****

Room Type	Preferential rate per room per night
Standard	110 €
Including	Buffet breakfast, WiFi, and VAT
	Check-in: 14:00; Check-out: 12:00



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Address: 106 Vitosha Blvd., 1463 Sofia, Bulgaria

Phone: +359 2 805 8181, 805 8888

Email: reservations@centralparkhotel.bg

Website: <http://www.centralparkhotel.bg/?lang=en>

Click [here](#) for a map of the area.

Grand Hotel Sofia *****

Room Type	Preferential rate per room per night
Standard	150 €
Including	Buffet breakfast, WiFi and VAT
	Check-in: 14:00; Check-out: 12:00

Address: 1, Gurko Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Phone: +359 2 811 0800, 811 0808

Viber / WhatsApp toll free: + 359 88 44 00 848

Email: reservations@grandhotelsofia.bg

Website: <http://www.grandhotelsofia.bg/>

Click [here](#) for a map of the area.

Hotel Marinela *****

Room Type	Preferential rate per room per night
Standard	125 €
Including	Buffet breakfast, WiFi, and VAT
	Check-in: 14:00; Check-out: 12:00

Address: 100 James Bouchier Blvd., 1407 Sofia, Bulgaria

Reception: +359 2 969 2222



Web site: hotel-marinela.com

E-mail: reservations@hotel-marinela.com

Click [here](#) for a map of the area.

Travelling and Transfers

Each delegation is kindly requested to cover its international transportation costs, as well as arrange their transport to/from the airport. Sofia Airport (<https://www.sofia-airport.bg/en/passengers>) is located approximately 10 km from the city centre. Please, note that there will be an information desk of the Bulgarian EU Presidency at the Arrivals Hall in the Airport.

- By subway

The subway is available only from Terminal 2 of Sofia Airport. The single-trip ticket for the underground and all other public transport is 1.60 BGN. The subway ticket can be purchased from an automated machine (Transport Documents Machine) at the entrance of the underground or from a cashier at the cash-desks of the "Metropolitan". The ticket should be validated on entering the underground by placing it on the validator located at the entry barriers. The ticket can be used for up to 30 minutes after its issuance. A shuttle bus service free of charge is available from Terminal 1 to Terminal 2.

Further information can be found on the following websites:

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

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

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

- By taxi

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. The price of the trip from Sofia Airport to the city centre costs approximately 10-14 BGN (€5-7). The time of travel is approximately 30 minutes, depending on the traffic.

Further information can be found on the website:

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



- Transportation to and from the venue

Transportation services will be available for the delegates between the hotels, the conference centre and the dinner venue.

Facilities and Services at the Conference Venue

- Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation of the sessions on 19 March will be provided in Bulgarian, English, and French by the organisers.

Simultaneous interpretation for additional 4 languages will be provided by the organizers on a first-come-first-served basis to delegations who express their desire by sending an e-mail to s.tsvetkova@parliament.bg.

Delegations are free to bring their own interpreters, as well. Should they decide to do so, the only possible method of interpretation will be by whispering (chuchotage).

During the dinner on 18 March, consecutive interpretation in English and Bulgarian will be provided.

- Taking the floor

Participants who wish to take the floor during the meeting on 19 March are kindly requested to fill out the request-the-floor cards, which are to be submitted to the conference staff prior/during the sessions. These cards will be provided at the conference venue and in the welcome packages.

The floor will be given to the delegates in the order of receipt of the request cards.

Other Practical Information

- Dinner and Catering

Delegates with allergies and special dietary requirements are kindly requested to indicate those on the accreditation system.

- Important Numbers

Emergency calls 112



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- **Time Zone**

GMT/UTC +02:00

- **Currency**

The currency in Bulgaria is the Lev (1 EUR = 1.95583 BGN)

- **Country Code**

+359

- **Power Supply**

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

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

- **Climate**

The average temperature in March is around 3°C.

- **Embassies**

For information on diplomatic missions located in Bulgaria, please visit:

<http://www.mfa.bg/en/pages/148/index.html>

- **Smoking**

In Bulgaria, it is strictly prohibited to smoke in closed public areas such as: airports, public transportation, office buildings, schools, hospitals, theatres, museums, restaurants, cafés and other indoor public premises - with the exception of specifically designated smoking areas.

Contacts

Should you require any additional information, please contact:

Ms. Sofiya Tsvetkova, Advisor responsible for the JPSG on Europol, Department "Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union", National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria

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Please, visit our Parliamentary Dimension website for the latest updates and news concerning the Conference: www.parleu2018bg.bg