FACTS ON BULGARIA

According to Byzantine sources, the state of Bulgaria was founded in 681 A.D. Since then, Bulgaria has always played a key roll in the region. Its location, at the heart of the Balkans, makes it a natural bridge between East, West, North and South. From time immemorial all roads linking the four corners of the world have passed through Bulgaria. The unique location of this country makes it a rich melting pot of different cultures, while its tradition of tolerance makes it a comfortable living place for the different ethnic and cultural communities.

Bulgaria seeks today its rightful place in the family of European democracies. This is a country that has remained stable amid violent regional conflicts in the very recent past.

TERRITORY

110,993 square km.

POPULATION

8.5 million; average age: 37.5 years

CAPITAL

Sofia

CURRENCY:

Lev ($1 = 1.66 - 1.68 levs, EURO 1 == 1.94 - 1.95 LEVs)

IMPORTANT:

The emission of current banknotes takes place in and after 1999!!!!

PRINCIPAL AIRPORTS:

Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Bourgas

ELECTRICITY:

220V; 50Hz

CLIMATE:

Moderately southern.

TIME

Time difference with GMT is two hours ahead. In the summer time clocks are set one hour ahead.

ROADS:

Traffic is on the right.
Speed limit in towns: 50 km/h.
Speed limit outside towns: 80 km/h.
Speed limit on freeways: 120 km/h.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

The sign for "yes" is nodding the head from left to right and back,
as for "no" in all other countries.

HEALTH CARE:

There exist international agreements on free-of-charge health care
for most countries. Please, check with your travel agent.

BULGARIA CONTACTS

Government Press Information Service
Tel. (++359-2)8872770

Foreign Ministry Information Office
Tel. (++359-2) 704416
     (++359-2) 7144801

President's Press information Office
Tel. (++359-2) 8383177

National Assembly International Relations Department
Tel. (++359-2) 881824
     (++359-2) 8402326

IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN SOFIA

International Phone Code from abroad: ++359-2-....

Ambulance 150
Fire 160
Police 166
Road help 146
Sofia Railway Station 31111
International calls 0123
Long distance calls 121
Sofia airport
        domestic: 722414 and 79 32 21 16
        international:
                        arrivals: 79 32 32 11

                        departures: 720672 and 79 32 22 11

Hotels:
     Sheraton Sofia Hotel Balkan - 876541
     Vitosha Intercontinental Hotel 24151
     Novotel Evropa 31261
     Grand Hotel Sofia 878821
     Hotel Rodina 51631
     Interbalkan Travel Agency 870995

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If you need a help or advice when in Sofia(during the Conference days),
please call Dr. Clementina Mladenova (the wife of Ivailo) :

              71-38-52 (home)

or

              971-13-99 (office - please, notice that the phone
              call in this case will be answered by an operator

and you have to ask for Clementina

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The St. Constantine and Elena Resort is the oldest Bulgarian Black Sea resort. It is located in a beautiful natural park with a wonderful combination of sea coast, woods and hot mineral springs. The resort is only 8 km from the town of Varna and is connected to it by a highway with regular bus transportation throughout the year. At the resort, car service facilities, car wash, and oil station are available. In the middle of the resort stands the International Home of Scientists Joliot-Curie.

An important point for orientation:

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Because of either possible delays of the flights or night arrivals, we request all participants to advise us about the date and place of their arrivals.

Participants arriving by bus, train or car should contact the organizers by telephone. Public telephones work either with coins or with cards. Telephone cards can be bought in every big shop and at the train stations.

REGISTRATION

The Registration desk will be located in the conference hall inside the SANA hotel. The organizers recommended that you check at the registration desk on Friday by 9.35 a.m. The opening session will begin at 11 a.m.

ACCOMMODATION

This will be provided in SANA hotel, St. Constantine and Elena Resort. Participants will be assigned rooms at the registration desk. The first night of accommodation is Thursday June 5, the last night Friday June 11, 2003. Meals will be provided in the restaurant of the hotel with the following timetable:

- Breakfast, 8.30 - 9.30;
- Lunch, 12.30 - 14.00;
- Supper, 18.30 - 19.30.

PRESENTATIONS

The lectures and contributed-paper presentations will be in the Lecture Hall of the SANA hotel which will be provided with a blackboard and an overhead projector.

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Regular mail, telephone and fax services are available, at the expense of the participants.

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Note that your personal expenses (telephone, bar consumption, laundry, etc.) are your responsibility and should be settled upon checking out.

LIABILITIES

The Organizing Committee cannot provide health or accident insurance. They cannot assume any responsibility or other liabilities for persons participating in the Conference.

SHOPPING AND BANKING

Small shops and a supermarket are located in the complex. Many restaurants, bars, and night clubs are located in the complex as well. Major shopping sites can be found in nearby Varna and the Golden Sands Resort.

Money is best exchanged in exchange booths, without commission and in

banks with a 2% to 4% commission. The resort and the International Home of Scientists provide this service.

THE FOREIGN CURRENCY REGIME is free. US$, EURO, SF are the preferable currency. Only travel checks could be exchanged. In some luxury hotels Credit Cards are accepted for exchange of foreign currency in leva - in Grand Hotel VARNA, St. Constantine and Elena resort, the following cards could be used: AirPlus; MasterCard; Diners Club; JCB Card; VISA; AMERICAN EXPRESS.

WARNING: NEVER CHANGE MONEY ELSEWHERE THE BANK AND EXCHANGE OFFICES!!!!!! -

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The currency exchange rates are expected to be:

$1US = 1.66 - 1.68 Bulgarian levs,

Euro = 1.94 -1.95 Bulgarian levs

although the exact rates during the conference cannot be anticipated.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Various Information Offices within the resort and Registration Desk of the International Home of Scientists and Grand hotel Varna will be pleased to give you all available information concerning outdoor activities.

For those planning to enjoy the sun on the beach, special care should be taken concerning sunburns. They can be very uncomfortable or lead to serious health problems. You should control your sun exposure and use sunscreen lotions and creams.

It is planned to be arranged an organized outing for the participants. Further details will be posted during the Conference and also be available from the Secretariat. This outing is not included in the registration fee and must be paid for individually.

TAXIS

Although transportation from and to the airports will be provided, you may need occasionally a taxi. Taxi rates per kilometer are approximately equivalent to $0.25US to $0.30US. HIGHER RATES IN THE RESORT ARE POSSIBLE. WE ADVISE ALL PARTICIPANTS TO NEGOTIATE THE PRICE WITH THE TAXI DRIVER IN ADVANCE. If you need a taxi, please request it from the Secretariat.

REGULAR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN SOFIA

The main train station for all international trains is located downtown. The International Airport is located in a suburb. City buses are available to and from the Sofia Airport.

The price for a ride in the city trams and buses is 0.40 levs.

Tickets must be bought in advance at the bus or tram stops.

REGULAR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN VARNA

There is regular public transportation to and from the airport and in

the town. The train station and the harbor are in the town. The price for a ride depends on the line and varies between 0.30 - 0.40 levs.

There is also public transportation to both the Sts. Constantine and Elena and the Golden Sands Resorts:

- Airport - St. Constantine (about 18 km) - 1.00 lev
  Bus N 409, last bus 12 pm

- Varna - St. Constantine and Elena(about 8 km) - 0.60 lev;
  Small Bus N8, last bus 10 pm

CLIMATE IN THE RESORT

The Conference will take place in the active tourist season. The weather is at its best this time of the year, with mild-warm temperatures by the sea of 18 C in the morning; 25-30 C in the afternoon; and water temperatures of 21 C to 23 C. Short rains are possible.