



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

UNEP (DEPI)/RS.16 /INF.1.RS

Original: ENGLISH



16th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans
Athens, Greece 29th September – 1st October 2014

Information Note for Participants

For environmental and economic reasons, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies



16th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

Athens, Greece
29 September -1 October 2014



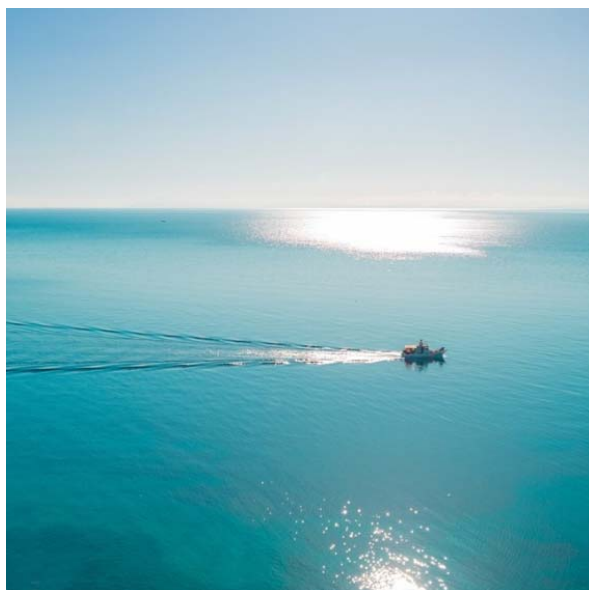
INFORMATION DOCUMENT

I Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme would like to welcome you to Athens, Greece for the **16th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans**.

In this information document you will find practical details related to the conference venue, transport, and hotel reservations.

General Information



Greece is located in Southern Europe at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa. It consists of a mountainous peninsular mainland jutting out into the sea at the southern end of the Balkans, ending at the Peloponnese peninsula (separated from the mainland by the canal of the Isthmus of Corinth) and features a vast number of islands.

It shares borders with Albania to the northwest, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria to the North and Turkey to the northeast. Greece has the longest coastline on the Mediterranean basin.

The Mediterranean Sea lies to the south of the mainland, the Aegean Sea to the east and the Ionian Sea to the west. Greece's capital is Athens and other main cities include Thessaloniki and Patras.

Considered the cradle of all Western civilization, Greece is regarded as the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, the Olympic Games, Western literature and historiography, political science, major scientific and mathematical principles and Western drama including both tragedy and comedy.

II Venue

Divani Caravel Hotel

(Metro station: Evangelismos)

2, Vassileos Alexandrou street

16121 Athens

Greece

e-mail: info@divanicaravel.gr

website: <http://www.divanis.com/caravel/>

III Registration and Badges

To be received at the registration desk on the first day of the meeting.

IV Travel

By air:

Athens International Airport - Eleftherios Venizelos is situated 33 km southeast of Athens.

Transportation from the airport to Athens can be done by taxi, metro or bus:

Taxis are available at the designated Taxi waiting area located at Exit 3 of Arrivals Level. A taxi from the airport to Athens city centre costs a flat rate of Euro 35 from 5 am to midnight and Euro 50 from midnight to 5 am.

Metro (Line 3) is quite easy to use. The metro station is connected to the airport but requires going up a level from the arrival area (by elevator) and crossing over a pedestrian bridge. Metro tickets can be purchased at the Automatic Ticket Issuing Machines (ATIMs) and from the Ticket Office which are available at the station. The one way ticket costs Euro 8. The metro operates daily from 6:30 am to 11:30 pm and runs every 30 minutes.

To reach Divani Caravel Hotel, please use Metro Line 3, direction Aghia Marina and get off at Evangelismos Station.

For more information, please visit the following website:

http://www.stasy.gr/index.php?id=33&no_cache=1&L=1

Bus (Line X95): a public transport express bus station is located just out of the arrival terminal of the airport. There is a departure every 15 minutes and the service is available 24 hours a day. The ticket costs Euro 5 and can be purchased directly on board.

The closest bus station to Divani Caravel Hotel is "Hilton".

V Hotels

Athens counts with a wide provision of accommodation, from international hotel chains to local hotels. You will have to make reservations and pay for the room directly with the hotel and the participants are responsible for any “no-show”.

Below is the list of some hotels:

Hotel	UN Corporate rates (Euro)	Additional information
Divani Caravel	120	http://www.divanis.com/caravel/ Venue of the meeting
Hilton Hotel	186	http://www.hiltonathens.gr walking distance to the venue of the meeting: 2 min
Crowne Plaza	120	http://www.hiltonathens.gr walking distance to the venue of the meeting: 10 min
Golden Age	80	http://hotelgoldenage.com/ walking distance to the venue of the meeting: 15 min
Stratos Vassilikos	92	http://www.airotel.gr/ walking distance to the venue of the meeting: 15 min
NJV Athens Plaza	110	http://www.njvathensplaza.gr/en/ walking distance to the venue of the meeting: 1 stop away by metro
Electra Palace	165	www.electrahotels.gr Distance to the venue of the meeting: 5 min on foot to “Syntagma” metro station + 1 stop away by metro
St George Lycabettus	145	http://www.sglycabettus.gr/default-en.html walking distance to the venue of the meeting: 20 min
King George Palace	160	http://www.kinggeorgeathens.com/ Distance to the venue of the meeting: 1 stop away by metro

Above rates are on a bed & breakfast basis

VI Passport and Visas

Passports are required for entry to the country.

Visas are not required by citizens of Member-States of the Schengen Agreement.

Please check with the Embassy of Greece in your home country whether a visa is required. In the affirmative, please make the necessary arrangements to obtain an entry visa as early as possible.

Contact details of Embassies and Consulates of Greece abroad can be found on the website of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gr/en/appendix/greece-bilateral-relations/f.html>

VII Currency

The currency in Greece is Euro (€). The exchange rate is approximately 0.76 to the US Dollar.

Local currency can be obtained at exchange offices or at ATMs at the airport and Athens City Centre.

VIII Power Supply

Power supply is 220/240 volt/60 Hertz. Plugs and sockets use the two and three-pin type. Please make sure to bring along a power adapter for use in Greece.

IX Time Zone and Climate

Time Zone:

Standard time zone: UTC/GMT + 2 hour

Climate:

Greece has a Mediterranean climate.

The warm weather continues into September, although a drop in temperature does occur in this month, leading the way for the cooler autumnal weather. In October, the temperatures remain mild and warm with an increased chance of rain. The average daily temperature for Athens in this period can reach highs of 27°C (84°F) or drop to an average minimum temperature of 17°C (66°F).

Light clothes with a light jacket or jumper for the evening should be more than sufficient for this period.

X Tourism Information

For information about Greece, please see the website: <http://www.visitgreece.gr/>

Most banks are open from 8:00 to 2:30 Monday through Friday. Shopping centres are open from 9:00-8:00 Monday through Saturday. Supermarkets are open from 8 am to 9 am on weekdays and from 8 am to 8 am on Saturdays.

XI Meeting support

If you require more information, please contact one of the following representatives of the organizers

Alberto Pacheco Capella
Coordinator
Regional Seas Programme
Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi, Kenya P.O.Box 30552
Tel: (+254) 20 762 4591
Mobile: (+254) 720 133 075
Fax: (+254) 20 762 4618
Email: alberto.pacheco@unep.org

Faustina Mukanzi
Programme Assistant
Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch
Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi, Kenya P.O.Box 30552
Tel: (254 20) 7624013
E-mail: Faustina.Mukanzi@unep.org

We wish you a safe trip to Greece and an enjoyable stay in Athens.