



Information Note

Conference for National Human Rights Institutions (ombuds institutions, human rights commissions, institutes and other mechanisms) in the OSCE Area

13 - 14 July 2011, Vilnius, Lithuania

1. INTRODUCTION

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) jointly with the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship is organizing the *Conference for National Human Rights Institutions in the OSCE Area* (the Conference) which will take place from 13 to 14 July 2011. Participation is expected of most heads of National Human Rights Institutions as well as several government representatives and civil society actors.

Please check ODIHR's website at <http://www.osce.org/odihr/78607> or the OSCE Chairmanship website at <http://esbo.urm.lt> prior to the Conference for the latest programme and information.

2. CONFERENCE LOGISTICS

Conference venue: Vilnius University

Address: 3 Universiteto St, LT-01513 Vilnius, Lithuania.

The Conference will be held at the Vilnius University, which is located in the heart of the Old Town of Vilnius. Established in the 16th century, Vilnius University is the oldest and largest Lithuanian higher education institution and has embodied the concept of a classical university, unifying studies and research.



Upon entering the University through its main gate, signs will guide you inside the university.

Working languages

The working languages of the Conference are English and Russian. Simultaneous translation will be provided during the main sessions and one of the working sessions.

Internet services

Wireless Internet access will be available at the Conference venue. However, no additional computers will be available for the use by the participants. Please bring your laptops if needed. The internet access code will be provided at the registration desk.

Working modus for the sessions

The sessions will feature presentations by expert speakers, followed by discussions. A rapporteur representing a National Human Rights Institution will facilitate the debates and summarize the key issues discussed. The working procedures are designed to stimulate free-flowing discussions.

Dinner and lunch

Refreshments and lunch will be provided during the Conference. Participants with special dietary requirements are kindly requested to specify these with the organizers.

3. TRAVEL

Arrival and transport

Participants are requested to arrange their own travel itinerary to Vilnius. The organizers are not in the position to cover the travel costs.

Upon arrival in Vilnius by plane, different possibilities exist for travel arrangements to Vilnius and from/to Vilnius Airport.

- Transportation organized by the hotel:

The organizers have negotiated rates with the below listed hotels for transportation to and from the airport. Please consult the list of hotels under “Accommodation” for information on rates.

Note: Participants who would like to benefit from transportation organized by the hotels are encouraged to provide the hotels with their flight information (time of arrival, flight number and the city of departure).

- Taxi

Taxis can be found at designated areas at the airport and train stations and can be hailed on the street or ordered by telephone.

The following taxi firms serve the airport: Martonas (tel. +3705 2400004), Tanagra (+3705 2444444), Inforatas (+3705 2777777). Please note that call-in taxis charge significantly lower rates than others.

- Public transport

From the airport, the centre of Vilnius can also be reached by public transport. Single tickets for public transport cost around 2.50 LTL (0.70 EUR); payments can only be made in the local currency Litas.

Bus number 2 leaves from the entrance to ‘Departures’ and takes approx. 20 minutes to reach the centre of Vilnius. The stop Lukiškės (10 stops from the airport) is 14 minutes walk from the Conference venue.

For the bus schedule, please check:

http://www.marsrutai.info/vilnius/?a=p.directions&schedule_id=5567&t=xhtml&l=en (look at direction “Oro uostas (Vilnius airport) – Centras (city center)–Šeškinė”)

Travel insurance: It is the responsibility of participants to have their own travel insurance. The organizers are not in the position to cover expenses related to illness or accidents of participants while attending the Conference.

4. VISAS

Participants are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas to attend the Conference, including any transit visa. ODIHR will assist in this process by sending a Note Verbale to the relevant Embassy or Consulate. ODIHR is however not in the position to reimburse any costs which may be required in order to obtain the visa. In case you require a visa, please contact Ms. Alexandra Zagrodska as soon as possible: Aleksandra.Zagrodska@odihhr.pl. **Please note that applications for a Lithuanian visa (Schengen visa) may take up to 15 days to proceed.**

5. ACCOMMODATION

Hotel accommodation

Note: Prices are indicated in Euros for the convenience of your calculations. All payments in cash must be made in Lithuanian litas (LTL). The hotels accept all major credit cards.

The organizers of the Conference have reserved a limited number of rooms at reduced rates at the following hotels. When making a reservation, kindly reference the 'OSCE Conference for NHRIs' in order to receive the special rate.

Hotel Radisson Blu Astorija ***** (8 minute walk from the venue)

Didzioji, 35/2, 1128 Vilnius, Lithuania, Tel: +370 5 212 0110, Fax: +370 5 212 1762

E-mail: info.vilnius@radissonblu.com

Website: http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-vilnius?facilitator=BIGMOUTHMEDIAREZIDOR&gclid=CKLg_qGJpqkCFUFC4QodmypoXsw&csref=gemea_en_sk_hotel_3_vnozh

Room rates: single (standard): 110 EUR (breakfast included); double: 120 EUR

Transportation: from the airport 22 EUR; to the airport 17 EUR

Room rates: single (standard): 110 EUR (breakfast included); double: 120 EUR

Transportation: from the airport 22 EUR; to the airport 17 EUR

Booking deadline for reduced rates at the Radisson Blue is **1 July**.

Narutis Hotel ***** (4 minute walk from the venue)

Pilies Street 24, LT-01123, Vilnius, Lithuania

Tel.: +370 5 212 2894, Fax.: +370 5 262 2882

E-mail: info@narutis.com

Website: <http://www.narutis.com/>

Room rates: single (standard): 90 EUR (breakfast included); double: 100 EUR (breakfast included)

Transportation: one way from (to) the airport 29 EUR

Booking deadline for reduced rates at the Novotel is **24 June**.

Hotel Novotel ***** (9 minute walk from the conference venue):

Gedimino av. 16, Vilnius 01103, Lithuania, Tel : (+370)5/2666200, Fax (+370)5/2666201

E-mail : H5209@accor.com

Room rates: single (standard): 87 EUR (breakfast included); double: 94 EUR
Transportation: from the airport 19 EUR; to the airport 19 EUR

Booking deadline for reduced rates at the Novotel is **24 June.**

Neringa Hotel **** (city center, 14 minute walk from the venue)
Gedimino av. 23, Vilnius, Tel. +370 5 212 22 88, Fax +370 5 212 22 99
E-mail: book@neringahotel.com
Website: www.neringahotel.com

Room rates: single (standard): 73 EUR (breakfast included); double room: 80 EUR (breakfast included)

Transportation: one way from (to) the airport 14 EUR

Booking deadline for reduced rates at the Novotel is **1 July.**

Congress Hotel **** (15 minute walk from the venue)
Vilniaus st. 2/15, Vilnius, Lithuania, Tel.: +370 5 269 19 19, Fax.: +370 5 251 42 80
E-mail: info@congress.lt
Website: www.congress.lt/en/location

Room rates: single (standard): 60 EUR (breakfast included); double: 70 EUR (breakfast included)

Transportation: one way from (to) the airport 11 EUR

Booking deadline for reduced rates at the Novotel is **1 July.**

Hotel Senatoriai *** (7 minute walk from the venue)
Tilto st. 2, Vilnius, Lithuania, Tel: + 370 5 212 64 91, Fax: + 370 5 212 63 72
E-mail: info@senatoriai.lt
Website: <http://www.senatoriai.lt/?m=&s=&l=en>

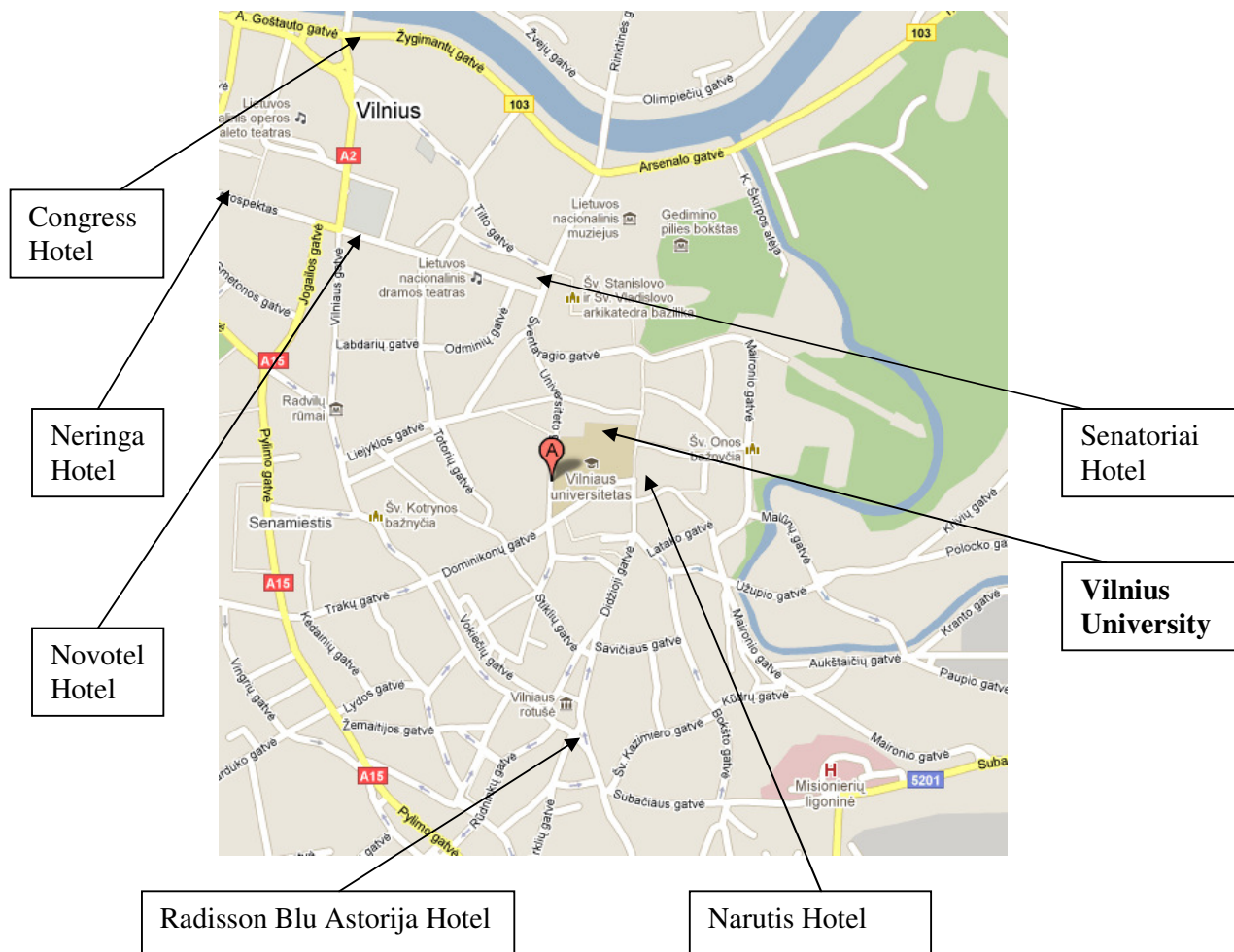
Room rates: single (standard): 52 EUR; double: 64 EUR

Transportation: one way from (to) the airport 15 EUR

Booking deadline for reduced rates at the Novotel is **1 July.**

For information on other hotels in Vilnius please consult: www.vilniushotels.lt.

Map showing the location of the University and the different hotels:



6. EVENING ARRANGEMENTS

On 13 July 2011, at 19:00, the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship invites all participants to a reception which will take place in the Restaurant „Steakhouse Hazienda“, Maironio str. 13. Directions to the venue will be given out at the Conference.

7. REGISTRATION/ CONTACT DETAILS OF ORGANIZERS

Interested participants from National Human Rights Institutions, government representatives or civil society actors are kindly requested to contact Aleksandra Zagrodzka, ODIHR Administrative Assistant until 24 June 2011, at Aleksandra.Zagrodzka@odhr.pl. Due to limited seating at the conference venue, registration may have to be declined after the deadline.

For substantive content issues, please contact Liane Adler, ODIHR Human Rights Adviser, at liane.adler@odhr.pl and/or +48 22 5200 759 or Neringa Juodkaitė-Putrimienė from the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at: Neringa.Juodkaite-Putrimiene@urm.lt.

8. OTHER INFORMATION

General information on Vilnius

Vilnius is the largest city (with a population of 500.000) and the biggest economical and political centre of Lithuania. Vilnius lies 312 kilometres from the Baltic Sea and Klaipėda, the main Lithuanian seaport. It is situated in south-eastern Lithuania at the confluence of the Vilnia and Neris Rivers.

The city received the status of capital city in 1323. Its off-centre location can be attributed to the changing shape of the nation's borders through the centuries. Vilnius was once not only culturally but also geographically at the centre of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

Often, Vilnius is referred to as one of the 'greenest' capital cities in Europe as only one fifth of its area is developed; the remainder is green space and water.

Weather

The climate of Vilnius is humid continental. The average temperature in July is 17.0 °C, but can vary from 10 to 25°C.

Currency

The currency used in Lithuania is litas (LTL). The exchange rate is 1 EUR= 3.45 LTL

Other useful links:

www.vilnius-tourism.lt; www.vilnius-events.lt ; www.travel.lt; www.muziejai.lt

Public transport: <http://www.vilniustransport.lt/en/>