

**Announcement & useful information for the
Annual meeting of the PROSILVA EUROPE**

8-13 October 2013

Thessaloniki - Greece

Invitation

Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to welcome you to our annual meeting of ProSilva in Greece. This meeting is prepared in Thessaloniki, Greece (8-13 October 2013) after invitation of the Hellenic Forest Society (HFS) which co-organize its biannual Conference (6-9 October 2013).

We hope that you will join us at this conference and with this opportunity, you will be able to know better our country, our forests and Greek forestry.

Best regards

Yours sincerely,

Dr Nikolaos Grigoriadis

Venue

The meeting will be held in the conference rooms of **Grant Hotel**, in the City of Thessaloniki (www.grandhotelpalace.gr, tel: +302310 549000, fax: +302310 549449).

Transportation to venue

A free bus service from the airport to the hotel will operate after arrangement on 8 October 2013 and from the hotel to the airport on Sunday 13 October 2013.

Alternative are:

- by taxi (fare approximately 25 Euro) or
- by bus.

From the airport (SKG-Makedonia Airport) to Grand Hotel. Thessaloniki has its own international airport, Makedonia. It is situated 10 Kilometres away from the city and 12 Km from the congress venue. Turn right at the airport exit onto the highway in the direction of Thessaloniki. Take the bus no. 78 to IKEA (every half hour from the Airport), and get off at the bus stop "IKEA-Leoforos Georgikis Sxolis". Change to the bus no. 08 on the way to Monastitiou Str. and get off the bus to the stop "Orizomiloi" near the Grand hotel. There is an automatic ticket machine on the bus and you can buy tickets in kiosks found virtually everywhere but not at the airport. The average taxi fare from the airport to the hotel is € 25 and it takes 30 min.

From Grand Hotel to Thessaloniki City Center or airport. Take the bus no. 08 in front of the hotel, get off at the bus stop "IKEA-Leoforos Georgikis Sxolis" and change to the bus no.78 for the airport .

If you bring your own car, there is also a free parking area at the hotel.

Participants traveling by air are strongly advised to book their flights early.

Accommodation

Accommodation for conference participants has been reserved at a special conference price for a restricted number of rooms in Grand hotel. Prices are € 70 for a single room and € 85 for a double or twin room inclusive of VAT per night. Further information on accommodation can be obtained from the hotel website: (www.grandhotelpalace.gr, Tel: +302310 549000, Fax: +302310 549449). Participants should make their own room reservations until 1. October 2003 and payment should be made by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express) directly to the Grand Hotel.

Registration

The conference fees are € 150 for full participants and include a field trips plus the guide, light lunches, and the two dinners (11 and 12 October). Fees for accompanying persons are the same and include light lunches, and the two dinners. The completed registration form will be accepted only if accompanied by full payment of fees before 1th October 2013. Fees should be paid by bank draft in euros drawn to the:

Name : Nikolaos Grigoriadis

Bank : PIRAEUS BANK

IBAN : GR67 0172 2160 0052 1602 5118 490

BIC : PIRBGRAA

The participants' name and address must be clearly stated on the bank check or the transfer and a copy of the receipt should be sent to the organizers. Letters of verification of attendance at the meeting will be available on request from the registration desk.

Field trips

Programme

| Day | | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Week day | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| Date | 07 October 2013 | 08 October 2013 | 09 October 2013 | 10 October 2013 | 11 October 2013 | 12 October 2013 | 13 October 2013 |
| Morning a.m. | Travel | Arrival | Joint field visit in Olympus Mt. | Field visits in Pella (Voras Mt.) | Field visits in Chalkidiki | Bus to Greek Rhodope | Return (at midday) |
| Afternoon p.m. | Travel | Joint session with Hellenic Forestry Society | Field visit to the Kastania forest (private forestry) at Pieria Mt. | Pro Silva Annual Meeting | Field visits in Chalkidiki | Field visits in Greek Rhodope | |
| Overnight | | Grand Hotel Palace, Thessaloni ki | Grand Hotel Palace, Thessaloniki | Grand Hotel Palace, Thessaloniki | Taxiarchis Forest, Chalkidiki | Forest village of Elatia in Greek Rhodope | |

Proceedings

Publication of proceedings for the papers presented in the meeting will be provided later on the website of Hellenic Forest Society (HFS). The submission of the paper will be due at the conference.

Important dates

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Closing date for registration submission | 30 th August 2003 |
| Notification by organizers of registration acceptance | 15 st September 2003 |
| Closing date of registration fees and room reservation | 30 th September 2003 |

Contacts

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Local arrangements:

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Registration form for attendees find and download at: www.forestry.gr (Please submit as soon as possible)

Thessaloniki – a great place for a conference

Thessaloniki is one of the oldest cities in Europe, founded more than 300 years B.C. on a site of old prehistoric settlements going back to 2300 B.C., by Cassander, King of Macedonia, and was named after his wife, Thessaloniki, sister of Alexander the Great. It is now an important commercial port with a population of 1,000,000. Situated on the shores of the Thermaikos Gulf, the town is composed of two sectors, the modern sector and the old town. While the modern areas are full of excellent examples of recent architecture, monuments remain within the city dating from Roman and Byzantine times; of the former, make sure to visit the Rotonda. From the Byzantine period, for which Thessaloniki is particularly famed, a visit to the churches and fine works of art that remain is a must.

Today Thessaloniki with its University and the International Trade Fair - a crossroad for peoples' friendship and collaboration - is a lively modern city bustling with life and movement. Large avenues, parks and squares, lines of trees that frame commercial streets with showy shop-windows. Old houses, neoclassical buildings, modern dwellings. Yesterday meets today at old taverns, restaurants next to hotels and luxury bars, cinema halls, theaters and confectioner's shops that arrange their seats and tables on street pavements and squares. Small family run taverns and basement pastry shops offer a delicious variety of famous Macedonian specialties, next to stalls of ice-cream sellers for busy passers by.

Survival Guide

Arrival and information

The train station on the west side of town is a short walk from the central grid of streets and the waterfront. If you're coming into Thessaloniki by bus you'll arrive at one of the KTEL terminals nearby. The main EOT tourist office is at Platía Aristotélous 8 (Mon–Fri 8am–8pm, Sat 8am–1.30pm; tel 031/271 888).

Weather

In Thessaloniki, at the end of August, maximum daily air temperatures range between 25 and 35 °C, while minimum temperatures between 15 and 22 °C. Relative humidity ranges between 50 and 70 %. It could be very dry but occasional showers might occur.

Communications

Stamps (*grammatósíma*) can be purchased at a corner kiosk (*períptero*) or at post offices, open Mon–Fri 7.30am–2pm. Internet access is good in Greece; all the larger towns and cities have internet cafes.

Emergencies

For minor medical complaints go to the local *farmakío* (pharmacy). If you regularly

use any prescription drug you should bring along a copy of the prescription together with the generic name of the drug. For serious medical attention treatment is given free in state hospitals.

Money and banks

Greek currency is the EURO. Travellers' cheques can be cashed at all banks and quite a number of hotels, agencies and tourist shops. Greek banks are normally open Mon–Thurs 8am–2pm and Fri 8am–1.30pm. Greece has an increasing number of ATMs which accept foreign-issued cards; this is often the easiest and cheapest way of obtaining funds.

Opening hours and holidays

Shopping hours during are theoretically Mon, Wed & Sat 8am–2pm and Tues, Thurs & Fri 9am–1.30pm & 5.30–8.30pm. But there are so many exceptions to the rule that you can't count on getting anything done except from Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 1pm or so.

Car Rental

Cars can be rented in Greece from local or international companies. Average cost per day for a medium sized car is € 50.



Venue place: Grand Hotel

Airport Makedonia
Thessaloniki

