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**6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds**  
(Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017)

and

**Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on  
Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds (Bern SFPs Network)  
and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of  
Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean (MIKT)**

(Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017)

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*Victoria Hotel, Sliema, Malta*

### **INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

We welcome you to the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bern Convention's Select Group of Experts on Conservation of Wild Birds and to the Joint meeting of the Bern SFPs Network and UNEP/CMS MIKT, to be held in Malta between Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017. We hope you will enjoy your stay!

#### **MEETINGS DETAILS**

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds will be held on Wednesday 21st June.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June will be the first full day of the Joint Meeting of the Bern SFPs Network and MIKT. In the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the delegates will be invited to a dinner, kindly hosted by the Maltese government.

The joint meeting will continue in the morning of the third day, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Shortly after lunch, the delegates will be invited to take part in a field trip to one of the world's oldest prehistoric temple sites Mnajdra and Hagar Qim (<http://heritagemalta.org/museums-sites/mnajdra-temples/>), set at a spectacular location along Malta's southern cliffs and designated under UNESCO's World Heritage programme. After the field trip, delegates will be hosted to a reception aboard a vessel which will take us around Malta's spectacular historic harbours.

Working Sessions will start at 09:00 and end up approximately at 18:00 having a morning and an afternoon coffee break. Lunch will be provided throughout the meeting to all participants.

Language: The working language will be English and no interpretation will be provided.

Please consult meeting agendas for precise timing and details.



The European Commission were recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2015-2018. This activity has been funded with the contribution granted by the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.



## ABOUT MALTA

Malta is an island country comprising an archipelago of seven islands in the Mediterranean Sea. It lies 80 km (50 mi) south of Sicily, 284 km (176 mi) east of Tunisia, and 333 km (207 mi) north of Libya. The country covers just over 316 km<sup>2</sup> (122 sq mi), making it one of the world's smallest and most densely populated countries. The capital of Malta is Valletta, which is also, at 0.8 km<sup>2</sup>, the smallest capital in the European Union. Malta has two official languages: Maltese and English.

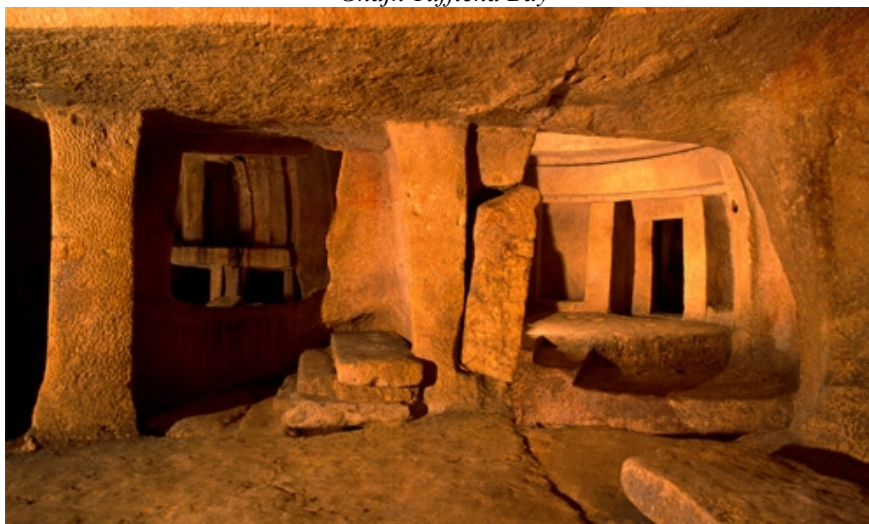
Malta's location as a naval base has given it great strategic importance throughout history, and a succession of powers, including the Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Sicilians, Habsburg Spain, Knights of St. John, French and the British, have ruled the islands. Malta gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1964 and became a republic in 1974. Malta was admitted to the United Nations in 1964 and to the European Union in 2004; in 2008, it became part of the Eurozone.

Malta has a long Christian legacy and its Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Malta is sometimes traditionally claimed to be an Apostolic See because, according to the Acts of the Apostles, Paul the Apostle was shipwrecked on Malta. Catholicism is the official religion in Malta.

The country is a popular tourist destination with its warm climate, numerous recreational areas, and architectural and historical monuments, including nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, Valletta, and seven Megalithic Temples, which are some of the oldest free-standing structures in the world.



*Ghajn Tuffieħa Bay*



*Hypogeum - UNESCO World Heritage Site*



*The Strand in Sliema*

For further information about Malta and related tourist information, please refer to: [www.visitmalta.com](http://www.visitmalta.com)

Local time: is GMT +1

#### **MEETING VENUE AND HOTEL INFORMATION**

The meeting will take place at the **Victoria Hotel** (<http://www.victoriahotel.com>), which is a 4-star superior boutique hotel renowned for its luxurious blend of Victorian décor and gracious Mediterranean hospitality. The hotel is located in the heart of **Sliema**, a short walk away from two magnificent harbours, excellent shopping areas, busy nightspots and popular restaurants. The hotel has various facilities, including a SPA, gym, several bars and restaurants, WIFI, etc.

Preferential 10% discount on best available daily rates on bed & breakfast basis have been offered by the Victoria Hotel for meeting delegates (applicable between 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June): Classic Balcony: €145.00 / Superior Room: €165.00 (inclusive of VAT).

Reservations can be made via website, with special conference promo code “MSDEC”:  
<https://booking.hotelrez.co.uk/?Hotel=69228&promo=MSDEC>

Hotel contact details: The Victoria Hotel, Gorg Borg Olivier Street, Sliema, SLM 1807, Malta; Telephone: +356 2133 4711 Email: [thevictoria@axhotelsmalta.com](mailto:thevictoria@axhotelsmalta.com) | [www.victoriahotel.com](http://www.victoriahotel.com)





There are several other hotels located within walking distance from the Victoria hotel:

- **The Palace Hotel** (5\*) <https://thepalacemalta.com> – 2 minute-walk from Victoria Hotel (note: this superior five-star hotel which is practically adjacent to Victoria Hotel also offered 10% discount on B&B stays between 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June for meeting delegates: Deluxe Room: €185.00 / Superior Room: €205.00 (inclusive of VAT). Reservations can be made via website <https://booking.hotelrez.co.uk/?Hotel=69019&promo=MSDEC> with special conference promo code “MSDEC”.
- **Preluna Hotel** (4\*) <http://www.preluna.com> – 15 minute-walk from Victoria Hotel
- **Fortina Hotel & Spa** (4\*) <http://www.hotelfortina.com/home?l=1> – 25 minute-walk from Victoria Hotel
- **The Waterfront Hotel** (4\*) <http://www.waterfronthotelmalta.com/en> - 15 minute-walk from Victoria Hotel
- **Sliema Marina Hotel** (3\*) <http://sliemamarinahotel.com/> - 20 minute-walk from Victoria Hotel

**All participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel booking. Since June is a busy holiday season for Malta, early reservation is highly advised since availability for last minute bookings cannot be guaranteed.**

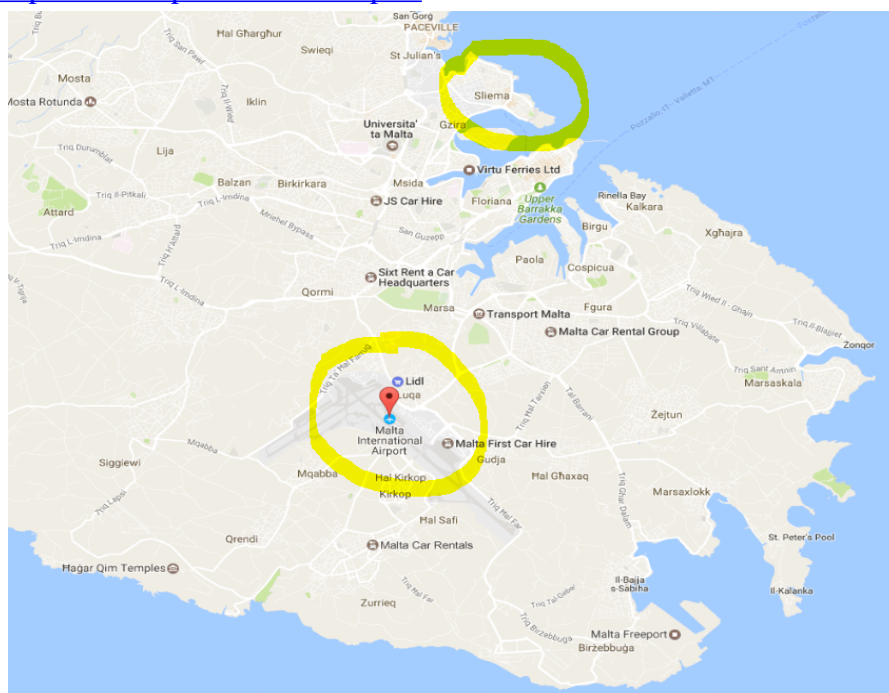
## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### ❖ Airport Transfer

The Malta International Airport services the entire Maltese archipelago ([www.maltairport.com](http://www.maltairport.com)). The most convenient way of getting to Sliema from the airport is by taxi. The taxi ride is about 30 minutes and costs around €20.

Alternatively, one may book a shuttle transfer at the rate of about €8 (one way): <http://www.maltatransfer.com/>

Another option of getting to Sliema from the airport is by bus X2 (bus stop directly in front of arrivals exit). Bus tickets can be purchased from a booth in the airport or directly on the bus. <http://www.publictransport.com.mt/airport>



❖ **Visa Formalities:**

Visa is required to enter the country for non-EU nationals. A third country national who already holds a residence permit issued by one of the Schengen Member States is exempted from this requirement.

It is strongly recommended that necessary visas are obtained prior to travelling to Malta. For information about Visa applications please visit the website of the Maltese [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#).

Participants who will need a Note Verbale letter from the UNEP/CMS Secretariat to support the visa application should contact [ximena.cancino@cms.int](mailto:ximena.cancino@cms.int). The personalized invitation letters that you already have received can accompany the visa application documents.

Passport validity: Six months remaining validity upon entry.

❖ **Weather**

June offers favourable weather conditions with temperatures pleasant for swimming and comfortable for general sight-seeing. Sunshine is guaranteed! By day, the average high will be around 30°C, by night – around 26°C. The sea temperature around Malta will be around 24°C – excellent for swimming at one of Sliema's famous rocky beaches!

Closer to the meeting date you can check the weather forecast on [www.maltairport.com/weather](http://www.maltairport.com/weather).

❖ **Electricity**

The standard voltage in Malta is 240V and three-pin square British style plugs are used. Therefore, you might wish to bring an adaptor if you need one.

❖ **Other matters:**

For any questions, please email to [Rosalie.mintoff@gov.mt](mailto:Rosalie.mintoff@gov.mt), copying [carmen.naves@cms.int](mailto:carmen.naves@cms.int) and [veronique.decussac@coe.int](mailto:veronique.decussac@coe.int).

**Merħba f'Malta!**