



"Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Europe and CIS"

International forum
27 - 28 February 2020
Grand Hotel Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria

Held from 27 - 28 February 2020 in Grand Hotel Sofia, Sofia, Bulgaria, the Regional Cybersecurity Forum is co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communication and the State e-government Agency of the Republic of Bulgaria.

This Forum is organized within the framework of the **ITU Regional Initiative for Europe** on Enhancing Trust and Confidence in the use of ICTs, and **ITU Regional Initiative for CIS** on the Development and Regulation of Info Communication Infrastructure to make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe and Resilient, adopted by the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17).

For more information please visit http://itu.int/go/EURCIS_CSForum20

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1. Venue of Event

Name: **Grand Hotel Sofia**
Address: 1, Gurko Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria
Webpage: <https://www.grandhotelsofia.bg>

Access

Grand Hotel Sofia is right in the heart of Sofia, next to all government institutions and major touristic sights. More information about the location of Grand Hotel Sofia is available at <https://www.grandhotelsofia.bg/en/page/hotel-sofia-centre-location-1.html>.

Participants arriving at Sofia Airport can get to **Grand Hotel Sofia by car/taxi**, it takes approximately 30 minutes. The hotel staff can also arrange an airport pick up transfer for the guests of the hotel. For more information please, contact at 00 359 2 811 08 11 or at concierge@grandhotelsofia.bg.

Public transport

A public transport network: metro (www.metropolitan.bg) busses, trams and trolleys (<http://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/common/>) operates in the city. The price of a ticket for a single journey is 1,60 lev (≈0.80 Euro). Ticket stubs for ten single trips per passenger cost 12 Leva (6.00 Euro).

Taxi can be ordered from the hotel or restaurant, or by mobile. They render good service at comparatively good prices, which are slightly different depending on the taxi company.

Two bus routes (No 84 and 384) connect the airport:

- **Line 84 Sofia:** Airport Terminal 2 – Terminal 1 – Christopher Columbus blvd. – Tsarigradsko Shose blvd. – Gen. Gurko str., and back: Gen. Gurko str. - Tsarigradsko Shose blvd. – Christopher Columbus blvd. – Prodan Tarakchiev str. - Sofia Airport, Terminal 2, and Terminal 1. The journey time from the start to the final destination is approximately 40 min on weekdays, and 30 min. at weekends/holidays.

- Bus line 84 can be used as a transport link between Sofia Airport Terminal 2 Metro Station and Terminal 1. The line operates on the route under an all-day timetable:

Weekdays	Weekends/ Holidays
First Bus	First Bus
T2: 05:00 a.m.	T2: 05:00 a.m.
T1: 05:05 a.m.	T1: 05:05 a.m.
Last Bus	Last Bus
T2: 12:20 a.m.	T2: 11:23 p.m.
T1: 12:24 a.m.	T1: 11:27 p.m.

- **Line 384:** Sofia Airport, Terminal 2 – Christopher Columbus blvd. – Prof. Tsvetan Lazarov str. – Druzhba Metro Station – Obikolna str. - Druzhba 2, and back: Druzhba 2 - Obikolna str. - Prof. Tsvetan Lazarov str. – Iliya Beshkov blvd. – Captain Dimitar Spisarevski blvd. - Christopher Columbus blvd. - Sofia Airport, Terminal 2. The journey time from the start to the final destination is 20-25 min. on weekdays and weekends/holidays.

The line operates on the route under an all-day timetable.

Weekdays	Weekends/ Holidays
First Bus	First Bus
T2: 05:52 a.m.	T2: 05:56 a.m.
Last Bus	Last Bus
T2: 10:58 p.m.	T2: 10:50 p.m.

Taxis are available at the landside of the arrivals areas of Terminals 1 and 2. Company “OK Supertrans” www.oktaxi.net is the official taxi provider to Sofia airport. You can request the service at the offices of OK Supertrans in the Arrivals of Terminal 1 and Terminal 2, tel: +359 2 973 2121, and the floor markings in yellow will lead you to the taxi stand area.

Important! We recommend that you do not use taxi services offered outside the office of the taxi operator or in front of the terminal to avoid the risk of abuse.

2. Registration

Online registration prior to the event is strongly encouraged, and can be accessed at: <https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/xreg/web/Login.aspx?src=Registration&Event=C-00007319>

Badge pickup and registration at the event venue starts **at 09:00 on 27 February 2019 and requires a valid national identity card / passport. Kindly also present the acknowledgement you receive when you complete your online registration.**

3. Languages

The Regional Forum will be conducted in English/Russian language. English/Russian translation will be provided during the event.



4. Transportation

Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements for **transportation to and from the airport.**

Sofia Airport is the biggest airport in the country and provides passenger, baggage, aircraft, cargo and mail handling services to more than 65 air companies operating to and from Sofia. <http://www.sofia-airport.bg/>

Sofia's International Airport is located at a distance of ten kilometres east of the city centre. Sofia Airport has two terminals with the capacity to serve over 3.5 million passengers. A courtesy shuttle connected Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 every 30 minutes between 07:00 hrs and 18:00 hrs.

Sofia Metro Line 1 connects Sofia Airport to the city centre (Serdika Metro Station) and provides direct connection from the airport to the large Sofia residential districts in close proximity – “Druzhba” and “Mladost”, as well as to more distant Sofia districts to the west – “Zapaden Park” and “Lyulin”.

The journey time from Sofia Airport to the city centre (Serdika Metro Station) is approximately 18 min.

Changing trains from Line 1 to Line 2 at Serdika Metro Station, passengers can travel from the airport to Sofia Central Bus and Railway Stations within less than half an hour.

Connection with the railway transport is possible two stops from Serdika Metro Station.

The metro trains on the route to the airport operate from 5:30 a.m. to midnight on weekdays and weekends/holidays.

The metro station at Sofia Airport is located in the eastern part of Terminal 2. You can reach it by following the floor markings in blue at the public area of Terminal 2.

For more information, please visit: www.metropolitan.bg

5. Accommodation

Each participant is responsible for making his or her own accommodation arrangements. There are all rates hotels in the city center including Airbnb (**ANNEX 1: List of Hotels nearby the venue**).

There are limited number of rooms available at preferential rates at **the venue hotel**: Grand Hotel Sofia. Superior Room - € 110, Executive Room - € 130.

The following Direct Booking Links are valid **until the end of December 2019**:

Group Direct Booking Link - No login/Attendee Code needed:

Reservation URL: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/97316?groupID=2675159>

Group General Booking Link - User will be required to enter Attendee Code (ITUCS2020) coordinator can login using Group Code (ITUCS2020):

Reservation URL: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/97316?userType=GRP>

6. Visas

A valid passport/ID document is required for entry to Bulgaria. Passports of participants should be valid for at least 6 (six) months after leaving Bulgaria for those requiring a visa, and 3 (three) months on entry for visa exempt nationals other than those from EU countries, whose passports must be valid for the period of stay.



A consultation with the Bulgarian Embassy or Consulate in the participants' country is advisable and especially for those participants requiring visas.

For this purpose, you may also visit the website of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.government.bg>

No entry visas are required for citizens of the EU and EFTA member states. They still need a valid passport or ID card (for EU citizens only).

7. Currency

The national monetary unit in Bulgaria is the Lev (pl. Leva; BGN). One Lev is made up of 100 stotinki. Banknote denominations include 2; 5; 10; 20; 50 and 100 leva, as well as coins of 2,00 and 1,00 lev and smaller denominations.

Visa, MasterCard, Diners Club, Visa, American Express are mostly accepted.

They can be used for the payment of all services in hotels, restaurants, night clubs, tourist agencies and shopping malls. However, prior to payment for goods/services it is advisable to ask the sales assistant if payment by credit card is possible. ATM machines are also available. For cash exchange the rate in leva is higher than for credit cards.

For information on the exchange rates please visit: www.bnb.bg

A number of exchange offices are open every day including week-ends and public holidays.

Due to risk of deception, it is advisable to exchange money in the hotels or in official bank and exchange offices rather than making deal with individuals.

Banks are open Monday to Friday from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. All banks exchange currency.

8. Communication

The event participants will be provided with Wi-Fi internet access at the event venue. There is WiFi coverage in the entire Grand Hotel Sofia including inside the meeting rooms and at the Delegates Lounge/coffee area.

The telephone code for Bulgaria is +359. For international calls from Sofia, one should dial +, then code of the country, (then code of the city) then phone number or follow the instructions provided by service provider.

9. Climate

The climate in Sofia is moderate continental and mountainous.

In February the temperature in Sofia normally is in the range between 6°- 7° C. Usually at this time of the year it is foggy, which is a prerequisite for the delay/cancellation of flights from/to Sofia.

10. Time

Local time in Bulgaria is EET; (CET +1); (GMT +2).

11. Electricity

Mains electricity in Bulgaria is 220V / 50Hz.

12. Cafeteria and Coffee areas



Grand Hotel Sofia has various catering facilities, restaurants and lounge area. It is also situated near various other hotels, restaurants, bars and clubs just within walking distance. Coffee breaks and lunch will be served to all conference participants at no extra charge.

13. First aid medical service

There are no special vaccination requirements for entry into Bulgaria. However, it is highly recommended that participants be covered by medical insurance and carry proof of such cover.

Single Emergency Number: 112

- Ambulance
- Fire/Rescue
- Police
- Traffic police

14. Contacts

Host contact

Organisation: Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria

Name of contact Adelina Ognianska
Expert in International Cooperation in IT and Communications Dept.
European Coordination and International Cooperation Directorate

Email address aognianska@mtitc.government.bg

Phone number +359 29409 613

ITU Office for Europe

Mr. Jaroslaw PONDER

Head of the ITU Office for Europe

Phone: +41 22 730 5111 Fax: +41 22 730 5484

E-mail: eurregion(@)itu.int



ANNEX 1: List of Hotels nearby the venue

Sofia Hotel Balkan

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/soflc-sofia-hotel-balkan-a-luxury-collection-hotel-sofia/>

Arena di Serdica Boutique Hotel

<https://www.arenadiserdica.com/>

InterContinental Sofia

https://www.ihg.com/intercontinental/hotels/us/en/sofia/sofco/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps--IC--BG--SOFCO

Rosslyn Thracia Hotel

<https://www.thracia.rosslyn-hotels.com/>