



Artificial Intelligence Intelligent Politics

Challenges and opportunities
for media and democracy

Ministerial Conference
Cyprus, 28-29 May 2020



PRACTICAL
INFORMATION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
Conference of Ministers
responsible for Media
& Information Society
NICOSIA 2020



DATE AND VENUE

The Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Media and Information Society will take place at the [Filoxenia Conference Centre](#) in Nicosia, starting at 09:00 on 28 May 2020, and closing at 12:30 on 29 May 2020.

This high-level event will be preceded by the holding of the plenary meeting of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) on 27 May 2020, at the Filoxenia Conference Centre (Elia Hall), starting at 09:30 on 27 May 2020.

WORKING LANGUAGES

The working languages of the Conference will be English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

REGISTRATION

Each participant in the Conference must register using the online registration form on the [Conference website](#).

WORKING DOCUMENTS

All working documents for the Conference will be posted on the Conference website. Please note that no working documents will be printed out and distributed during the Conference.

ACCOMMODATION

A limited number of rooms have been reserved by the Council of Europe at the Landmark Nicosia City Hotel (www.thelandmarknicosia.com) for 4 nights (26-27-28-29 May 2020). Participants are invited to reserve their room at this hotel as soon as possible and if possible **by 13 April 2020**, by filling the registration form available on the Conference website. The rate for the rooms will apply also for any stay subsequent to the holding of the Conference.

Two additional hotels are also recommended, namely the Semeli Hotel (www.semelihotel.com.cy) and the Cleopatra (www.cleopatra.com.cy/cleopatra).

VISAS

Participants are invited to verify whether they need a visa for Cyprus. Participants who do need a visa should request a support letter for their visa from the Secretariat of the Council of Europe. Please note that you will still need to follow the procedure indicated by your Consulate.

INSURANCE

Certain specific travel risks are covered by the Council of Europe's travel insurance policy CHARTIS (number 2.004.761), which offers cover to people until their 76th birthday. The telephone help line CHARTIS 24-hour assistance can be called if needed: +32 3 253 69 16. In order to obtain a visa, it is not necessary to take out an additional insurance and the price paid for such insurance will not be reimbursed by the Council of Europe.

LEGAL POINTS OF ENTRY

The legal points of entry to Cyprus are the Larnaca and Pafos airports (<https://www.hermesairports.com/>) and the Limassol and Larnaca ports.

LARNACA AND PAFOS AIRPORTS

Upon arrival at Larnaca or Pafos airport, participants will be requested to scan their passport/ID in order to make all custom procedure faster and easier. Assigned staff from the host country will be available to assist the participants at the airports.

GETTING TO THE CONFERENCE PREMISES

From Larnaca airport

- **Taxi** - The distance between Larnaca airport and the Conference premises (**Filoxenia Conference Centre** and the **Landmark Nicosia City Hotel**) is 50 km. They can be reached in 30-40 minutes by taxi at a price of €55.
- **Bus** - The least expensive option is the bus which runs on a 24/7 basis. The Kapnos shuttle bus terminal is located at Kyrenia Street, one kilometre from the Filoxenia Conference Centre. The journey will take around 35 minutes, and costs €8 for adults. You can purchase your tickets from the arrival arena inside the designated bus exit of Larnaca airport or on www.kapnosairportshuttle.com.

From Nicosia

- **Bus** - Free shuttle buses will run between the 3 hotels and the Filoxenia Conference Centre on the mornings before and in the afternoon/evening after the Conference.

ACCESSING THE CONFERENCE VENUE

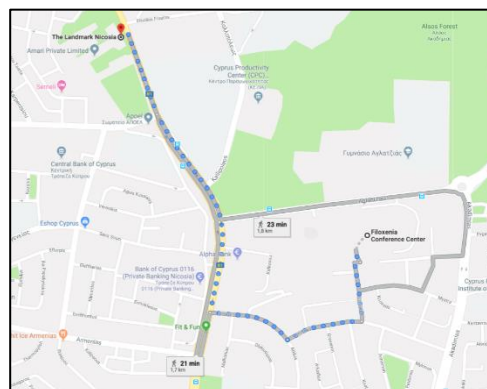
Time distance from Landmark Nicosia City Hotel to Filoxenia Conference Centre by car is approximately 3-5 minutes and 15 minutes by foot.

The Filoxenia Conference Centre is conveniently located, with easy access to the highway and central roads of Nicosia.

Address **17 Thrakis Street, 2112 Nicosia, Cyprus**

Accessibility The Filoxenia Conference Centre is accessible with a wheelchair and is fully equipped to accommodate people with special access needs.

Parking A large parking space outside the Centre provides easy access to the venue. A parking space for approximately 70 vehicles is also available within the Filoxenia Conference Centre premises.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

There are 2 companies offering bus routes in Nicosia:

1. **OSEL** (<http://www.osel.com.cy/home-en>). OSEL offers bus routes in the Greater Nicosia District.

2. Nicosia's Mini Buses (<https://nicosiaminibuses.eu/home>) The mini buses circulate in Nicosia's centre from morning until late in the evening. Mini buses stop at all of the city's points of interest.

**All public transport service information, in Nicosia and in Cyprus in general, can also be found at the following website: <http://www.motionbuscard.org.cy/routes> and at the following app: Cyprus Bus (The app includes the following functionalities: updated information about routes, updated information about schedules and real time information about bus arrival at stop).*

WELCOME RECEPTION

A welcome reception will take place at the Landmark Nicosia City Hotel on Wednesday 27 May 2020 for all Ministers.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

A cocktail reception will take place at the Filoxenia Conference Centre on Thursday 28 May 2020 by the end of the Press Conference.

CONFERENCE DINNER

The Conference dinner for Ministers will be held on Thursday 28 May 2020 at 20:30. The venue will be specified at a later stage.

USEFUL TO KNOW

Local time: Cyprus is in the Eastern European Time Zone; Standard Time is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+2).

Currency exchange: The currency used in Nicosia is the Euro. You may exchange money in most banks in Nicosia or at Foreign Exchange Bureaux. Look for signs that say Bureau De Change, Geld Wechseln or Cambio. You may be able to exchange currency at the Nicosia airport; however the exchange rates may not be the most favourable. You can also inquire about purchasing travellers checks (Travellers Cheques). Before your trip, you may wish to consult with your credit or debit card bank about the foreign exchange transaction fees charged for using your card in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Emergency Service Telephone Numbers: Call 112 to reach medical, fire or police services.

24-hour Pharmacies: Nicosia: +357 90 90 1412

Hospitals: Nicosia New General: +357 22 603 000 Nicosia Makario: +357 22 405 000



Electric appliances: In Cyprus the standard voltage is 240 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. The power plugs and sockets are of type G. The Type G electrical plug has three rectangular blades in a triangular pattern and has an incorporated fuse (usually a 3 amps fuse for smaller appliances such as a computer and a 13 amps one for heavy duty appliances such as heaters).

HIGHLIGHTS OF NICOSIA

While strolling the city you can spot the preserved architectural legacy of the Lusignan, Venetian and Ottoman periods. Trace back to the past and you'll unearth the entire history of the Mediterranean. The historical centre of today's Nicosia is located within the large medieval walls which were built by the Venetians.

The Venetian Walls are a series of defensive walls which surround the capital city of Nicosia in Cyprus. The first city walls were built in the Middle Ages, but they were completely rebuilt in the mid-16th century by the Republic of Venice. The walls are still largely intact, and are



among the best-preserved Renaissance fortifications in the Eastern Mediterranean. They constitute a major tourist attraction. The city of Nicosia was considered to be a practical example of an ideal city of the Renaissance, and this was due to its fortifications as well as the urban life within the city.



Makarios Cultural Foundation

The Byzantine Museum situated in the Makarios Cultural Foundation offers a staggering collection (220 pieces) of Christian icons that date back from the beginning of the

Byzantine era up until the 19th century.

Discover more of Cyprus at the Deputy Ministry of Tourism portal, where you can find from information and facts to interesting ideas and downloadable brochures: www.visitcyprus.com.