



# **AUTUMN MEETING of the OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

*(as of July 2022)*

***Sofia, Bulgaria***

***14-16 October 2022***

***National Palace of Culture***

### ***VENUE OF THE MEETING***

National Palace of Culture  
1, Bulgaria square, 1463 Sofia, Bulgaria  
Tel: +3592 916 6830  
Web site: <https://www.ndk.bg>

All meetings will take place at the National Palace of Culture.

For more information, please contact the staff listed below:

### ***CONTACTS***

#### **Secretary of the Bulgarian Delegation to the OSCE PA**

**Ms. Dessislava Nakova**

Tel.: + 35929393635

Email: [dnakova@parliament.bg](mailto:dnakova@parliament.bg)

#### **OSCE PA International Secretariat**

**Ms. Odile Lelarge, Head of Conference Services**

Tel.: +45 33 37 80 40

Email: [odile@oscepa.dk](mailto:odile@oscepa.dk)

**DRAFT PROGRAMME\***

***THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2022***

Arrival of Delegates

Accommodation and Registration

14:00 – 19:00 Registration open at the National Palace of Culture

18:00 – 19:00 Information meeting for Secretaries and Staff of Delegations

***FRIDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2022***

08:30 – 10:00 Time reserved for various meetings

10:00 – 12:30 **MEDITERRANEAN FORUM**

12:30 – 15:00 Lunch break

**PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE on “The Contribution of Parliaments in the OSCE Region in Facing the Hybrid Threats of the 2020s. Promoting Security in the Black Sea Region and Beyond”**

15:00 – 15:45 **INAUGURAL SESSION**

15:45 – 16:00 break

16:00 – 18:00 **SESSION 1**

*Evening TBC Reception hosted by the Bulgarian Parliament*

***SATURDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2022***

08:30 – 09:30 Time reserved for various meetings

**PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE on “The Contribution of Parliaments in the OSCE Region in Facing the Hybrid Threats of the 2020s. Promoting Security in the Black Sea Region and Beyond” - continuation**

09:30 – 12:30 **SESSION 2**

12:30 – 15:00 Lunch Break

15:00 – 18:00 **MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

*Evening TBC Social event*

***SUNDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2022***

08:00 – 09:00      Time reserved for various meetings

**PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE on “The Contribution of Parliaments in the OSCE Region in Facing the Hybrid Threats of the 2020s. Promoting Security in the Black Sea Region and Beyond” - continuation**

09:00 – 11:45      **SESSION 3**

11:45 – 12:00      **CLOSING SESSION**

*Afternoon*              *CULTURAL PROGRAMME / DEPARTURES*

***MONDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2022***

*DEPARTURES*

\* *Please note that this preliminary draft programme is subject to change. A detailed programme will be distributed to all participants in due course.*

## **HOTELS AND ACCOMMODATION**

Rooms in the hotels listed below are blocked for the Autumn Meeting participants at special prices:

<b>GRAND HOTEL SOFIA</b> Address: 1, Gen. Gurko str.; 1000 Sofia Website: <a href="https://www.grandhotelsofia.bg/">https://www.grandhotelsofia.bg/</a>
<b>GRAND HOTEL MILLENNIUM</b> Address: 89 B, Vitosha Blvd., 1000 Sofia Website: <a href="https://grandhotelmilenniumsofia.bg/">https://grandhotelmilenniumsofia.bg/</a>
<b>HOTEL HYATT REGENCY SOFIA</b> Address: Vasil Levski Square, 1504 Sofia Website: <a href="https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/bulgaria/hyatt-regency-sofia/sofrs">https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/bulgaria/hyatt-regency-sofia/sofrs</a>
<b>ROSSLYN CENTRAL PARK HOTEL</b> Address: 106 Vitosha Blvd., 1463 Sofia Website: <a href="http://www.centralparkhotel.bg/">http://www.centralparkhotel.bg/</a>

**Prices, cut-off dates, cancellation policies, and booking instructions: Kindly refer to the separate document on Hotel Information.**

Reservations must be made no later than the deadlines set in the document. Please note that reservations after the date set by the hotels will be upon availability. Negotiated rates cannot be guaranteed after the deadlines.

Reservations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis. After this date, hotel room availability cannot be guaranteed.

When booking, you will need to provide credit card information to guarantee the reservation.

### **REGISTRATION**

Secretaries of Delegations should register participants via the OSCE PA [Registration Website](#) by **Tuesday 6 September 2022**. Note that the registration website will be accessible from **Wednesday 10 August**.

The Registration and Information Desk will be open at the National Palace of Culture **entrance A4** on **Thursday 13 October 2022 from 14:00 to 19:00**. On **Friday 14 October** and **Saturday 15 October**, registration will be open at the National Palace of Culture **entrance A4** from 08:00 until the end of official meetings.

All participants are kindly requested to register as soon as possible after their arrival. Participants will be required to show official identification when registering (passport or identity card). All participants will be able to collect conference bags, handbooks, etc. after their registration. Participants and accompanying persons will receive their badges and information about the conference at the Registration and Information desk located at the National Palace of Culture **entrance A4**.

A provisional List of Participants will be made available. To enable the OSCE PA International Secretariat to issue the final list and to ensure the accuracy of its contents, national delegations are kindly requested to indicate any corrections to the provisional list at the Registration desk.

### ***ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE***

**Secretaries of Delegations are requested to indicate - and update when necessary - information about accommodation and flight numbers, as well as arrival and departure dates and flight schedules, via the OSCE PA online registration system for all participants from their delegation, including accompanying staff and accompanying persons.**

**Sofia International Airport** is located 10 kilometers from the city center. There will be an information desk with the logo of the OSCE PA Autumn Meeting in the arrival hall.

On 13 October and the morning of 14 October 2022, staff will be at Sofia International Airport to greet and help those arriving find their way to the buses.

A transfer service will be provided from the conference hotels to the airport after the Closing Session on 16 October and in the morning of 17 October according to the departure details of delegations. Transportation schedules will be available at the information desks at the hotels in due time.

**Delegates are kindly asked to confirm the date and time of their departure at the Registration and Information Desk when registering.**

On all other dates, participants are kindly asked to make their own travel arrangements.

### ***TRANSPORTATION DURING THE AUTUMN MEETING***

At each hotel there will be an information stand each morning with staff to provide directions and advice on how to get to the venue.

**Kindly note that the entrance for the Autumn Meeting is A4.**

The Grand Hotel Millennium and Rosslyn Central Park Hotel are a short walk from the National Palace of Culture.

Shuttle buses will be provided between the Hyatt Regency Hotel and the Grand Hotel Sofia to the National Palace of Culture.

Transportation schedules will be available at the information desks at the hotels in due time.

Bus transportation will be organized to and from evening events where necessary and for the accompanying persons' programme.

## **PASSPORTS AND VISAS**

**It is the responsibility of delegates who need an entry visa to check the necessary formalities. It is strongly advised not to postpone visa applications to the last minute.**

To enter and stay in the Republic of Bulgaria you must hold a valid passport.

### **COVID-19**

The Covid-19 situation will be kept under review and updates for preventive measures will be provided. We advise delegations to refer to their respective diplomatic missions for information.

Support and advice will be provided where possible to delegates during the session to help comply with any rules or recommendations. If required, this will include masks, sanitisers, and help with any testing.

Delegates are responsible for complying with all rules when travelling to and from the Autumn Meeting and for any costs or arrangements if they are required to isolate. It is recommended that Delegates take out travel insurance that includes medical coverage.

### **IDENTIFICATION AND SAFETY**

For security purposes, all participants, including accompanying persons, observers, delegation staff and members of the press, are requested to wear their identity badges at all meetings and social events. Identity badges will be needed to access all conference events. Loss of identity badges should be reported immediately to the conference staff.

For security reasons, all participants, observers, delegation staff, and members of the press must also be able to show their identity card or passport upon request.

### **DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS**

Participants who wish to contact their diplomatic mission may consult the list of missions on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria: <https://mfa.bg/en/>

### **DOCUMENTATION AND COPYING SERVICES**

The OSCE PA International Secretariat will send electronic documentation folders in PDF format to all delegations. Most of the documents related to the Autumn meeting can be downloaded from the [OSCE PA website](#) and on the APP of the event.

A limited number of documents will be printed. Secretaries of Delegations are advised to make arrangements to print documents needed in advance.

Printers and photocopying machines will be at the disposal of the Secretaries of Delegations.

### **INTERPRETATION**

During the Autumn Meeting simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Bulgarian and all six official OSCE languages: English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

Written translation will not be provided.

### ***CULTURAL PROGRAMME***

A Cultural Programme will be offered to participants on Sunday, 16 October 2022. More information will be communicated in due course.

### ***PROGRAMME FOR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS***

A programme for accompanying persons will be arranged while delegates are engaged in the Autumn Meeting.

The accompanying persons' programme will be available to badge holders, and they are asked to wear their badges during every part of the programme. Accompanying persons are requested to sign up for excursions at the hotels' information desks upon arrival in Sofia. Additional information will be distributed in due time.

### ***CATERING***

Numerous restaurants and cafes are located within walking distance from the National Palace of Culture.

### ***INSURANCE***

Personal travel and medical insurance is the responsibility of individual participants. The host Parliament will not be responsible for any lost luggage, currency or personal effects, or any medical costs, including any Covid-19 related costs.

### ***MEDICAL FACILITIES***

First aid will be available throughout the meetings. However, illness requiring medical treatment or hospitalization is the responsibility of the individual. Participants taking medicine should bring enough to cover their needs and where possible carry it in hand luggage.

Please note that the general telephone number in case of emergency (medical, fire or security) is 112.

### ***DRESS CODE***

Business attire is required for formal occasions and social events.

Casual dress (jacket, no tie) is suitable for the accompanying persons' programme.

### ***CLIMATE AND TIME***

It will be Eastern European Summer Time in Sofia in October (UTC +3)

Usually, the weather is very pleasant in October. There may be light rain.

### ***CURRENCY AND BANKING SERVICES***

The currency in the Republic of Bulgaria is Bulgarian LEV (BGN). Major credit cards are accepted everywhere. Cash can be obtained from ATMs.

### ***ELECTRICITY***

The voltage in the Republic of Bulgaria is 220V/50Hz and European style two-pin sockets are used.



***TELECOMMUNICATION***

The international code for Bulgaria is +359. Access to free Wi-Fi will be available at the venue and free Wi-Fi will also be available in every hotel.

***SMOKE-FREE POLICY***

Smoking is forbidden in all public places in Bulgaria (restaurants, bars, hotels, public transport, etc.). Smoking is allowed outdoors.

***TOURIST INFORMATION***

The multilingual website: <https://www.bulgariatravel.org> provides tourist and practical information about Bulgaria.