



MALTA EU 2017



Practical Information Note for the Malta Business Transfer Conference for Delegates

Friday 17th March 2017
Grand Hotel Excelsior, Valletta, Malta

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Introduction

Malta will assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2017. Consequently, we will be holding numerous meetings and hosting thousands of delegates from Europe and other parts of the world. We aim to make their stay an enjoyable and productive one through cultural excursions and carefully planned meetings.

Venue

Technical meetings taking place during the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU will be held at different venues. Further information can be found in the official invitation letter sent with this document.

The 5 star Grand Hotel Excelsior, is two minutes away from Valletta, Malta's capital and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Valletta can be described as a living experience of Baroque architecture, dotted with quaint cafes, and over 25 churches, a testament to the centuries-old grained Catholic faith of the Maltese nation.

Sixteenth century fortifications embrace the Grand Hotel Excelsior and its olive gardens making it the only 5 star hotel in Malta nestled within historic architecture. This is a unique opportunity to re-live Malta's rich history whilst unwinding during a Mediterranean Luxury Escape.

This luxury Valletta hotel is blessed with magnificent views of Marsamxett Harbour & Fort Manoel.

Marsamxett Harbour is the northern of Valletta's two natural harbours on the island of Malta, separated from the southern one – the Grand Harbour – by the Valletta peninsula. The harbour is dedicated to yachting and sailing and also hosts the Msida Yacht Marina. The Grand Hotel Excelsior offers its own yacht marina which is exclusive, to its hotel guests and is home to Malta's Annual Boat Show.

Fort Manoel is a fortification which stands on Manoel Island, to the north west of Valletta, and commands the entrance to Marsamxett Harbour and the anchorage of Sliema Creek. Its ditches and walls are formed from the native rock of Manoel Island. The fort was built by the Knights of Malta between 1723 and 1755, under the patronage of Portuguese Grand Master Manoel de Vilhena. In 2010, it underwent major restoration work to repair the ravages of time and damage sustained during the Second World War. It served as a location for the shooting of the climactic scene of the episode Baelor of the TV series Game of Thrones.

Grand Hotel Excelsior's prime location allows for easy access to all tourist locations around the Maltese Islands. The main bus terminus provides services to all towns and villages and is only a few minutes away from the hotel. Complimentary transfers to the city centre of Valletta are

offered on a daily service at 10.00 hours and 18.00 hours.

Further information upon the services and facilities offered by the hotel may be accessed via <http://www.excelsior.com.mt/> .

Registration and Accreditation

The Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU has implemented an online registration system for all Technical Meetings. Participants will receive an invitation to register with a link that will grant immediate access to the registration portal. Once a participant has registered, his or her data shall be sent to the accreditation unit and through the accreditation process. Once the process is complete, accredited participants will be issued with a badge that will grant them access to the venue hosting the relevant events. Participants will not be admitted to the venue without the badge. Accreditation is personal and non-transferable.

Badges will be issued only to individuals who have successfully undergone the registration procedure and have been accredited. Delegates are invited to register well in advance of the meeting.

Contact Information

For information regarding accreditation, kindly contact us on :
accreditation@eu2017.mt.

Flights and Accommodation

Delegates are responsible for booking and paying for their flights and accommodation which are non-refundable.

If the meeting is to be held at a particular hotel, it is recommended that accommodation is booked at that same hotel. However, they can opt for alternate accommodation. Early hotel booking is strongly recommended to avoid disappointment.

Transportation

Delegates are kindly asked to organise their own transport from Malta International Airport to their accommodation and back; as well as from their accommodation to the Grand Hotel Excelsior and back. The following bus routes are all available at the airport terminus, passing through different villages en route to and from the accommodation.

- 73** Valletta – Airport
- X1** Ċirkewwa – Airport
- X2** San Ġiljan – Airport
- X3** Bugibba – Airport
- TD2** San Ġiljan – Airport
- TD3** Bugibba – Airport

Further information can be found on the website:

<https://www.publictransport.com.mt/>.

Taxis are available directly outside the Arrivals Hall at Malta International Airport 24 hours a day. A taxi service booth, from which prepaid tickets can be bought, is situated in the Arrivals Hall.

Further information can be found on the website:

<https://www.maltairport.com/passenger/getting-here/taxi-service/>.

Schengen - Visa

Should a visa be required in order to attend any of the events being held as part of the Maltese Presidency programme, it is the delegate's responsibility to access the visa website in order to obtain the necessary application. This would need to be filed at the diplomatic mission of the main destination or country of first entry into the Schengen area, or its representation. The delegate must ensure that the application is lodged within the established deadlines in order to ensure timely review.

Should a visa be required for attendance to any of the events being held as part of the official presidency programme, it should be clearly indicated in the registration form on the Accreditation Portal. Upon successful completion of the process, the Presidency Unit will issue a supporting letter confirming accreditation.

The relevant documentation may be obtained from Malta's Central Visa Unit (CVU) portal: <https://identitymalta.com/visa-application>

For further information, kindly contact Malta's Central Visa Unit (CVU) on **+356 2204 2310/2421/2424** or mvisa.ima@gov.mt.

Technical and IT Facilities

All media devices such as USB sticks and SD cards to be used for delivering presentations shall be vetted by the ICT support team for viruses and malware. Delegates who intend to make use of such media should contact the ICT team at least two hours before the presentation.

ICT personnel will be present at all times to provide support.

For ICT Support, kindly contact us on: ICTSupport@eu2017.mt or **+356 2540 2710**.

Other Facilities

An information desk shall be set up next to the registration desk enabling speakers to submit the above-mentioned documentation for the reimbursement of their flights.

Other Practical Information

Important Numbers

Emergency	112
Ambulance	196
Police	+356 2122 1111/4001/4007

**Mater Dei
Hospital** +356 2545 0000

**Passport Office:
Malta** +356 2122 2286

Ministry Representative : +356 2220 9 863/866/524

Time Zone

The time zone is Central European Time (GMT+1).

Currency

The currency in Malta is the Euro.

Country Code

In order to make an outgoing international call to Malta, the country code is **+356**.

Using Money in Malta

There are several banks, bureaux de change and automated foreign exchange machines from where you can exchange your money. Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Diner's Club cards are accepted at every establishment that accepts payment by credit card. If any of the following logos appear on your card: Visa/Electron/Plus and Mastercard/Cirrus/Solo/Maestro, you will be able to withdraw money from the several ATMs around the island. It is important to check whether your home bank has authorised your card for international use if you plan on using a debit card.

Power Supply

230V \pm 10% electrical supply. Supply frequency is 50Hz.

Plug socket in use is the three-pinned rectangular pin BS 1363 plug. The two-pinned round pin BS 4573 plug is used for shavers. Adapters are widely available.

Climate

The climate is a Mediterranean one. Winters in Malta are short, mild and windy, and even though with infrequent rain, the air is quite humid. Summers are long, hot, dry and very sunny. During the month of March the weather tends to be windy with a bit of rain and temperatures ranging from 17°C to 20°C.

Contacts

For further information, kindly contact us on:
infomail@eu2017.mt or **+356 2540 2700**.

Visit Malta is a valuable source of information about the Maltese Islands run by the Malta Tourism Authority. For further details, kindly visit <http://www.visitmalta.com/>. The Malta Tourism Authority also runs an information desk at the Arrivals Hall in Malta International Airport. Contact Details are as follows:

Address: Auberge D' Italie
Merchants Street
Valletta VLT 1170, Malta

Tel: +356 2291 5000
Email: info@visitmalta.com
Website: <http://www.mta.com.mt>