

# 44<sup>TH</sup> EPRA MEETING

19 – 22 October 2016, Yerevan (Armenia)

## Programme

### Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016

19.00 Welcome dinner – details to follow later

### Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016

08.15 Transfer from Hotel Opera Suite to Ani Plaza Hotel (venue)

08.30 Registration (Ani Plaza Hotel)

09.00 – 17.30 EPRA meeting, Ani Plaza Hotel

19.00 Dinner – details to follow later

### Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016

8.30 Transfer from Hotel Opera Suite to Ani Plaza Hotel (venue)

09.00 – 13.00 Continuation of EPRA meeting at Ani Plaza Hotel

15.00 Guided tour of **Echmiadzin** (free of charge)

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016

11.00 Half day tour to **Garni Temple** and **Geghard Monastery** (for a fee)

### Contact at the National Commission on TV and Radio of Armenia - NCTR

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## General Information about Yerevan

Yerevan is the capital and largest city of Armenia. Yerevan is the administrative, cultural, and industrial center of the country. It has been the capital since 1918, the thirteenth in the history of Armenia. 2797 years have passed since the foundation of our city.

The name of the city of Yerevan goes back to the period of Urartu and originates from the name "Erebuni". Yerevan is located on the edge of the Ararat valley on both banks of the river Hrazdan, at an altitude of 900 - 1200 above sea level. The climate is acutely continental with hot and dry summer and relatively severe winter.

Armenia was the first country in the world to adopt Christianity as a state religion in 301 A.D. Christianity was introduced to Armenia much earlier, during the first century (60-68 A.D.). During the first two centuries, Christians in Armenia were forced to practice their religion secretly among a majority of Zoroastrians. This situation lasted until 301 A.D. when Christianity gained support from the state. Churches of Yerevan are the models of ancient stone architecture of the capital. These monuments that preserve the imprints of the earliest and medieval architectural creativity, stand today in many parts of Yerevan testifying its Christian identity.

Armenia has appeared before the world mainly with its manifestations of creative ideas. The evidence of this are the monuments and temples spread all over the country, the libraries and museums of other countries, the works of art, sculptures, and the creations of Armenian composers, the national music have their own place in spiritual development of mankind.

One of the most precious treasures of the Armenian nation is the collection of ancient manuscripts. There are around 30 000 ancient Armenian manuscripts in the world and the majority of them are preserved in Yerevan. They can be found in Matenadaran, the Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, named after Mesrop Mashtoc, the creator of Armenian alphabet.

## Hotel accommodation

Please use the booking forms especially prepared for this purpose. Please fill the booking forms and send to hotel (email is mentioned in the booking form).

Please, send a copy of the confirmed bookings to Zaruhi Maksudyan [maksudyan@tvradio.am](mailto:maksudyan@tvradio.am) ccing Emmanuelle Mchet [mchet@epra.org](mailto:mchet@epra.org)

The deadline for hotel bookings expires **on September 9, 2016. Please, take this notice seriously.**

The hotels we would like to suggest as accommodation options for the EPRA Delegates would be the following:



## 1. Ani Plaza Hotel (meeting venue)

<http://www.anihotel.com/>



Ani Plaza Hotel will be the **EPRA convention meeting venue** and one of the two hotels we would like to suggest as accommodation for the EPRA delegates. It has a central location at the address 19 Sayat-Nova Ave, Yerevan 0001. Most tourist attractions are within walking distance from here. The guests will be fascinated by the Republic Square, the wonderful Cascade complex and the centre of arts, the Northern Avenue with its unforgettable combination of contemporary architecture and ethnical traditions, the largest museum of ancient manuscripts called Matenadaran, the museum of history and many other exciting places which undoubtedly are the hallmark of Armenia. The best restaurants, cafés and boutiques where you can enjoy your time are all close to Ani Plaza.





Ani Plaza Hotel is offering the following facilities: indoor swimming pool, sauna, gym, relax SPA center, solarium, massage, beauty salon.

The EPRA delegates are offered free WiFi



It takes only 15 minutes to get from the “Zvartnots” airport to Ani Plaza Hotel by car.

The room types and prices can be found in the booking form.



## 2. Opera Suite Hotel

<http://www.operasuitehotel.com/>

The second Hotel we would like to suggest to the EPRA Delegates is the Opera Suite Hotel.

The location is in Midtown Yerevan, only a few steps away from the Cascade Complex, Lovers’ Park and the National Opera House.

The Opera Suite hotel is also only 10 minutes from the Republic Square and Matenadaran.



The EPRA delegates are offered free WiFi



The hotel offers to guests to use a gym dedicated to well-being equipped with the latest training machine, opened every day 24 hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, offering Finnish wooden Sauna with cold water bucket. Thai Penthouse is premium quality Spa and Wellness Center with qualified and certified Thai therapists. Here the guests can enjoy large variety of treatments such as traditional Thai massage, relaxing oil massage, compress with herbal bags, hot stone massage and many more.

**The hotel is a mere 5-6-minute drive to the meeting venue.**

The National Commission on Television and Radio of Armenia will **provide transfer** from the Opera Suite Hotel to the meeting venue.

## **Participation Fee**

Please note that no participation fee is required this time.

## Travel and flight companies flying to Zvartnots airport

Concerning the flight companies, the main Western companies operating direct flights are Austrian Airlines, and Air France. There are also many flights from Moscow, with several daily flights (from different airports in Moscow) operated by mainly Aeroflot and S7, several flights also from Saint Petersburg. The delegates can also arrive via Kiev by Ukraine International Airlines or via Warsaw by Polish Airlines LOT. There are direct flights also from Doha (Qatar airways), Dubai (Fly Dubai), Sharjah (Air Arabia), and from Athens (Aegean airlines).

More details available under: <http://www.zvartnots.aero/>

**Delegates are advised to book their flights as early as possible. Please do not forget to book an extra night accommodation if you happen to travel with a night flight.**

## Transfer from Airport

EPRA delegates can order transfer from the airport to the hotels and back to the airport in advance or get a taxi at the airport. For ordering transfer in advance they can contact **Aria Black Car Agency**, which will organize the transfer. The contact details for Aria Black Car Agency is as follows:

Tel. +37411 77 11 77

+37495 00 10 10

ariablackcar@gmail.com

info@blackcar.am

www.blackcar.am

The estimated fare from the airport to the hotel is approx. 12000 AMD (incl. VAT).

## Banks and Shops

The currency of Armenia is the Armenian Dram. The currency code for Drams is AMD, and the currency symbol is ₼. Based on the rate of 19 July 2016, 1 EUR is 527 AMD (1,000 AMD roughly corresponds to 1,9 EUR). ATMs are common in Yerevan, all banks of Armenia have their ATMs spread around the city. Most of the shops and restaurants accept credit cards. More information about banks, ATMs and Armenian Dram exchange rates can be found on the official website of Central Bank of Armenia [www.cba.am](http://www.cba.am)

The banks are operating from Monday to Friday from 9:00 or 9:30 till 17:00, some banks are operating also on Saturdays from 10:00 till 15:00. On Sundays the banks are closed.

The shops in Yerevan are mainly open seven days per week from 09:00 or 10:00 till 19:00 or 20:00

## Time Zone

Until 30 October Armenia is three hours ahead of London (GMT+1) and two hours ahead of CET (summer).

## Visa Information

All the necessary visa information is available at this link: <http://www.mfa.am/en/>

Most delegates will NOT require a visa. A few delegates will have to obtain visas at the airport upon arrival for a fee about 5-10 Euros. Only three countries will be required to apply for visas in advance. See also [the information table provided by our host](#).

## Events

**On Wednesday 19 October, the welcome dinner will take place at 19:00, the place will be announced later.**

**On Thursday 20 October, the dinner will take place at 19:00, the place will be announced later.**

**On Friday 21 October at 15:00, the participants will be offered a tour (free of charge) to Echmiadzin**

The Mother Cathedral of Echmiadzin is a 4th century Armenian church in the city of Echmiadzin, approx. 22 km from Yerevan. It is also the central cathedral of Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

The Mother Cathedral of Holy Echmiadzin is the most recognized landmark of the Armenian Church. Built and consecrated by St. Gregory the Illuminator and St. Trdat the Great in 303 AD, the Cathedral is located in the city of Echmiadzin.

Located on the grounds of the Mother See are the spiritual and administrative headquarters of the worldwide Armenian Church, and the residence of His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos and Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians.

The Mother Cathedral is listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2000.



**On Saturday 22 October at 11:00 the participants will be offered a half day tour (for a fee) to Garni Temple and Geghard Monastery (less than an hour away from Yerevan).**

The pagan temple of Garni was built in the 2nd half of the 1st century during the reconstruction of the fortress (77 AD). After the adoption of Christianity it became the summer residence of Khosrovdukht, the sister of King Trdat III. It was demolished in 1679 by the earthquake. The parts, fragments of graceful columns and wall stones were spread all around the temple. This circumstance made possible the restoration of the temple which took place in 1930s. With its general structure the construction is peripteral, the spatial-dimensional structure of which rising from a high pedestal is crowned with a luxuriously designed façade. It is supposed that the temple was dedicated to Mitra, the God of Sun. As a symbol of light and truth, Mitra was often illustrated in duel with a bull (darkness).

Near the temple a hoof of a bull, modeled with white marble, was discovered, which used to belong to the pagan idol destroyed during the adoption of Christianity. Today, the marvelous monument, in a restored state, continues delighting people and is considered one of the gorgeous diamonds of pagan-time intangible culture of Armenian people, at the same time representing a world value. It is supposed that the temple was built in the 2nd century BC. In the 1st century AD it was ruined by Roman armies. In the 70's of the 1st century Garni was reconstructed by Trdat

I, who called it “inaccessible temple” in his Greek inscription. During the reign of Artashesyan and Arshakunyac kings Garni was a remarkable temple, army station and summer residence, and in the 4th century – also a bishop-residence. The temple was ruined during the Arab invasions, but the township survived and in the second half of the 9th century developed into a township.



In the south-western part of Geghama Mountain Range, on the slope of the gorge of the Goght brook of the Azat River, within the embrace of picturesque mountains one of the all-Armenian shrines – St. Geghard Monastery is sheltered.

The Monastery of Geghard is one of the Armenian large medieval complexes famous for its original and rare architectural compound: two intagliated churches dug in a huge cliff, vestibule, big graveyard chapel, monastic cells and chapels which by joining harmoniously another vestibule and church in the south side form a worship complex not yielding to the similar world structures.

