

Useful Information

DLM Forum Members' Meeting, Athens, 10th - 11th June 2014

1. Venue of the Event

Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1 Vasilissis Sofias and Akadimias str.

The Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs is located in the centre of Athens, opposite the Syntagma Square and the Hellenic Parliament. It can be easily accessed by metro, buses, tram, trolleys and taxis.

By metro: Line 2 and/or Line 3 – Syntagma Stop

· Entrance-Exit: Panepistimiou street

By tram: Tram (T4) [Syntagma-SEF] / Tram (T5) [Syntagma-Voula] — Syntagma Stop

For a Metro and Tram Network Map, please click here

By buses & trolleys: There is an extended network of buses and trolleys. To find your way to the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs by bus or trolley, please click here

By taxi: Taxis in Athens are plentiful and inexpensive. You can normally hail them anywhere at any time of the day, but you can also call for a taxi (<u>numbers for taxis</u>). You may also use the "taxibeat" application when you look for a taxi via the internet.

2. Registration

The reception and the registration of participants to the DLM Forum Members' Meeting will take place at the Meeting's Venue (Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, entrance of the Amphitheater "Yiannos Kranidiotis") on site, where participants will take their badges on the opening of the meeting. Badges will be distributed on both Tuesday, 10th of June and on Wednesday, 11th of June, from 08.30 a.m.

In order to access the main entrance of the Ministry, please bring with you your passport which proves your identity.

3. Accommodation

As part of accommodation arrangements for DLM FORUM meeting participants, and in cooperation with the Hellenic Presidency, a number of various star-rating hotels in Athens were suggested.

^{*} The Hellenic Presidency has formally announced to us that the meeting of DLM FORUM will be held at the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Amphitheater "Yiannos Kranidiotis").



The hotels in question are located in central Athens (within a 2-4 km distance from Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and offer reduced rates to accredited representatives. Please note that rooms are subject to availability. It is, therefore, advisable to make accommodation requests in good time.

Please note that reservation, payment or cancellation is strictly the participants' responsibility. The Hellenic Presidency does not cover any accommodation-related costs.

4. Dinner

You are invited to honour us with your presence to the dinner at the ROYAL OLYMPIC HOTEL, "PANORAMA HALL" (6th floor) (28-34 Athanasiou Diakou Str.) on the 10th of June at 20:00 p.m.

(http://www.royalolympic.com/index.php?ID=athens conference hotel&Rec ID=15).

Dinner is a kindly offer of main Greek sponsor of DLM *Uni.Systems S.A.* and our second sponsor *Modus S.A.*

5. Travel documents

EU citizens, as well as citizens of Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway may travel to Greece with their national identity card or passport. Nationals from other countries need a valid passport to enter the country, and in some cases a visa is also required.

For further information visit MFA visa section.

6. Arriving at Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos

<u>Athens International Airport</u> is situated 33 km southeast of the city and there is rapid access to the city centre (Syntagma Square) via express bus routes, the metro and suburban railway system and taxis.

24-hour 7-day express buses

No X95: Airport – Syntagma (trip lasts appr. 60')

No X97: Airport – Elliniko Metro Station (trip lasts appr. 45'). From Elliniko Metro station take line 2 (Anthoupoli - Elliniko). Syntagma stop

Bus tickets sold at the info/ticket-kiosk (located outside Arrivals between Exits 4 and 5), or onboard at no extra cost.

Metro

Tickets for metro and suburban railway should be bought and validated before boarding on trains.

Take Metro line 3 (*Egaleo – Douk. Plakentias – Airport*). Trains run every 30', 7 days a week from 6:30 to 23:30. The trip from/to the Airport to Syntagma station lasts 40'.

Proastiakos: Suburban railway

Take the Suburban railway towards Ano Liosia – Kiato. Change at Plakentias station for Metro line 3 to Egaleo, using the same ticket.

Taxi

A taxi from the airport to the city centre costs a flat rate of €35 from 5:00 to midnight, and €50 from midnight to 5:00.

7. Driving Licenses

EU citizens, as well as citizens of Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway may use their own national <u>Driving License</u>, while citizens of other countries must have an international driving license together with their own valid national driving license.

8. Health and Safety

EU citizens, as well as citizens of Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway must be holders of the European Health Card (EHIC) or any other legal Community document issued by their social security agency. Citizens from other countries must consult their social security agency for relevant information.

9. General Information

Language

Greek is the official languages of Greece. English is widely spoken.

Local Time

Greece Time is GMT+2 (from late March till late October Greece participates in the Western European summer time scheme: GMT+3).

Climate and Weather

Greece has a Mediterranean climate with plenty of sunshine, mild temperatures and a limited amount of rainfall. In the coastal regions, including Attica, summer temperatures average around 27°C, and winter temperatures rarely drop below 10°C.

Opening hours

Banks are open 8.00 - 14.30 Monday to Thursday and 8.00 - 14.00 on Friday. Some branches are open until late in the afternoon on working days as well as on Saturdays.

Opening hours for Cafes and restaurants vary. There are many options from early morning till late at night.

Shops are normally open on Mondays and Wednesdays 9.00-15.00, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.00-14.00 and 17.30-21.00, and on Saturdays 9.00-15.00 or 17.00. Department stores and shopping centres are open daily 9.00-21.00 and on Saturdays 9.00-20.00. In some tourist areas shops remain open on Sundays and public holidays as well.

Currency

The currency of Greece is the Euro.

Currency Exchange

Foreign currency may be exchanged for euros at most Greek and foreign banks, at exchange bureaus located in the city centre and at the airport.

ATMs and Credit Cards

Almost all banks in Greece have automatic teller machines (ATMs). All major credit cards and Traveller's checks are accepted almost everywhere.

Power supply

The power supply in Greece is 220 V AC at 50 Hz. You may require an adaptor for the round two-pin sockets.

Public Holidays during Greek Presidency

January 1: New Year's Day

January 6: Feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany)

March 3: Clean (Ash) Monday

March 25: Greek Independence Day

April 18: Good Friday

April 21: Easter Monday

May 1: Labour Day

June 9: Pentecost (Whit) Monday

Useful numbers

Dial Code for Greece: +30

Emergency: Call 112, the EU-wide emergency number for police, fire and ambulance.

Alternatively call:

Police: 100

Ambulance Service: 166

Fire Service: 199 SOS Doctors: 1016

Athens Guide

Practical information and tips for moving around Athens, starting upon arrival at the airport, can be found at the city's official visitors' guide, <u>Breathtaking Athens</u>. It also includes a «must do» list of things to see and experience during a 1 to 3 day stay in Athens.

Greece Guide

The website <u>VisitGreece</u> is the official travel guide to Greece. Here you may find up-to-date information about where to go, what to see and what to do in order to fully enjoy yourself while travelling in Greece.

10. Contact Persons

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