

**This information
is correct as of
10 April 2008.**



Fourth Meeting of the Parties

Bucharest, 19-21 May 2008

NOTES AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES

This paper presents practical and other information for participants in the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention, including:

1. Provisional programme
2. Officers and members of the Implementation Committee
3. Status of ratification
4. Status of reporting
5. Tentative schedule of meetings, 2008-2011
6. Information on speakers at the Meeting
7. Information on activities foreseen in the workplan up to the fourth meeting, but which are not being followed up with a decision at the fourth meeting
8. Update on the receipt of funds in the intersessional period
9. Pledges to the budget for the period between the 4th and 5th meeting of the Parties to the Convention

10. Airport transfer
11. Hotels
12. Venue & access
13. Welcome & credentials
14. Dining & social activities
15. Tourist information
16. Contacts

1. PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Delegations wishing to make **policy statements** during the High-level Segment should inform the secretariat in advance of the meeting.

Day	Times	Activity	Location
Monday, 19 May	08:30-19:00	Registration (will continue until Wednesday morning)	<i>Welcome Desk</i> in entrance hall, in front of Bratianu Hall
		European Union coordination (EU Member States only)	Human Rights Hall
	09:00-12:00	NGO coordination (NGOs only)	Nicolae Balcescu Hall
	12:00-14:00	Bureau meeting ("old" Bureau members only)	Nicolae Balcescu Hall
	13:00-15:00	Lunch	Take Ionescu Hall
	15:00-18:00	Fourth meeting of the Parties First general segment 1. Opening of the meeting 2. Outstanding issues	Bratianu Hall (Coffee in the entrance hall)
	19:00-21:00	Welcome Cocktail	Take Ionescu Hall
Tuesday, 20 May	10:00-13:00	3. Panel discussion on energy-related projects	Bratianu Hall (Coffee in the entrance hall)
	13:00-15:00	Lunch	Take Ionescu Hall
	15:00-17:30	High-level segment 4. Opening ceremony 5. The Convention ten years after its entry into force: future directions 6. Statements by Ministers	Bratianu Hall (Coffee in the entrance hall)
	17:30-18:00	7. Signing of a multilateral agreement by South-Eastern Europe Ministers	Bratianu Hall
	18:00-19:00	Press conference	Bratianu Hall
	19:00-21:00	Official Dinner	Take Ionescu Hall
Wednesday, 21 May	10:00-13:00	Second general segment 8. Review of the work done by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and adoption of decisions 9. Date, venue and election of officers for the fifth meeting of the Parties. 10. Other business. 11. Presentation of the main decisions and closing of the meeting	Bratianu Hall (Coffee in the entrance hall)
	13:00-15:00	Lunch	Take Ionescu Hall
	15:00-19:00	Cultural visit	

See the Provisional Agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/9) for details.

2. OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Officer	Period between 3 rd and 4 th meetings of the Parties	Period between 4 th and 5 th meetings of the Parties
Chair of the Bureau	Ms Daniela Pineta (Romania)	Same as future Chair of the Working Group on EIA
Chair of the Working Group on EIA	Ms. Vania Grigorova (Bulgaria)	
Vice-chairs of the Working Group on EIA	Mr. Arnolds Luksevics (Latvia)	
	Mr. Roger Gebbels (European Commission)	
Chair of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol	(vacant)	
Vice-chairs of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol	Mr. Giorgi Tskhakaia (Georgia)	
	Mr. Robert Lowenstein (United Kingdom)	
Chair of the Implementation Committee	Ms. Seija Rantakallio (Finland)	(one of below members)
Members of the Implementation Committee	Ms. Margarita Korkhmazyan (Armenia)	
	Mr. Thomas Cernohous (Slovakia)	
	Ms. Daniela Stefkova (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	
	Mr. Nenad Mikulic (Croatia)	Mr. Nenad Mikulic (Croatia)
	Mr. Matthias Sauer (Germany)	Mr. Matthias Sauer (Germany)
	Mr. Kubanychbek Noruzbaev (Kyrgyzstan)	Mr. Kubanychbek Noruzbaev (Kyrgyzstan)
	Mr. Jerzy Jendroska (Poland)	Mr. Jerzy Jendroska (Poland)

3. STATUS OF RATIFICATION

State	Espoo Convention		Amendments		Protocol	
	Signature ⁽¹⁾	Ratification ⁽²⁾	1st	2nd	Signature ⁽¹⁾	Ratification ⁽²⁾
Albania	26/02/1991	04/10/1991	12/05/2006	12/05/2006	21/05/2003	02/12/2005
Andorra						
Armenia		21/02/1997			21/05/2003	
Austria	25/02/1991	27/07/1994	14/09/2006	14/09/2006	21/05/2003	
Azerbaijan		25/03/1999				
Belarus	26/02/1991	10/11/2005				
Belgium	26/02/1991	02/07/1999			21/05/2003	
Bosnia and Herzegovina					21/05/2003	
Bulgaria	26/02/1991	12/05/1995	25/01/2007	25/01/2007	21/05/2003	25/01/2007
Canada	26/02/1991	13/05/1998				
Croatia		08/07/1996			23/05/2003	
Cyprus		02/07/2000			21/05/2003	

State	Espoo Convention		Amendments		Protocol	
	Signature (1)	Ratification (2)	1st	2nd	Signature (1)	Ratification (2)
Czech Republic	30/09/1993	26/02/2001	18/04/2007	18/04/2007	21/05/2003	19/07/2005
Denmark	26/02/1991	14/03/1997			21/05/2003	
Estonia		25/04/2001			21/05/2003	
Finland	26/02/1991	10/08/1995			21/05/2003	18/04/2005
France	26/02/1991	15/06/2001			21/05/2003	
Georgia					21/05/2003	
Germany	26/02/1991	08/08/2002	08/08/2002	22/02/2007	21/05/2003	22/02/2007
Greece	26/02/1991	24/02/1998			21/05/2003	
Hungary	26/02/1991	11/07/1997			21/05/2003	
Iceland	26/02/1991					
Ireland	27/02/1991	25/07/2002			21/05/2003	
Israel						
Italy	26/02/1991	19/01/1995			21/05/2003	
Kazakhstan		11/01/2001				
Kyrgyzstan		01/05/2001				
Latvia		31/08/1998			21/05/2003	
Liechtenstein		09/07/1998				
Lithuania		11/01/2001			21/05/2003	
Luxembourg	26/02/1991	29/08/1995	05/05/2003	04/05/2007	21/05/2003	
Malta						
Moldova		04/01/1994			21/05/2003	
Monaco						
Montenegro					23/10/2006	
Netherlands	25/02/1991	28/02/1995			21/05/2003	
Norway	25/02/1991	23/06/1993			21/05/2003	11/10/2007
Poland	26/02/1991	12/06/1997	20/07/2004		21/05/2003	
Portugal	26/02/1991	06/04/2000			21/05/2003	
Romania	26/02/1991	29/03/2001	16/11/2006		21/05/2003	
Russian Federation	06/06/1991					
San Marino						
Serbia		18/12/2007			21/05/2003	
Slovakia	28/05/1993	19/11/1999			19/12/2003	
Slovenia		05/08/1998			22/05/2003	
Spain	26/02/1991	10/09/1992			21/05/2003	
Sweden	26/02/1991	24/01/1992	30/03/2006	30/03/2006	21/05/2003	30/03/2006
Switzerland		16/09/1996				
Tajikistan						
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		31/08/1999			21/05/2003	
Turkey						
Turkmenistan						
Ukraine	26/02/1991	20/07/1999			21/05/2003	
United Kingdom	26/02/1991	10/10/1997			21/05/2003	
United States	26/02/1991					
Uzbekistan						
European Community	26/02/1991	24/06/1997			21/05/2003	
Counts:	30	42	9	7	38	7

Notes:

(1) Signature or succession to signature.

(2) Ratification, accession, approval, acceptance.

4. STATUS OF REPORTING

State	Date completed questionnaire received
Albania	<i>None received.</i>
Andorra	Not a Party
Armenia	28/03/2006
Austria	24/01/2006
Azerbaijan	19/04/2006
Belarus	Not a Party during the reporting period
Belgium	16/05/2007
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Not a Party
Bulgaria	20/04/2006
Canada	26/06/2006
Croatia	31/05/2006
Cyprus	07/03/2006
Czech Republic	05/12/2006
Denmark	29/11/2006
Estonia	30/04/2006
Finland	14/12/2006
France	26/04/2006
Georgia	25/05/2006 (not a Party)
Germany	28/11/2006
Greece	13/07/2007
Hungary	11/04/2006
Iceland	Not a Party
Ireland	07/02/2008
Israel	Not a Party
Italy	04/08/2006
Kazakhstan	14/09/2006
Kyrgyzstan	15/08/2006
Latvia	28/04/2006
Liechtenstein	02/08/2006
Lithuania	18/09/2006
Luxembourg	14/05/2007
Malta	Not a Party
Moldova	26/04/2006
Monaco	Not a Party
Montenegro	Not a Party
Netherlands	30/04/2006
Norway	31/03/2006
Poland	20/09/2006
Portugal	29/05/2007
Romania	21/02/2006
Russian Federation	Not a Party
San Marino	Not a Party
Serbia	Not a Party during the reporting period
Slovakia	29/11/2006
Slovenia	02/12/2006
Spain	23/05/2006
Sweden	12/01/2007
Switzerland	05/02/2007
Tajikistan	Not a Party
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	28/04/2006
Turkey	Not a Party
Turkmenistan	21/02/2006 (not a Party)

State	Date completed questionnaire received
Ukraine	30/11/2006
United Kingdom	18/08/2006
United States	Not a Party
Uzbekistan	Not a Party
European Community	08/02/2006
Count:	41

5. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, 2008-2011

All meetings to be confirmed by the Bureau, located in Geneva by default, with indicative dates shown.

Year	Month	Duration (days)	Body	Meeting number	Notes
2008	28-30 October	3	Implementation Committee	15 th	*
2009	January	3	Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol	3 rd	**
	March	3	Implementation Committee	16 th	*
	May	3	Working Group on EIA	12 th	
	May	1-2	Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol <i>or</i> Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol	1 st	**
				3 rd	
	September	3	Implementation Committee	17 th	*
	November	3	Working Group on EIA	13 th	
November	1-2	<i>Alternative for</i> Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol	1 st	**	
2010	March	3	Implementation Committee	18 th	*
	May	2+3	Working Group on EIA	14 th	
			Working Group on SEA	1 st	**
	June	3	Implementation Committee	19 th	*
	September	3	Implementation Committee	20 th	*
	November	3+2	Working Group on EIA	15 th	
Working Group on SEA			2 nd	**	
2011	May	2+1	Meeting of the Parties	5 th	
			Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol	2 nd	**

Notes:

* As required

** Depending on ratifications of the Protocol

6. INFORMATION ON SPEAKERS AT THE MEETING

The following have kindly agreed to be among the members of the panel on energy-related projects (item 3 of the provisional agenda):

- (Croatia)
- (Albania)
- Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany)
- Mr. Constantin Pulbere (Romania)
- Mr. Fikret Jaffarov (non-governmental organization)

And the following speakers have kindly agreed to speak on “The Convention ten years after its entry into force: future directions” (item 5 on the provisional agenda):

- Ms. Joanna Treweek, who will address transboundary EIA and biodiversity
- Ms. Elizabeth Wilson of Oxford Brookes University (United Kingdom), who will address environmental assessment and climate change
- Mr. Willain Sheate of Imperial College London, who will address EIA and SEA, their inter-relationship and their role as instruments for sustainable development
- Mr. Lyudmil Ikonov of the Institute for Ecological Modernisation (Bulgaria), who will address cooperation and cumulative impacts in the Black Sea subregion

In addition, Mr. Andriy Andrusevych of European EcoForum will make a statement on behalf of the non-governmental organizations.

7. INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES FORESEEN IN THE WORKPLAN UP TO THE FOURTH MEETING, BUT WHICH ARE NOT BEING FOLLOWED UP WITH A DECISION AT THE FOURTH MEETING

The Meeting is expected to take note of progress on the activities in the workplan for the period up to the fourth meeting of the Parties that have not been followed up by a draft decision:

- (a) At its tenth meeting, the Working Group on EIA agreed to postpone any further discussion of the examination of the substantive relationship between the Convention and its Protocol until the Protocol had entered into force and some practical experience with its implementation and application had been gained (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/2, para. 33).
- (b) Also at its tenth meeting, the Working Group supported the proposal by the small group examining institutional and procedural activities under the Protocol on SEA (as annexed to ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/2).
- (c) At their second meeting, the Signatories to the Protocol had welcomed the work done by the United Nations Development Programme, with the support of the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, to analyze capacity-building needs in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, carried out under the workplan (MP.EIA/AC.3/2005/2, para. 8). This work was followed by the development of strategies in four countries for implementation of the Protocol, and by a number of pilot projects.
- (d) At its tenth meeting, the Working Group thanked the small editorial group established under the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol for its excellent work in preparing the draft Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol, including a part regarding health (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/2, para. 57). The Resource Manual had been drafted with the assistance of the secretariat and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe. The Signatories to the Protocol had, at their second meeting, agreed that the Resource Manual be presented to their third meeting for finalization (MP.EIA/AC.3/2005/2, para. 9).
- (e) The Working Group, at its eleventh meeting, had noted the holding by the United Nations Development Programme of a training course on the practical application of the Protocol, held in Prague in October 2007, for practitioners from Eastern Europe and Caucasus (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/8, para. 23). The course had been based in part on the Resource Manual.

8. UPDATE ON THE RECEIPT OF FUNDS IN THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD

The annex to the draft decision on the budget and financial arrangements (ECE/MP.EIA/2008/11) provides a report on contributions to the Convention's Trust Fund in the period between the third meeting of the Parties and 31 January 2008. The following contribution was received after 31 January 2008:

- Norway, 12,569.76 Euro (approx. 100,000 NOK), in February 2008
- Croatia, US\$ 3,025.78, in April 2008
- Czech Republic, US\$ 4,980, in April 2008

9. PLEDGES TO THE BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE 4TH AND 5TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

State	Party?	Pledge (1 share = US\$ 1,000)
Albania	✓	
Andorra	✗	
Armenia	✓	Either a contribution in kind by hosting the forthcoming meeting of the Implementation Committee, or 1 share for the three-year period.
Austria	✓	US\$ 6,000 per year from 2009 until the fifth meeting of the Parties.
Azerbaijan	✓	A total of US\$ 1,000 for the period to the next meeting of the Parties.
Belarus	✓	
Belgium	✓	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✗	
Bulgaria	✓	A total of US\$ 5,000 (5 shares) for the period to the next meeting of the Parties
Canada	✓	A total of Can\$ 15,000 for the three-year period
Croatia	✓	A total of 5 shares for the three-year period.
Cyprus	✓	
Czech Republic	✓	US\$ 5,000 per year until the fifth meeting of the Parties
Denmark	✓	
Estonia	✓	No contribution.
Finland	✓	A total of 35 shares for the period to the next meeting of the Parties. The contribution is subject to the availability of funds in the national budget.
France	✓	No contribution in 2008.
Georgia	✗	
Germany	✓	A minimum of 30 shares. This sum will be divided in at least two payments and will be ear-marked. Any payment depends on the availability of funds in the national budget that will have to be adopted by the Parliament for each year.
Greece	✓	
Hungary	✓	Likely US\$ 4,000 to 5,000 for the period to the next meeting of the Parties.
Iceland	✗	
Ireland	✓	
Israel	✗	
Italy	✓	
Kazakhstan	✓	
Kyrgyzstan	✓	
Latvia	✓	1000 Euro per year, starting from 2009
Liechtenstein	✓	
Lithuania	✓	
Luxembourg	✓	
Malta	✗	
Moldova	✓	
Monaco	✗	

State	Party?	Pledge (1 share = US\$ 1,000)
Montenegro	✘	
Netherlands	✓	
Norway	✓	10-15 shares per year for three years. The contribution is subject to approval.
Poland	✓	No contribution.
Portugal	✓	
Romania	✓	US\$ 6,000 in 2009.
Russian Federation	✘	
San Marino	✘	
Serbia	✓	
Slovakia	✓	
Slovenia	✓	3 shares per year (US\$ 3,000 per year)
Spain	✓	
Sweden	✓	20 shares (US\$ 20,000) in kind for the activity Subregional cooperation in the Baltic Sea
Switzerland	✓	Likely US\$ 17,500 (17.5 shares) per year for the period to the next meeting of the Parties. This contribution is subject to approval
Tajikistan	✘	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	✓	
Turkey	✘	
Turkmenistan	✘	
Ukraine	✓	
United Kingdom	✓	
United States	✘	
Uzbekistan	✘	
European Community	✓	

10. AIRPORT TRANSFER

- ❑ Please note that there are **two airports** serving: Henri Coandă International Airport (formerly Otopeni – “OTP”) and Aurel Vlaicu International Airport (formerly Băneasa – “BBU”).
- ❑ A free **shuttle bus** will provide regular transfers between the airports and the three hotels identified below. The distance from Henri Coandă International Airport to the hotels is approximately 20 km, whereas from Aurel Vlaicu International Airport it is about 10 km. By bus it takes approximately 40 to 60 minutes, depending on the time of day and the airport used.
- ❑ The bus will be clearly marked with the symbol of the fourth meeting of the Parties.
- ❑ It is important to inform the organizers of your arrival flight, airport and time to ensure that the bus is there to meet you. Please also inform the organizers if you do not require the shuttle bus.
- ❑ A taxi ride between the airports and the city centre costs approximately €1 per km.

11. HOTELS

Preferential rates have been negotiated at three hotels: Hotel Rin Grand, Hotel Confort Traian and Hotel Golden Tulip Times. Contact information and indicative prices for these hotels are provided on the registration form (available on the Convention website – see below). Shuttle bus services will be provided between the airport and these hotels, and between these hotels and the Meeting venue. Details will be provided later, according to the information provided by you in your registration form.

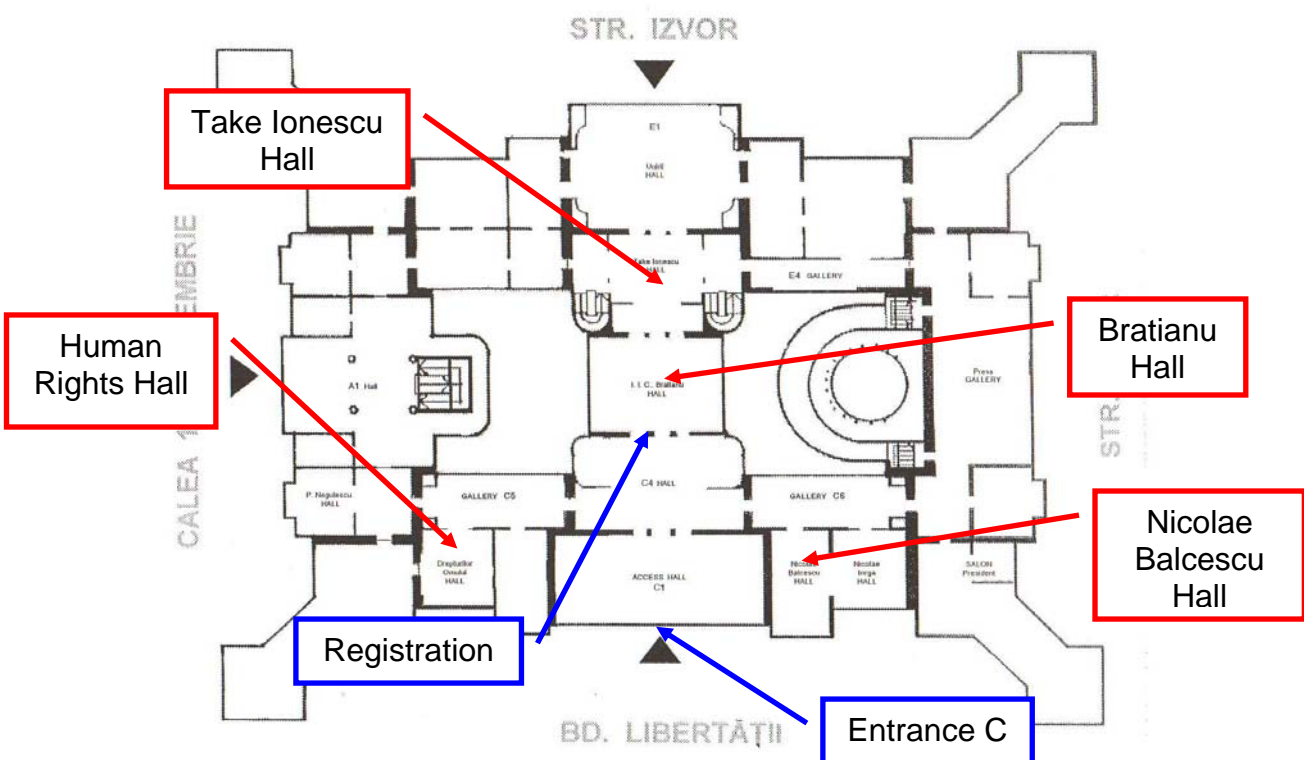
12. VENUE & ACCESS



The Meeting of the Parties will be held in the Parliament Palace in central Bucharest. You must enter by the main entrance (“entrance C”), which faces Unirii Boulevard and Place. To reach the entrance, you will need to enter the Palace grounds by one of the two gates on Libertatii Boulevard, either on foot or in the shuttle bus, and to show some identification (passport). Only persons identified in the participants list will be allowed to enter the Palace. **Advance registration is therefore obligatory**, by completing the registration form available on the Convention website.

The following facilities will be available in the Palace and will be clearly signposted (see floor plan overleaf):

- ❑ **Bratianu Hall** for the Meeting of the Parties, with simultaneous interpretation facilities, and for poster displays
- ❑ **Human Rights Hall** for European Union coordination meetings
- ❑ **Nicolae Balcescu Hall** will serve as a small meeting room, secretariat office and Internet access point
- ❑ The cocktail, lunches and official dinner will be served in **Take Ionescu Hall**. Coffee breaks will be held in the entrance hall



Please contact the secretariat if you wish to display a **poster** in Bratianu Hall; additional information is available on the Convention website (see below).

Part of the Bureau and secretariat office is expected to be partitioned off to provide an area for access to the **Internet**. Users will be asked to limit the periods that they occupy the computers; information on a possible WiFi service will be provided later. The three hotels provide Internet access; access is free in the Rin Grand Hotel but a charge may be payable in the others.

13. WELCOME & CREDENTIALS

A *Welcome Desk* in the entrance hall of the Parliament Palace (in front of Bratianu Hall) will provide for registration of participants. Delegates will be met by officials from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Romania. Participants will receive a *Welcome Pack* including the full set of meeting documents (Provisional Agenda, Draft Decisions and other documents), together with other meeting and tourist materials. You will also be provided with a personal badge, which should be worn at all times. Multilingual hosts or hostesses will be on hand to provide additional information.

Registration will also be the opportunity to provide the credentials of delegations, if they have not been provided in advance. Example credentials are available on the Espoo Convention website (see below).

14. DINING & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Breakfast is normally included in the hotel accommodation cost. The Romanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is generously providing lunches and coffee breaks, Monday to Wednesday, together with.

- ❑ Welcome Cocktail, on Monday 19 May from 7 p.m., which will be held in Take Ionescu Hall
- ❑ Official Dinner, on Tuesday 20 May from 7 p.m., which will be held in Take Ionescu Hall
- ❑ Cultural visit to the National Village Museum, on Wednesday 21 May from 3 p.m., departing from the Parliament Palace, and returning to the hotels before 7 p.m. The National Village Museum is close to the airports.

15. TOURIST INFORMATION

Bucharest, capital and industrial and commercial centre of Romania, has a population of about two million. The city, which became capital in 1862, has many wide, tree-lined avenues, and diverse architecture including numerous Belle Époque buildings. The city enjoys a strong cultural scene with 37 museums, 22 theatres, concert halls, an opera house, 18 art galleries, jazz clubs and nightclubs.

The **Palace of Parliament**, also known as the People's House, was completed between 1984 and 1989 under the communist regime. Situated in the historic and geographical centre of the city, on top of a hill, it has become the best-known and most-visited tourist site in Bucharest. It occupies an area of 330,000 m² and is the second largest public building in the world (after the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.). The Palace of Parliament houses Romania's Parliament, numerous conference halls and exhibition spaces, and the National Museum of Contemporary Art. The huge investment in its construction and perpetual upkeep makes the Parliament Palace one of the most controversial buildings in the world.

Meteorological records for Bucharest in May suggest minimum and maximum temperatures of 10 and 23 C, respectively, eight hours of sunshine per day and thirteen rainy days in the month with a monthly average rainfall of 77 mm.

Romania operates **Eastern European Time** (GMT+3 hours in summer).

The **exchange rate** on 10 April 2008 was approximately 3.6 Romania New Lei to the Euro and 2.3 to the US dollar.

Further information may be found on the Internet, for example:

- ❑ Romania Tourism – <http://www.romaniatravel.com>
- ❑ Henri Coandă International Airport – <http://www.otp-airport.ro>
- ❑ Aurel Vlaicu International Airport – <http://www.baneasa-airport.ro>
- ❑ Currency Exchange Rates – <http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic>
- ❑ Weather – http://weather.yahoo.com/forecast/ROXX0003_c.html

16. CONTACTS

Organizers	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Ms. Daniela Pineta 12 Libertatii Blvd., sector 5, Bucharest, Romania Tel. (+4021) 3.16.61.54 Fax (+4021) 3.16.04.21 E-mail: pineta.daniela@mmediu.ro
Secretariat	UNECE SECRETARIAT Mr. Wiek Schrage Office 407, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland Tel. (+4122) 917 24 48 Fax (+4122) 917 01 07 E-mail: eia.conv@unece.org
Travel Agent	FORTUNA BUSINESS TRAVEL Ms. Luminita Alexandru 19 Regina Maria Blvd., ap.1, sector 4, Bucharest, Romania Tel./Fax: (+4021) 336 07 55 / 66 E-mail: office@fortunabusiness.ro

Fourth meeting of Parties on the Espoo Convention website: <http://www.unece.org/env/eia/bucharest.htm>