

Meeting of the European Union of Medical Specialists

Ophthalmic Section

18-20 June, 2010

Tallinn, Estonia

We are glad to welcome the meeting of European Union of Medical Specialists Ophthalmic Section in Tallinn, Estonia in 18 – 20 June, 2010!

Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, is located in Eastern Europe on the shores of the Baltic Sea. As a Hanseatic Town with a history dating back to 1154 Tallinn has been a meeting point for East and West for centuries.

Closeness to all major European capitals and good infrastructure make it a convenient venue for any international event. Across the Gulf of Finland, 80 km north lies Helsinki, nearly 300 km to the east, St. Petersburg, and Riga is about the same distance to the south.

Getting to Tallinn is very easy as there are direct connections to most major European cities and flights from there take just 2-3 hours. List of Airlines flying to Tallinn as well as possibility to follow the schedules online are available at the homepage of Tallinn Airport. Tallinn Airport Terminal has been recently renovated and the last expansion works were completed in October 2008.

The city centre is just a ten-minute ride from the airport, and once there, the old town is right at hand. What is more, most sights, restaurants and hotels are within easy walking distance, so it is rarely necessary to take a taxi. As Tallinn is located by the sea and from Helsinki and Stockholm it is also possible to travel here by ferry. Unique to many cities the port is located just 1 km away from the city centre so you will be arriving almost to the doorstep of the meeting venue.

Registration to the conference and booking for the hotel should be done on line, details for which are below. The deadline for preferential accommodation price is 31 March 2010.

Timetable

Friday

Arrival of participants

16.00-19.00 Guided city tour in Tallinn Old Town and surroundings for delegates and accompanying persons

19.00-21.30 Concert and welcome reception at Tallinn Town Hall

Saturday

9.00-12.30 Plenary Assembly of the UEMS Section

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-17.00 Plenary Assembly of the UEMS Section

Programme for accompanying persons

9.30 Departure from the hotel

10.00-12.30 Visit to Rocca-al Mare Open Air Museum

12.30-13.30 Traditional Estonian style lunch at Kolu Inn

14.00-16.00 Tour to Kadriorg and visit to KUMU Art Museum

16.30 Arrival to the hotel

Sunday

9.00-12.30 Plenary Assembly of the EBO Section

12.30 Lunch

Departures

Venue

Nordic Hotel Forum (Viru väljak 3, Tallinn)

The new and modern four stars Nordic Hotel Forum was opened in 2007. Hotel has all together 267 hotel rooms and a medium size conference centre is conveniently located in the centre of Tallinn, about 4 km from the Tallinn airport and 1 km from the port and railway station.



Coffee breaks will be served inside the lobby of the conference centre, lunch will take place in the hotel restaurant Monaco, named after the Honorary Consulate of Monaco located in the same building.



All the hotel rooms are elegantly furnished and each detail carefully considered, even the most demanding guests yield to the offered comfort. Every room is equipped with air conditioning, LCD TV set, SAT TV, direct dial phone, mini-safe, mini-bar, hairdryer and free Wi-Fi coverage.

On the top floor of the hotel a spa centre with saunas and small fitness centre is open to hotel guests.



Social Events

Tour in the Old Town on Friday June 18, 2010 at 16.00-19.00

Evening will start with a 1,5 h bus tour in the centre and surroundings of Tallinn. You will pass the seaside area to have a look at Russalka monument, Pirita Monastery and the Tallinn Song Festival Grounds where the famous song festivals take place.



Bus tour will be followed by a 1,5 h walk in the Tallinn old town that takes you to the main sights of the historical city centre that has been at UNESCO's World Heritage list since 1997.

Firstly, the bus will take us to Toompea Hill where the houses of Parliament are located. We will visit the viewing platforms to enjoy the panorama of Tallinn and view to the sea and port area.



During our walk back to downtown we will pass the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral with magnificent onion domes, the mediaeval defence towers Tall Hermann and Kiek in de Kök (Peep-into-the Kitchen), Town Hall Square, the Town Hall Pharmacy that has been in business for 500 years and the Town Hall itself (outside inspection) - a Gothic masterpiece of the 13th-14th centuries.

In the end of the tour we will reach the Tallinn Town Hall where the Welcome reception takes place.

Concert and Welcome Reception

June 18, 2010 at 19.00- 21.30



Tallinn Town Hall is the only surviving Gothic town hall in Northern Europe.

Built in the heart of Tallinn, next to a marketplace, the Town Hall has witnessed trade and social activities for over 700 years.

The building history of the Town Hall goes back to the 13th century, but it acquired its medieval appearance in 1402–04.

It has still remained the most important representational building in town where the honoured guests of Tallinn City Government and City Council are hosted.



Welcome reception will start with a 30-minute concert followed by a cold buffet dinner.

Dinner on Saturday

June 19, 2010 at 19.00-22.00

Programme on Saturday evening enables you to experience a true Medieval style party and dinner.

Evening starts with a medieval welcome ceremony that is a procession with a herald and musicians. Guests will be greeted at the town gates (gates of Viru, appr. 5 minutes' walk from Olde Hansa) where the Master of the party will be chosen. The procession, accompanied by drums and flutes, will move towards the house of the Rich Merchant (Olde Hansa). In front of the house, a courage drink will be offered to each guest and the herald will announce to the whole townsfolk what honourable guests have arrived to the Town of Reval.



Guests enter the house by a winding stone staircase, built inside the restaurant wall. This passage is only opened for this special occasion and it's rarely to be seen by common townsfolk. When guests have entered the dining hall, servants will wash their hands and after a short introduction a feast can start. Everybody is welcomed to the feast with a Monk's Bride schnapps that is made of different herbs.



Bowls with different delicacies are already waiting on the table! The pride of the house is the Town Councilmen's Game Feast which offers 20 different dishes! Among five different main courses one can enjoy Wild Boar, Rabbit as well as Elk meat. All dishes are in the middle of the table and everyone can have what they like. If something runs out on the table, the bowls will be filled again!

Tour for accompanying persons

June 19, 2010 at 09.30- 16.30

Tour to Rocca al Mare Open Air Museum

Estonian Open Air Museum was founded in May 1957 in Rocca al Mare. It is set in a magnificent forest park at the seaside, 7 km from the city centre and belongs together with the Old Town of Tallinn to the one of the most favourite tourist sights of Tallinn.



The museum displays fine examples of Estonian farmhouses and folk costumes that enable you to explore how Estonians lived centuries ago.

During the visit you will have an opportunity to hear more about the Estonian village life and have a look inside the old farmhouses, chapel and windmills. There will be also a short programme introducing Estonian folk dances and games. The tour ends with a traditional Estonian peasant-style lunch at Kolu Inn located on the Museum's premises.

Tour to Kadriorg and KUMU

After lunch the tour to Kadriorg and KUMU will take you to the Kadriorg park residential just few kilometres outside the city centre. On the way to the KUMU art museum you will pass the baroque style Kadriorg Castle and the residence of the President of Estonia.

The Kumu (KUnstiMUuseum) Art Museum is a modern multifunctional art building opened in 2006. It is one of the most outstanding cultural projects in Estonia which contains exhibition halls, a lecture hall offering diverse facilities and an educational centre for young visitors and for art lovers. Kumu serves not only as a museum but as a laboratory where diverse ideas emerge and develop. These ideas examine contemporary visual culture and its function in society. In 2008 KUMU was appointed a European Museum of the Year.

During a 1,5 hour tour KUMU building and Estonian Art will be introduced to guests.



General information

LANGUAGE

The official language of the conference is English.

CONFERENCE VENUE

Conference will be held at the Nordic Hotel Forum conference centre (Viru väljak 3, Tallinn).
Homepage: www.nordichotels.ee

REGISTRATION

Participants are kindly requested to register to the **Conference of European Union of Medical Specialists** electronically by using **online registration form** (https://www.frens.info/site/tmpl/reg9_450.php).

Cancellations and changes

Any cancellation of registration should be notified in writing to Frens Conference Services, the Organising Secretariat, by e-mail at conference@frens.ee or by fax at +372 6 979 201. Frens Conference Services will confirm your cancellation in writing. Cancellations received after 31 March 2010: no refund will be made.

All refunds will be processed after the meeting.

ACCOMMODATION

To accommodate Conference participants, sufficient number of rooms have been reserved at **Nordic Hotel Forum ******. Please use the Conference registration form to make your accommodation reservation. If you prefer a different type of room, please ask the Secretariat for quotation.

Accommodation reservation deadline is 31 March, 2010. For later registration accommodation in the above mentioned hotel and for the special price cannot be guaranteed.

Special price is valid only if registration is made and accommodation fee paid full in advance to the Conference Secretariat by March 31, 2010. All reservations that are not guaranteed with advance payment will be cancelled on April 1, 2010.

TRAVEL

Getting to Tallinn

Getting to Tallinn is easy as there are direct connections to most major European cities and flights from there take just 2-3 hours. The cities that have direct flights to Tallinn include Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Helsinki, Kiev, London, Minsk, Moscow, Munich, Oslo, Prague, Riga, St Petersburg, Stockholm, Vilnius.

Further information about the schedules and operating airlines is available at the homepage of Tallinn Airport.

The city centre is just a ten-minute ride from the airport, and once there, the old town is right at hand. What is more, most sights, restaurants and hotels are within easy walking distance, so it is rarely necessary to take a taxi.

Tallinn is located by the sea and from Helsinki and Stockholm it is also possible to travel here by ferry. Unique to many cities the port is located just 1 km away from the city center so you will be arriving almost to the doorstep of the Convention venue.

Passport and Visa

Nationals of EU and EEA member states do not need visa to enter Estonia. The required travel document for entry is a national ID card or passport. From December 2007, Estonia is a part of the Schengen visa area. For more specific information, please contact the nearest Estonian consulate or embassy, or check the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website (www.vm.ee/eng).

Insurance

It is highly recommended that participants carry proper health and travel insurance.

Time and weather

Estonia is in the Eastern European Time Zone: GMT +2 hours in winter and GMT +3 hour during the Daylight Savings Time in summer. The beginning of June is summer in Estonia, with average temperature of about 15°C and daily highs reaching 25°C. Weather can be windy and changeable with possible rainfall. Please see the homepage www.weather.ee for the latest forecast.

Conference Secretariat

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