INFORMATION NOTE N° 1

1. Place and dates of the session

In accordance with decision 22(LXXXIV), the Executive Council will hold its seventy-fifth session at Nessebar, Bulgaria on 13 and 14 June 2005, at the invitation of the Bulgarian Government.

The opening meeting will take place on Monday, 13 June at 9 a.m. The session will be held at:

RIU Helena Resort
Hotel Helena Beach
Russalka Hall
8240 Sunny Beach, PO Box 42
Nessebar / Bulgaria
Tel.: (359 554) 25080 / 24081 / 25081 / 25085
Fax: (359 554) 20023

Members and non-Members of the Executive Council are invited to take part in these events.

The programme of the session will be given in a forthcoming Information Note.

2. Replies to invitations

Governments and other bodies invited by letter of the Secretary-General of 3 May. 2005 are requested to send their replies, at the earliest opportunity, to the address below, if possible indicating the composition of their delegations:
Mr. Francesco Frangialli
Secretary-General
World Tourism Organization
Capitán Haya, 42
28020 MADRID
Spain

Tel.: (34) 91 567 81 00
Fax: (34) 91 571 37 33
E-mail: confi@world-tourism.org

Delegates are requested to fill in the attached Participation Form and return it to the address given below:

1. Mr. Ivo Marinov
   Director
   National Tourism Policy Directorate
   Ministry of Culture and Tourism
   17 Alexander Stambolyiski Blvd.
   1000 Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria
   Tel.: + 359 2 9400 883
   Fax: +359 2 981 2515
   E-mail: i.marinov@mct.government.bg

2. Mrs. Eugenia Koseva
   Head of department
   International Tourism Cooperation
   Ministry of Culture and Tourism
   17 Alexander Stambolyiski Blvd.
   1000 Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria
   Tel.: + 359 2 9400 896
   Fax: + 359 2 981 2515
   E-mail: koseva@mct.government.bg

3. **Status of participants**

   The Bulgarian Government will take the necessary steps to facilitate the arrival and departure of participants invited by the Organization, as well as their stay in Bulgaria.

4. **Health requirements**

   Bulgaria has no vaccination requirements.
5. **Frontier formalities**

Participants should take note of the conditions of entry into Bulgarian territory, which are as follows:

A. For nationals of the countries listed below, owners of ordinary passports - no visa is required for stays not exceeding 90 days:

   Austria, Belgium, Germany, Chile, Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,

B. For nationals of the countries listed below, owners of ordinary passports - no visa is required for stays not exceeding 30 days:

   Andorra, Australia, Canada, Holy See, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom, United States of America,

C. For nationals of the countries listed below, owners of ordinary passports - an entry visa is required:

   Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, São Tome and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe;
D. For nationals of the countries listed below, no visa is required for stays not exceeding 90 days, for holders of an official passport:

Austria; Albania, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia /for the term of the official trip/, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

E. For nationals of the countries listed below, no visa is required for stays not exceeding 30 days, for holders of an official passport:

Argentina, China, Iran, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey /Ministry of Foreign Affairs/, Uruguay and Venezuela.

F. For nationals of the countries listed below, no visa is required for stays not exceeding 180 days, for holders of an diplomatic passport:

Austria.

G. For nationals of the countries listed below, no visa is required for stays not exceeding 90 days, for holders of an diplomatic passport:

Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Holy See, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia /for the term of the official trip/, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

H. For nationals of the countries listed below, no visa is required for stays not exceeding 30 days, for holders of an diplomatic passport:

Argentina, China, Iran, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Participants should note that it is necessary to have in their possession a return ticket to their country of origin.
Where necessary, delegates are requested to contact Bulgarian diplomatic or consular missions in their countries in order to obtain entry visas for Bulgaria.

Delegates in whose countries Bulgaria has no diplomatic mission are requested to contact the Secretariat of the Organization sufficiently in advance, providing all the information that will enable the Bulgarian authorities to arrange in due time to issue them with visas (passport details, flight number, place of departure and date of arrival).

- Name and surname
- Nationality
- Number and type of passport
- Place and date of birth
- Validity of passport
- Arrival details: date, time and flight number

6. **Air transport**

The company **Bulgaria Air** is offering 20 per cent discount for participants in the seventy-fifth session.

The Bulgarian Government will provide at its own expenses a charter flight for participants between Sofia and Burgas airport at the Black sea coast on Sunday, 12 June, late afternoon, and from Burgas airport to Sofia on Wednesday, 15 June, in the morning.

7. **Reception at the airport**

Participants will be met at Sofia Airport by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Bulgaria which will help them to complete the formalities for entering Bulgaria. Signs will be placed at several prominent places in the airport.

To enable the local authorities to organize this service, participants are requested to complete and return the attached participation form indicating their arrival, departure and accommodation details.

8. **Registration and badges**

The registration desk will be open at **Hotel Helena Beach** on Saturday, 11 June from 9 a.m. to 13 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, 12 June from 9 a.m. to 13 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Badges will be issued at the time of registration.

Participants are requested to wear their identification badges throughout the Council session in the area reserved for the meetings, as well as at all social events.
9. **Working documents**

The majority of the working documents for the Council session will be dispatched as soon as possible, in accordance with the statutory provisions. Delegates are requested to bring with them copies of the documents sent to them in advance.

10. **List of participants**

A provisional list of participants, based on the replies referred to in paragraph 2 above, will be drawn up on Sunday, 12 June. The final list of participants, prepared on the basis of the data entered by delegates and observers in their registration forms, will be distributed later on during the Council session.

11. **Working languages**

The documents for the Council session will be distributed in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, and simultaneous interpretation of the Council discussions will also be provided in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

12. **Accommodation**

Special rates have been negotiated with the following hotels. To make their reservations, delegates are requested to fill in the attached Accommodation Application Form and return it **by 1 June 2005** to the addresses indicated below:

Mrs. Eugenia Koseva  
Head of Department  
International Tourism Cooperation  
National Tourism Policy Directorate  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism  
17 Alexander Stambolyiski Blvd.  
1000 SOFIA  
Bulgaria  
Tel.: +359 2 9400 896  
Fax: +359 2 981 2515  
E-mail: koseva@mct.gov.bg

Mr. Kostadin Krasin  
Head Expert  
International Tourism Cooperation  
National Tourism Policy Directorate  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism  
17 Alexander Stambolyiski Blvd.  
1000 SOFIA  
Bulgaria  
Tel.: +359 2 9400 891  
Fax: +359 2 981 2515  
E-mail: K.Krastin@mct.gov.bg

Participants will find in the following list the price of a single/double room, including breakfast and VAT at the hotels selected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Price (€/person)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helena Resort Hotel</td>
<td>*****</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiesta Beach Hotel</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset Hotel</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carina Hotel</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The last three hotels are within walking distance from the venue of the session.
The prices are indicated in Euros, but payment can be done in USD or Leva. In case of no-show, a single night price will be charged.

13. **Social programme**

The Bulgarian authorities have prepared the following social programme for participants:

- Sunday, 12 June at 8:30 p.m.: Welcome reception (Ballroom Park)
- Monday, 13 June at 1:00 p.m.: Working lunch (Restaurant Sand)
- Monday, 13 June at 8:00 p.m.: Gala dinner
- Monday, 13 June at 11:00 p.m.: Piano Bar
- Tuesday, 14 June at 9:00 p.m.: Dinner at Restaurant Chevermeto.

A shuttle service will also be scheduled by the Bulgarian authorities for social events.

14. **Organized tours**

A list of organized tours will be given in a forthcoming Information Note for those participants coming before the meeting or willing to stay in Bulgaria after the meeting in order to visit other places of interest of the country.

15. **Practical information**

- **Local currency and rate of exchange**: Bulgaria’s official currency is the Bulgarian leva. 1 leva = 100 stotinki. The rate of exchange applicable in April 2005 is approximately 1,955 leva to 1 Euro, and 1,495 leva to 1 US dollar. Banknotes come in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 leva and coins in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 stotinki and 1 leva.

- **Climate**: The Black Sea coast is sunny and warm during the month of June and the average temperature is 20 – 25°C.

- **Official language**: Bulgarian is the official language of Bulgaria.

- **Clothing**: Light and casual clothing is recommended. For meetings, women generally wear normal business attire and men a jacket and tie.

- **Local time**: GMT + 1.

- **Electricity**: The electric current at Bulgaria is 220 volts.

- **Business hours**: Banks are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and are closed on Saturday and Sunday. Shops are open from Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and are closed on Sunday. Hypermarkets are open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. There are many shops working 24 hours round.