

SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM (MEDPARTNERSHIP)

Damascus, Syria, 15 – 17 March 2011

INFORMATION NOTE

Meeting Venue

Hotel Cham Palace Damascus

Class: 5*

Address: Maysaloun Str. P.O. Box 7570 Damascus – Syria . Tel: (963)11 2232300 – Fax: (963)11 2226178 – 2226180

Website: www.chamhotels.com



Accommodation

Should you wish to stay in the same hotel (Cham Palace Damascus) where the meeting will take place, please find below information.

Rate Negotiated: 110 Euro (Single Room rate per night, Bed and Breakfast) plus taxes.

Contact person: Ms. Zeina Abousaab

E-mail: sales@champalaces.org, zeina.abousaab@champalaces.org

Should you wish to make a reservation at the above mentioned rate please write (or use above contact details) to zeina.abousaab@champalaces.org and please remember to include in the Subject field: UNEP/MAP GEF 2nd Steering Committee Meeting 15-17/03/2011.

Transportation to/from Damascus Airport from/to the hotel

The distance between the centre of Damascus and the airport is around 30km. Transportation is provided by limousine, bus or taxi. Payment is exclusively in SYP.

Inside the airport building, to the right of the exit from the immigration and customs control, there is a counter serving several **limousine** companies (Budget and similar). The payment is done at the counter. The charge is 1500 SYP (~24 €).

Outside the airport building you may get the **taxi**. Taxis with the Damascus Governorate logo on the side and a number on the roof sign are normally equipped with a meter. The rate is approximately 700 SYP (11 euros). At night, taxi drivers do not usually use the meter, so you may be best off negotiating the price before you get in.

Buses are available 24/7. At the airport (out of the terminal and to the right you will find the bus at the end of the building) buses run to Baramke Bus Station (in the centre of Damascus). Buses are running every half an hour. At the airport there is a small ticket office. Rate is 45 SYP per passenger + 25 SYP per luggage (no weight restriction) = 70 SYP (~1€).

As for reaching the airport from Damascus, there are buses going from Baramke Bus Station every half an hour, 24/7. Reservation is not essential, but we strongly recommend to go there at least 15 minutes in advance. Rate is 45 SYP per passenger + 25 SYP per luggage (no weight restriction) = 70 SYP (~1€). You can also get a bus to the airport from Harasta Bus Station. Buses are running every hour from 2am till 11pm. Rate is 45 SYP per passenger + 25 SYP per luggage (no weight restriction) = 70 SYP (~1€).

From/to the bus station to the hotel of your choice you will have to take taxi.

Hotel also offers **Transfer Service**. From Damascus International Airport to Damascus Cham Palace Hotel & Vice Versa the rate per transfer for a car with 3 seats is 25 Euros. The rate is payable directly to the Hotel. Please contact hotel at the above telephone, fax or e-mail accordingly and well in advance for the Hotel to make provision.

Visa

The following Web sites should be consulted:

<http://www.syriatourism.org/index.php?module=subjects&func=listpages&subid=155&newlang=eng>

<http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/syria>

<http://www.embassypages.com/syria.php>

Where there is neither a Syrian Embassy nor Consulate in your respective country please forward to us well in advance a scanned copy of your passport together with information on your itinerary and place where you will be staying in Syria so that we can forward it to the Syrian Authorities to facilitate the process of VISA issuance.

Currency

Syrian Pound is the official currency in Syria (~USD 0.02).

Time

GMT +2

Dialing Code

The International Dialing Code for Syria is +963

Weather Info

<http://www.weather.com/weather/today/Damascus+Syria+SYXX0004>

Information on Syria

<http://www.syriatourism.org/index.php?newlang=eng>

Contact Person

Mr. Giorgos Petridis
Administrative Assistant
UNEP/MAP
Mail: giorgos.petridis@unepmap.gr
Tel: +30210 72 73 125
Mob: +306951922758

All information on the meeting will subsequently be placed on the MedPartnership's web site www.medpartnership.org.