

GENERAL INFORMATION FILE

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 2nd October 2013

19:30
20:00 – 22:30

Arrival at the hotels.

Departure from **the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva**.
Welcome Dinner at **Joana Carinova's Inn** in **Belmontas Entertainment and Recreation Centre**.

Thursday 3rd October 2013

8:30 – 9:00

9:00

13:00 – 14:30

Registration

EPRA meeting in **Alfa** conference room at **the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva**.
Lunch in **the Riverside restaurant** at **the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva**.

18:45
19:00 – 23:00

Departure from **the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva**.
Gala Dinner at **the Vilnius City Hall**.

Friday 4th October 2013

9:00

13:00 – 14:30

16:00
16:15 – 19:00

EPRA meeting in **Alfa** conference room at **the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva**.
Lunch in **the Riverside restaurant** at **the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva**.
Departure from **the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva**.
Guided tour of **the Old Town in Vilnius** (free of charge).

Saturday 5th October 2013

Guided tours:
9:00 – 13:00

Option 1 – Half-day bus tour to **Trakai**, the former capital of Lithuania (subject to a fee).

9:00 - 20:00

Option 2 – Day bus tour to **the Hill of Crosses in Šiauliai**. **It includes the sightseeing of Trakai**, the former capital of Lithuania; **the Chocolate Museum; the Museum of Rural Life** (subject to a fee).

FACTS ABOUT VILNIUS – A Brief History of the City



Vilnius is the capital of Lithuania, and its largest city, with a population of 533,000 according to the population census data of 2012 (the population of the country is a little over 3 mln.). It is located in the southeast of the country.

Vilnius occupies an area of about 400 square kilometres. The historical centre of Vilnius, the Old Town, is one of the largest old towns in Eastern Europe (covering almost 360 hectares). The Old Town is situated in a picturesque valley of two rivers – the Vilnia and the Neris.

The earliest known use of the name Lithuania was in a Latin text (*Annales Quedlinburgenses*) dating back in 1009. Lithuania as a state was established in 1253. Vilnius began to flourish when, in 1323, the Grand Duke Gediminas started writing letters to foreign craftsmen and merchants inviting them to settle in Vilnius, promising them the freedom to trade and live as they wished. By the late 14th century Lithuania's borders extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea and Vilnius became a thriving city that was famed for its architecture, trade, academic excellence and cultural diversity. The capital continued to develop and prosper throughout the 15th and 16th centuries, when it attracted great architects, artists and thinkers from near and far. Many of the city's currently celebrated characteristics were first formed during that time.

Vilnius is a city with tremendous historic pedigree. Its esteemed university is one of the oldest in Eastern Europe. Its Old Town is one of the best preserved in Northern Europe and is a UNESCO World Heritage Sight.

Vilnius is abundant of every kind of architectural style: the gothic St. Anne's Church, which Napoleon was in awe of and wanted to take it back to Paris in the palm of his hand; the fashionable quarter of Užupis, which is often referred to as the Montmartre of Vilnius thanks to its artistic and laidback atmosphere; the elegant Gediminas avenue, which was designed as a showcase street in the 19th century and frequently hosts street fairs and markets; the majestic Cathedral Square, which is just one of many public spaces where the city's inhabitants come together to celebrate, etc.

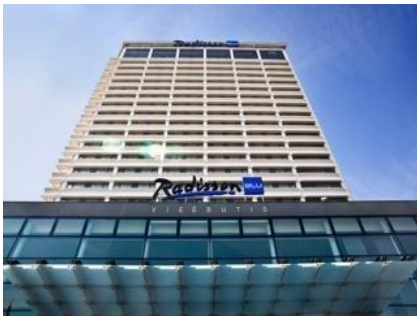
Vilnius is a vibrant, thriving and forward-looking city whose historic facade provides an elegant backdrop in which to do business and seize exciting new opportunities. Vilnius is an extremely open, public and fun-loving city where you'll be pleasantly surprised at every turn.

To find out more about what to do and see in the city you can visit the Vilnius Tourism website:
<http://www.vilnius-tourism.lt/en/>

MEETING VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

The deadline for hotel booking expires 2 September. Please take this notice seriously! Due to the numerous events related to Lithuania's presidency over the EU Council, the rooms may not be available after the set deadline.

4* Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva, Konstitucijos ave. 20, Vilnius



The meeting venue is the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva in Vilnius. It is also one of the two hotels selected for the delegates' accommodation.

It is located on the right side of the river Neris, approximately 1 km from the City centre and the Old Town. Ideally situated near the capital's business district and big shopping centres, the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva is perfect for both business



and leisure travellers. It is approximately 7 km away from the Vilnius International Airport and 15 minutes walk across the river to the centre and the Old Town.

A wireless internet access is available in all conference halls and rooms.

Simultaneous translation will be as always provided to/from English and French and even Lithuanian.

More about the hotel: <http://www.radissonblu.com/lietuvahotel-vilnius>

Hotel booking form is available on EPRA website.

EPRA delegate rate: €119 (if payment in cash in Euros, the change will be returned in Litas).

4* Best Western Hotel Vilnius, Konstitucijos ave. 14, Vilnius

The Best Western Hotel Vilnius is also located on the right side of the river Neris and is 5 minutes walk to the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva, the meeting venue.

In the mornings it offers an indoor pool with a sauna for free, rooms with free Wi-Fi and many other facilities.

More about the hotel: <http://vilniushotel.eu/EN/Vilnius>

Hotel booking form is available on EPRA website.



EPRA delegate rate: €109 (if payment in cash in Euros, the change will be returned in Litas).

TRANSFER FROM THE AIRPORTS



Vilnius International Airport is the only international airport in Vilnius. The airport is situated approximately 7 km south of the city centre.

For more information please visit: <http://www.vilnius-airport.lt/en/>

Getting to town:

- If you require **transfer from the airport** to the hotel and return, please mark it in the Registration Form and send the Transportation request form (available on EPRA website) directly to the Tourist Agency "Senamiesčio gidas", who will arrange your transportation. The person in charge is Jonas Ignatonis, e-mail: jonas@vilniuscitytour.com, mobile: +370 608 06962.

The price from the airport to the hotel: max €17 per person; the price from the hotel to the airport: max €12 per person.

- **A taxi to the hotels** will cost you about €25 = ~86 Lt (only Litas will be accepted by the taxi drivers). Calling one in advance will cost considerably less. You can inquire at the tourist information kiosk to order one for you.

- You can also use the **public transport**. The bus stop is to the left of the taxi stand. **Bus N°88** (timetable is posted at the stop, a ticket from the driver will cost you 3.5 Lt) will take you to the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva in about 30 – 40 minutes depending on the traffic. You will have to get off at the bus stop "Europe Square" – Europos aikštė in Lithuanian, right by the shopping center "Europe". Both hotels are located across the street - you will have to take the underground passing to get there. The Best Western hotel is slightly to the left from the underground passing on the corner of the block and is not visible from there. The Radisson is on the right hand side and is clearly seen at once.

Kaunas International Airport. Kaunas is the second biggest city in Lithuania and it is 100 km from Vilnius.



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The price depends on the number of passengers.

From Kaunas Airport to the hotel in Vilnius:

1 person – €81/person
2 persons – €55/person
3 persons – €28/person

4 persons – €25/person
5 persons – €21/person
6-7 persons – €17/person

From the hotel in Vilnius to Kaunas Airport:

1 person – €75/person
2 persons – €38/person
3 persons – €26/person
4 persons – €22/person
5 persons – €18/person
6-7 persons – €15/person

-Kaunas Airport **express bus service** runs from Kaunas Airport to Vilnius and return. In Vilnius the bus picks up and leaves the passengers at the Hotel Panorama (close to the Bus and Railway stations). The bus stop at Kaunas Airport is just in front of the Passenger Terminal. Bus schedule is coordinated with Ryanair flight schedule and serves every flight. Tickets have to be bought beforehand via internet.

For more information how to get the tickets please visit: www.airport-express.lt
TOURIST AGENCY “SENAMIESČIO GIDAS” <http://www.vilniuscitytour.com/>

All transportation services will be arranged by the company “Senamiesčio gidas”, please send your requests directly to Jonas Ignatonis, his e-mail: jonas@vilniuscitytour.com and a copy to Gilmante Stanelyte at: g.stanelyte@rtk.lt



WWW.VILNIUSCITYTOUR.COM

Euros will be accepted for all payments to the Agency, the change will also be returned in Euros.

The transportation booking form is available on EPRA website.

FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE

The Lithuanian Litas is the currency of Lithuania. The currency code for Litas is LTL, and the currency symbol is Lt.

The exchange rate of the Lithuanian Litas (LTL) approximately is: €1 = 3.45 Lt.

Most banks in the city centre provide ATMs.

Bank opening hours:

Monday to Thursday 9.30 a.m. – 5.00 p. m.

Friday 9.30 a. m. – 4.00 p. m.



PARTICIPATION FEE

No participation fee is required.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Please visit the LR Ministry of Foreign Affairs website for Consular information:
<http://consul.mfa.lt/index.php/index-home-page/first/visas>

Some countries may be required a document indicating the purpose of the trip. In the need of an invitation letter, please e-mail Birute Kersiene: b.kersiene@rtk.lt with a copy to Nerijus Maliukevicius: n.maliukevicius@rtk.lt

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 2nd October, 2013

Welcome dinner at Joana Carinova's Inn, Belmontas str. 17, Vilnius



Joana Carinova's Inn is located in Belmontas entertainment and recreation centre, which was established inside the French (Belmont) mill complex. The hall interior enlivened with ethnographic and antique showpieces and furniture shows certain features of the 19th century Lithuanian city and village people lifestyle, their interests and taste. In these halls the visitors, apart from eating, can also familiarize themselves with various collections from hunt trophies and rural household utensils to antique works of arts and crafts as well as authentic works of art.



For more information on Joana Carinova's Inn please visit: <http://www.belmontas.lt/joana-carinovas-inn/>

Thursday 3rd October, 2013

Gala Dinner at the Vilnius City Hall, Didžioji str. 31, Vilnius

According to historians, the first building of the City Hall in Vilnius appeared after the Magdeburg Law came into effect and with the formation of the self-government of the city-dwellers. The oldest City Hall (mentioned in 1432) stood at the same place where it is standing now. It was equipped with the rooms for the sessions, the halls of the court, the room for the community of the traders, treasury, office, archive, premises for measuring, supplies of corn, storeroom of weapons, and the prison in the cellars. The foundations of the first City Hall



remained up to the present times prove that the building was in Gothic-style at first. In the course of history due to the devastating fires Vilnius City Hall was ruined, but later rebuilt and reconstructed in Classicism style as the city-dwellers sought to decorate and improve the main symbol of the self-government.

Presently, the key activities of Vilnius City Hall are the representative and protocol events of the City, which count to over 300 during one year.

For more information on Vilnius City Hall please visit: <http://www.vilniausrotuse.lt/>

TOURS

We are pleased to offer our delegates several events outside Vilnius in order to better acquaint themselves with the city and the country at large.

Friday 4th October, 2013

Guided Tour of the Old Town in Vilnius (free of charge)

16:00 – 19:00

Departure from: Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva

Tour language: English, French

The tour highlights include sightseeing with a short walks in the City centre and the Old Town, visiting the courtyards of the architectural ensemble of Vilnius University, enjoying great panoramic views from the Hill of Three Crosses or Subačius viewpoint, visiting the museum of the genocide victims.



Saturday 5th October, 2013

Option 1

Bus tour to Trakai, Užutrakis and the Hill of Angels

Fee: €28 – €30 per person (depends on the number of people)

Starting: 9 a.m.

Departure from: Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva

Tour language: English

Trakai is a symbol of Lithuanian tourism. It is located 28 kilometres from the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. It was first mentioned in 1377 in the “Chronicle of New Prussia”. According to the legend, Trakai was founded on a woman’s whims. Birutė, the wife of Kęstutis, the Grand Duke of Samogitia and Trakai, was very unhappy about little water resources around their residence in the Old Trakai (about 3 kilometres from Trakai) compared to her birthplace Palanga by the sea. As the result in the end of the 14th



century,

Kęstutis began to build a new castle on the peninsula and in 1376 they moved there.

During the guided tour, you will visit not only Trakai and the Island castle but also Užutrakis which is famous for its Manor Estate, created in 1897-1902 by the count Józef Tyszkiewicz and his wife, the duchess Jadwiga Świętopułk-Czetwertyńska and the Park designed by Eduard Francois Andre, a French

horticulturalist and leading landscape architect of the late 19th century, famous for designing city parks and public spaces.

The tour includes walking on the Hill of Angels – the path of the millennium. The hill, decorated with wooden sculptures was opened on 12 September 2009 to mark the Millennium of Lithuania's name being mentioned in historical records.



During the lunch in the traditional Karaites restaurant you will have a possibility to try their traditional dish – kybyns. Lithuania should be grateful for its highly popular kybyns to Vytautas, the Grand Duke of Lithuania, who some 600 years ago brought Karaites to Lithuania alongside with their kybyns from the Crimea.



Surprisingly enough, Lithuania has never counted more than two or three thousand Karaites in the country, while their kybyns simply conquered the whole country. The kybyns of the Lithuanian Karaites are stuffed not only with chopped mutton or beef. Besides meat, the restaurant offers kybyns with mushrooms, vegetables, curd and even chocolate or nuts.

Lunch in the local Karaites restaurant is included in the price.

More about Trakai: <http://www.trakai-visit.lt/en/trakai>

Option 2

Bus tour to Šiauliai (includes tour to Trakai, Hill of Crosses, Chocolate Museum and Kleboniškis Museum of Rural Life)

Fee: €55 – €59 per person (depends on the number of people)

Starting: 9 a.m.

Departure from: Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva

Tour language: English

Trakai – as above.

After visiting Trakai, the bus tour will continue to the Hill of Crosses, close to Šiauliai, which is situated approximately 200 km from Vilnius. The Hill of Crosses (Kryžių Kalnas in Lithuanian) arose 12 kilometres north of the industrial town Šiauliai (pronounced shoo-lay) in the middle of the 19th century. The Soviet authorities did not approve of such phenomena and destroyed all the crosses a few times. After 1961 not a single cross remained. Later though, people restored the hill and the number of crosses began to grow so rapidly that it was not possible to destroy them every time.



At present the hill is 60 meters long and 40-50 meters wide. There are many hundreds of thousands of crosses on the hill now. They represent Christian devotion and a memorial to Lithuania's resistance to the Soviet authorities. The size and variety of crosses is as amazing as their number. Beautifully carved out of wood or sculpted from metal, the crosses range from three meters tall to the countless tiny examples hanging upon the larger crosses. An hour spent upon the sacred hill will reveal crosses brought by Christian pilgrims from all around the world.

The trip also includes visiting two museums. The first one is Kleboniškis Museum of Rural Life, where you can get some knowledge of cultural and rural life in the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century and visit the only Wind Mill in Lithuania, which is still functional.





The second museum is Rūta Chocolate Museum in Šiauliai. There you will take a look at nearly four millennia-long history of chocolate – learn how it was made by the Maya and Aztec people, and how chocolate and its consuming traditions have changed since then, find out about the first chocolate and candy factories in Lithuania and take a closer look at Rūta, the oldest operating candy factory in the country. The history of the Rūta factory goes back to 1913, when a 36-year-old confectioner Antanas Gricevičius set up a caramel cooking pot in a small

wooden house in Šiauliai. In 1940 the factory was nationalized and in 1993, when Lithuania gained back its independence the Rūta factory buildings were returned to the family of the founder. They revived the old traditions of chocolate production and Rūta once again became a factory producing unique and original confectionery in Lithuania.

Lunch in the local restaurant during the tour is included in the price.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The weather in October in Lithuania might already be rather cold and rainy. So, warm clothes, raincoats and umbrellas are necessary!

But, if we are lucky, the weather might really spoil us with quiet early autumn warmth, wrapped in shining gossamers and contemplative mode among the most amusing views of nature and the town.



SEE YOU IN VILNIUS!



Radio and Television Commission
of Lithuania