

Conference of European Churches
Governing Board

Brussels, 24-26 November 2016

<u>Doc N°:</u>	2GB2016_Doc10b
<u>Topic:</u>	General Assembly 2018 Location
<u>Agenda Item:</u>	11b
Staff in Charge:	Heikki Huttunen
<u>Recommendation:</u>	<i>For information</i>
<u>Annex:</u>	Not applicable
<u>Earlier docs:</u>	Not applicable

Conference of European Churches

15th CEC General Assembly

Exploring possibilities for venues

Visit to Novi Sad

Secretary General Fr Heikki Huttunen, Study secretary Peter Pavlovic and Human rights secretary Elizabeta Kitanovic visited Novi Sad on 28 September 2016. The same persons visited also Volos in April, with the same mission. Due to the late confirmation of the visit, it was not possible to involve anyone from the APC membership in the visit.

The visit was organised by the Orthodox diocese of Backa and Novi Sad. The delegation had a substantial audience with Bishop Irinej upon return to Belgrade where he had been attending a Holy Synod meeting. Representatives of the other churches in Novi Sad had been invited for the luncheon there, and a pastor from the Methodist and the Reformed church attended. The representative of Slovak Evangelical Church was also invited, but no one came from his office.

Novi Sad - Neoplanta

Novi Sad is the capital of the Autonomous province of Vojvodina in the northern part of Serbia. Vojvodina is one of the unique crossroads of European history and culture. The Autonomous province has six official languages: Serbian, Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian, Croat and Rusyn/Ruthenian. The origins of Novi Sad go back to a Roman fortification which was built on the southern embankment of the Danube in the first century. A handsome castle in the same location overlooks the city to this day. The Byzantine name of the fortress was Petrikon, which became Pétérvárad in Hungarian and Petrovaradin in Serbian. A new settlement was founded by Serbian merchants across the river in the end of the 17th century, and in 1748 it was proclaimed “a royal free city” by Empress Maria Theresia of Austria, receiving its new, multilingual name Neoplanta (Latin), Нови Сад/Novi Sad (Serbian), Újvidék (Hungarian), Nový Sad (Slovak), Neusatz (German), Нови Сад (Rusyn).

Today, the inhabitants of Novi Sad identify themselves as Serbs, Hungarians, Croats, Slovaks, Montenegrins, Rusyns, Yugoslavs, Muslims, Macedonians, Romanians and Gorani. According to the 2011 census, the population of the administrative area of Novi Sad included 270,831 Orthodox Christians, 21,530 Catholics, 8,499 Protestants, 4,760 Muslims, 84 Jews, and others. The city is the seat of the Serbian Orthodox Eparchy of Bačka. Of the other CEC members in Serbia, the Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession as well as the United Methodist Church in Serbia have their head offices in Novi Sad. The Reformed Christian Church in Serbia and Montenegro has its head office in Feketic in Vojvodina. Greek Catholics of Rusyn/Ruthenian background also belong to the ecumenical landscape of Novi Sad. Several smaller Protestant Churches have communities there. The city also houses the Muftiship of Novi Sad of the Islamic Community in Serbia. There is an impressive synagogue in the centre Novi Sad, reminding of the significant historic Jewish presence, which has remained very small after the Holocaust.

Novi Sad is located ca. 60 km north of Belgrade airport. Transport by chartered buses from the airport on the new motorway takes ca. 45 minutes. Public transport connection requires changing in Belgrade centre which makes the trip to last up to 3 hours.

Invitation

In a letter (N°302) dated June 29 and signed by H.B. Patriarch Irinej the Holy Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church informs CEC that in its meeting on 12 April 2016 the Holy Synod “joyfully accepted the proposal that the 15th General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches be held in Novi Sad in 2018”. Bishop Irinej of Novi Sad as the competent diocesan bishop would receive a delegation to familiarize itself with the possibilities and conditions for organising the Assembly.

Upon request from CEC and as a part of the visit programme, the diocesan office invited representatives of the other Christian churches for a luncheon. As mentioned above, two of them were represented.

In the discussion with the CEC delegation, Bishop Irinej described Novi Sad as the city with a unique ecumenical experience in Serbia. He invited the opening prayer of the Assembly to be held in the Orthodox Cathedral, together with the other local churches, “as we are used to doing in Novi Sad”. Both the bishop and the pastors of the Methodist and Reformed churches we met confirmed that to set up a local organising committee would be feasible.

CEC has a recent and very positive experience of cooperating with the Serbian Orthodox Church and especially with Bishop Irinej in organising a major CEC event. The Church and Society Commission of CEC enjoyed hospitality of the same diocese in organizing an annual meeting of the CSC in 2012 in Novi Sad. In visiting Novi Sad this year we experienced the same openness from the side of local churches as 4 years ago. At the same time, conference facilities and the city Novi Sad seems from the side of practical arrangements better equipped to host a major event than it was before.

Master Conference Centre

The Master Conference Centre (Мастер Центар Нови Сад, also known as the Novi Sad Fair) is an internationally well-known facility for trade fairs and other events. The largest event is the yearly agriculture fair in early July with participation from different parts of the world. The Centre is located ca. 3 km from downtown Novi Sad, in an urban area with shops, hotels and other services.

The Centre has a large area where the walls can be moved to form different spaces, for example a plenary room with ca. 500 seats with tables and simultaneously a smaller worship space. In addition, there is an auditorium with 350 fixed seats. Rooms for the Assembly office, the media and documentation can be arranged on the same level. A spacious foyer would offer possibilities for exhibitions and moments for mingling during coffee breaks.

A detailed description of the Conference Centre and their offer for the CEC General Assembly are attached.

Hotel Park

A sumptuous five stars hotel is located in ca. 5 minutes walking distance from the Master Centre. Described on the hotel's website: *“Hotel Park is set on the edge of a vast park in peaceful surroundings in Novi Sad. Entirely air conditioned, it offers elegantly equipped accommodation with free Internet access, hydro massage bath tub in some units and cable TV. The centre of Novi Sad is just a short walk away. The Park Restaurant serves international and domestic cuisine and features a terrace for up to 500 people. The exclusive Tito Restaurant has a charming ambience. It was visited by Marshal Tito in 1977. Hotel Park's wellness centre features a hot tub, indoor swimming pool, saunas and diverse massage treatments. Fitness facilities and individual trainer programs are at the guests' disposal. A casino and two night clubs are also located on site. Park Hotel is located in close*

proximity to the Novi Sad Fair. Free private parking is provided at the secure on-site parking lot. Airport shuttle is available at a surcharge.”

With mostly single room accommodation Hotel Park has a capacity for up to 300 persons. Additional rooms could be arranged through Park Hotel in other nearby hotels.

The hotel complex includes a separate building, the “Villa”, with comfortable rooms for 2-3 persons, with a full capacity of 80 beds. This could serve the youth participants of the Assembly.

In addition to comfortable accommodation, Hotel Park offers for CEC’s purposes spaces where group meetings, hearings could be organized:

- Amphitheatre with 156 seats with tables.
- Meeting room for 120 without tables
- Meeting room for 100 without tables
- Board room for 40
- 3 board rooms for 12

For the CEC General Assembly Hotel Park would offer more than accommodation. Afternoon and evening programme with group work and hearings could possibly be organised there. The hotel restaurant could feed the whole attendance of up to 500 persons for both lunch and dinner.

An offer from Hotel Park is attached.



Meeting facilities at Hotel Park – Novi Sad







Master Conference Centre – Novi Sad





HTUP "PARK" a.d. Novi Sad, Novosadskog sajma 35, Tel/fax: +381 (0)21 4888 888
Tekući račun broj: 165-1280-85 Hypo-Alpe-Adria bank
PIB: 100239050 MB: 08149054 PDV: 132694860 Trgovinski sud Novi Sad R.U. 1-1292

CEC
Conference of European Churches
174 rue Joseph II
BE-1000 Brussels
Belgium
Offer: 03-4/0312

Dear Madam/Sir,

We would like to thank You for Your confidence and for choosing the services of Hotel Park.
We are pleased to offer the following services:

Accommodation:

Date: September or beginning of October 2018- 3 nights

Number of people: cca 350 pax

Single room (queen-size bed) BB _____ 60,00 € / per room, per night
Double room (two separate beds)BB _____ 75,00 € / per room, per night

**Notes:*

- Supplement for half board (lunch or dinner) is 15,00 € per person, per meal.
- Meals -According to your menu (gluten-free ; vegetarian meals ..)
- Check in is from 2 p.m., check out until 12 a.m.
- Prices for one-way bus with 52 seats (airport –hotel Park) is 250€ per bus.

The price includes:

Accommodation on bed and breakfast (buffet breakfast)
Value Added Tax (VAT)

The price does not include:

City Tax of 130,00 dinars (approx 1.30 €) per person per day
Insurance of 30,00 dinars (approx 0.30 €) per person per day

During your stay at the Park Hotel, the following services are available FREE OF CHARGE:

Use of swimming pool and sauna in our Wellness centre
(<http://www.hotelparkns.com/en/wellness/swimming-pool-and-sauna/>)
Use of all Halls in our congress centre
(<http://www.hotelparkns.com/en/events/congress-centre/>)
Play zone for children
Use of wireless internet connection
Use the hotel's parking lot

Payment conditions:

For confirmation of group reservation, it is necessary to make the payment of 50% of total value in advance, and the rest 5 work days prior to the date of use of services .

According to regulations of the hotel, it is necessary to make the cancellation of group reservation at least 14 days prior to the date of use of services.

In case of no show and reservation has not been canceled in accordance to the hotel's cancellation policy, hotel has the right for compensation in the amount of the price canceled or unperformed service for one day

In case of stay longer than two nights, full charges for the cancelled reservation will apply

The price is guaranteed only for the full payment amount. Otherwise, only the amount of advance is guaranteed, and the rest is subject to change

We kindly ask you to declare about our offer in writing, until end of October 2016 due to final confirmation and further procedures of organization.

We recommend You to visit our website <http://www.hotelparkns.com/en/hotel/about-hotel/> where You can get familiar with the contents of Hotel Park and all that we have to offer.

For any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With respect,

Božana Mandić

Sales and Marketing Department

Novi Sad, Serbia, 04.10.2016.

Mob:+381 (0) 62 8851411

Tel: + 381 (0) 21 48 88 885

Email: prodaja@hotelparkns.com



3 October 2016

Offer 77/16

KONGRESNI CENTAR MASTER

4 days in June 2018

500 participants

All available capacity of the Congress Centre Master of the Novi Sad Fair

All sale congress centre - full day	5.000eur
Aula – full day.....	3.500eur
Four day lease	20.000eur
Lease of Aula two days / Two days free /	7.000eur
Total offer :	27.000eur

Prices set according to official price list Kogresnog center "Master" and expressed before tax.

Rooms are air conditioned and equipped with audio - video equipment: motorised screen, 3m front projection projector with 4,500 ANSI lumens, audio / CD, DVD, mic, PC / video / DVD, DV, SVHS, VHS /, ceiling camera, wireless microphones , table microphones, monitors for presiding chair and the speakers, connection for notebook computers, flip chart, plasma screen in front of the hall.

Respectfully yours,

Andrea Knezy

Executive Director for congress activities
Executive Board Member