



FRENCH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Informal meeting of the ministers for transport
1 - 2 September 2008 – La Rochelle

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

In order to best organise your stay (transport, transfer), please fill in the attached registration form. Access badges will not be issued if this form is not completed and returned before August 22nd.
YOU MUST REGISTER FOR ACCREDITATION ONLINE AND FILL IN THIS REGISTRATION FORM

Context

The informal meeting of the ministers for transport on 1 and 2 September in La Rochelle will consist of two working sessions:

First session:

- ⌘ **sustainable transport**: exchange of experiences on implementing **sustainable urban mobility** policies.
- ⌘ debate on the revision of the **Eurovignette** directive on the internalisation of external costs (congestion, noise, pollution) for heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures.

Second session:

- ⌘ **motorways of the sea** – drawing up general guidelines to develop this form of transport, namely in the Mediterranean Sea (following the Union for the Mediterranean Summit).
- ⌘ **maritime security** – discussion of the “Erika III” package.

Many invitees from civil society and the European institutions will contribute to the discussion.

Website of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The website of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union www.ue2008.fr gathers together all the information and practical details concerning the presidency (press releases, accreditation procedure, indicative meeting programmes, etc.).

Accreditation

Accreditation for the events of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union is a secure means of access to official venues or parts of these venues.

Accreditation holders must wear their badges visibly at all times and comply with all the necessary access and security checks. The accreditation badges are personal and non-transferable. They are not a substitute for legal forms of identification. Accreditation does not guarantee access to the country; a visa may also have to be obtained from the country's authorities.

Access badges will be handed out on arrival at the Maison de la Charente-Maritime (subject to having completed and returned the attached registration form before 22 August AND having completed the online accreditation procedure).

Data protection and verification

The Secretariat-General of the French Presidency has set up an IT system to process the accreditation applications from the participants in the events held in France from 1 July to 31 December 2008. To obtain accreditation, you must fill in the accreditation form, the electronic validation of which constitutes official authentication. In accordance with Act No 78-17, as amended on 17 January 1978, on data processing, data files and individual liberties, everyone has a right to access his or her personal data. You may exercise this right by writing directly to the Secretariat-General of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union – 23, rue La Pérouse – 75016 PARIS.

For the media

Media professionals should apply online for accreditation for events taking place in France during the French Presidency.

All requests for accreditation should be made individually, via the website of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union (www.ue2008.fr). The accreditation badges will be issued in the purpose-built accreditation centres. A colour passport-sized photograph of the applicant (height: width = 4:3) in JPEG format (max. 200 kb) is required. In exceptional circumstances, last-minute requests for accreditation may be accepted.

However, it must be noted that this process would involve a lengthy wait and that the security services and organisers reserve the right to refuse to issue last-minute accreditations. Accreditation badges are issued subject to the presentation of a valid identity document (identity card or passport), for which the data has already been entered in the online accreditation form, together with a company pass, a European Commission press-card or a letter from the communication agency to which the applicant belongs, stating the meetings that the applicant is attending. Media professionals who do not own a professional document must enter "LETTER FROM EMPLOYER" in the field "Press card number" and must be in possession of the original of a letter issued by the communication agency that they represent, listing the meetings they are attending, to receive their accreditation badge.

The accreditation badge is issued subject to presentation of the following documents:

- identity card or passport;
- valid company pass or a letter issued from the communication agency represented.

To access the accreditation form, which provides the possibility of registering for several meetings, click the following link: <https://medias.ue2008.fr/>.

With regard to the informal meeting of the ministers for transport, accreditation requests must be submitted by 12.00 on 22 August 2008.

Journalists are reminded of the importance of filling in all the required information on the accreditation form (e-mail address, photograph in the requested format, mobile telephone number, etc.).

Access

Arrival by train

Departure on 1 September at 9.10 from Paris Montparnasse ► Arrival in La Rochelle at 12:17.

Connecting trains for journalists coming from Brussels:

- Departure Brussels Midi at 6:43 ► Arrival Paris Nord 8:05
- Departure Brussels Midi at 7:13 ► Arrival Paris Nord 8:35

Return by train

Depending on the programme, here are some train times which may be useful:

Departure on 2 September from La Rochelle at 17:08 ► Arrival Paris Montparnasse at 20:20.

Journalists who would like to leave earlier could take the following train:

Departure on 2 September from La Rochelle at 14:47 ► Arrival Paris Montparnasse at 17:40

Connecting trains for Brussels Midi departing from Paris Nord:

- Departure Paris Nord at 18:25 ► Arrival Brussels Midi 19:47
- Departure Paris Nord at 18:55 ► Arrival Brussels Midi 20:17
- Departure Paris Nord at 19:25 ► Arrival Brussels Midi 20:47

Reservations must be made on an individual basis.

A shuttle service is available:

(Schedules are subject to last-minute changes)

Monday 1 September

12:17 transfer from La Rochelle train station to the Maison de la Charente-Maritime

17:30: transfer from the Maison de la Charente-Maritime to the city centre and hotels.
(Between 17:30 and 19:00 there will be a shuttle to the city centre every 45 minutes)

Tuesday 2 September

20:45: transfer from hotels to the Maison de la Charente-Maritime

13:45: transfer to La Rochelle train station possible
(for those who do not wish to visit the Alstom site)

14:30: transfer to the Alstom site

15:45: transfer to the Maison de la Charente-Maritime

16:30 and 18:00: shuttle from the Maison de la Charente-Maritime to La Rochelle train station.

Parking

Parking spaces supplied with electrical outlets are available for **press vehicles**.

For security reasons and in view of the limited number of spaces available, the media are requested to e-mail the name of the media group, surname and first name of the driver and passengers (who must be accredited already), mobile telephone number, number plate details of all their **technical vehicles**, arrival and departure times to the *information and communication department* as soon as possible (see contacts below).

Press room

There is a press room on site in the Maison de la Charente-Maritime. Communication resources will be provided (internet cable connections, computer, printers, phones, and photocopier).

Several technical briefings on subjects discussed during the debate will be held in the press room.

Press conferences by the ministers will take place in a pre-determined room. An informal press briefing is scheduled after the first working session on Monday afternoon. A press conference will be held on Tuesday at 12:30. Video/ photoshoot sessions are also scheduled. These times will be confirmed on site (see the attached pre-programme).

Accommodation

Rooms have been pre-booked in the IBIS Vieux Port and IBIS centre hotels, for the night of Monday-Tuesday. These hotels are located in the historical centre of La Rochelle. The rooms must be paid for by the editorial staff. To benefit from reduced rates, please use the forms attached.

To book rooms before 25 August, journalists are requested to contact the hotels directly.

1 HOTEL IBIS VIEUX PORT	Cat. 2*
Place du Cdt de La Motte Rouge - 17000 La Rochelle - Tel : (+33)5/46416022 - Fax : (+33)5/46419347	
Contact : Stéphanie	www.ibishotel.com/ibis/fichehotel/fr/ibi/0638/fiche_hotel.shtml
Allotment : SINGLE ROOMS Deadline : 25 August	Rates per night per room 94€ (breakfast and tax included)
Booking: the room allotment will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis	
Location: Downtown	

2 HOTEL IBIS CENTRE	Cat. 2*
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4 rue Léonce Vieljeux - 17000 La Rochelle - Tel : (+33)5/46506868 - Fax : (+33)5/46413494

Contact : Reception

www.ibishotel.com/accorhotels/fichehotel/fr/ibi/0914/fiche_hotel.shtml

Allotment : **SINGLE ROOMS** Deadline : **25 August** Rates per night per room **97 €**
(breakfast and tax included)

Booking: the room allotment will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis

Location : Downtown

Practical information

Pre-reserved rooms must be confirmed **before 25 August**. Rooms must be vacated before 10.00 on Tuesday. A baggage storage facility is available in the Maison de la Charente-Maritime.

Hotels are located in the city centre, a few minutes walk from the town hall (Hôtel de Ville). The Maison de la Charente-Maritime is approximately a 10 minute drive away from the centre.

Taxi companies:

Les Taxis - ABC Radio Taxi (*LA ROCHELLE*)
Tel. 0033 (0)5 46 42 22 00

Les Taxis - Abeilles Radio Taxis (*LA ROCHELLE*)
Tel.: 0033 (0)5 46 41 55 55

Les Taxis - Seb'Taxi (*LA ROCHELLE*)
Tel. 0033 (0)6 26 80 75 32

Les Taxis - Taxi Il Rupella (*LA ROCHELLE*)
Tel. 0033 (0)6 50 24 29 20

Les Taxis - Taxis Autoplus (*LA ROCHELLE*)
Tel. 0033 (0)5.46.34.02.22

A form to request interviews with the different ministers is available on the website: http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=3358 (in the press area) or on simple request (see contacts below).

Useful addresses:

Maison de la Charente-Maritime

85 boulevard de la République – 17 000 La Rochelle

Hotels

HOTEL IBIS VIEUX PORT

Place du Cdt de La Motte Rouge - 17000 La Rochelle

HOTEL IBIS CENTRE

4 rue Léonce Vieljeux - 17000 La Rochelle

Contacts

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