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## Practical Information

### PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON CADASTRE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION CONFERENCE AND PLENARY MEETING

12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

Conference Centre in the Hotel “Alberts”

#### Host Institution

The State Land Service of the Republic of Latvia is the host institution for Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union Conference and Plenary Meeting (hereinafter – PCC Conference and Plenary Meeting).

Contact person(s) responsible for the event:

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#### Date and venue

**PCC Conference and Plenary Meeting** will be held on **12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> May 2015** at the Conference Centre in the Hotel “Alberts”.

**Address:** 33 Dzirnavu Street, Riga, Latvia  
<http://www.alberthotel.lv/riga-hotel-albert-hotel-riga/>

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## Hospitality

### Welcome Reception

Day before the PCC Conference and Plenary Meeting, all delegates are cordially invited to the **Star Lounge Bar Riga for the Welcome Reception**. It will provide an informal setting for you to meet colleagues, as well as friends while enjoying glass of wine and snacks. The Welcome Reception is open to all registered participants.

**Date:** *Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015*

**Time:** *19:00 – 21:00*

**Location:** *Star Lounge Bar Riga, located on the upper floor of the Hotel “Alberts”*

**Dress Code:** *Smart Casual*

**More information:** <http://www.alberthotel.lv/riga-bars-star-lounge-bars-2/>

### Social Program and Official Dinner

Before the Official Dinner, participants will have opportunity to enjoy and discover the beauty and culture of the Riga. Riga is the capital of Latvia and was awarded the prestigious title of European Capital of Culture in 2014. Officially founded in 1201, the city presents a mix of cultures and architectural styles developed throughout different historical periods. The Daugava, also referred to as the River of Destiny by Latvians, flows through Riga into the Gulf of Riga about 10 kilometres from the city centre. Because of its location and harbour, which rarely freezes, Riga has developed into a significant transportation hub. Riga has always been a dynamic and innovative centre, and remains to this day a vibrant and lively city with a host of creative quarters to explore. It is therefore with good reason that Riga has been called the ‘city of inspiration’. Enjoy a leisurely walk around the Old Town – the historic centre of Riga, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site – and its surroundings.

After excursion, Official Dinner will take place at the restaurant “Gutenbergs” in the jazz music atmosphere. Chef of the restaurant “Gutenbergs”, Eriks Livmanis offers a classic European cuisine with the accent on the seasonality. The menu design is colourful and visually eloquent, suggesting true tastes for the enjoyment of every visitor of the restaurant.

**Date:** *Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015*

**Time:** *18:00 – 22:00*

**Gathering place:** *Lobby of the Hotel “Alberts”*

**Location of the restaurant:** *Restaurant “Gutenbergs”, Doma square 1, Riga*

**Dress Code:** *Business Formal*

**More information:** <http://www.hotelgutenbergs.lv/index.php/en/restaurant> and [www.liveriga.com/en](http://www.liveriga.com/en)

## Registration and accreditation

Online registration for the event will be open until **28<sup>th</sup> April 2015**. Participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible to make sure there is enough time for all the necessary travel arrangements. Participants will be able to collect their identification badges from the registration desk at the venue on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

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## Accommodation

The State Land Service has agreed on special accommodation rates for PCC Conference and Plenary Meeting participants in the Hotel "Alberts". In order to benefit from these rates, delegates are advised to make hotel reservations online during the registration process. Please be informed, for organizational reasons reservation will be available only through the Official Online Registration link.

Participants are responsible for all costs incurred by their delegates during their stay. The deadline for guaranteed hotel reservation online is **28<sup>th</sup> April 2015**. After this date the rates and availability cannot be guaranteed.

## Travel and getting around

### By air

Riga International Airport (RIX) is located just 10 km from the city centre and is easily accessible by public transport or taxi. It offers routes to 83 destinations, including most European capitals and transfer hubs.

### Riga International Airport

RIGA Airport 10/1

Mārupes novads

Riga, LV-1053, Latvia

[www.riga-airport.com/en](http://www.riga-airport.com/en)

Airport inquiries service: +371 29311817

### From the airport to the city

Getting to the city centre from the airport takes ~25-30 minutes by public transport or taxi.

**Taxi** services are available at Riga airport 24 hours a day and are located outside the arrivals area. The average fare from the airport to the city centre (Old Town) is € 15-20. The fare depends on both distance and time. Green *BalticTAXI* and red *Riga Cab* taxi services are available and recommended.

**Airport Express hotel shuttle** operated by *AirBaltic* (green minibuses). This runs every 30 minutes and picks up passengers near the exit of the Schengen arrivals hall (Arrival E). It costs € 4.99 (cash only) for a one-way journey and takes passengers to the following hotels: *Islande Hotel*, *Maritim Park Hotel*, *Opera Hotel*, *Tallink Hotel*, *Radisson Blu Latvija*, ***Albert Hotel***, *Monika Centrum Hotel*.

**Public transport bus No 22 and minibus No 222** connect the airport with the city centre. The bus stop is located behind car park P1 opposite Arrival E. The services operates up to every 15 minutes from Mondays to Fridays and up to every 20 minutes on Saturdays and Sundays. It can take up to 30 minutes to reach the centre. For fares, see the *Transportation around Riga* section. [Schedule for the bus No 22](#).



*Bus and taxi stops at the airport*

## Transportation around Riga

Riga has a frequent and extensive public transport network of buses, trams and trolleybuses which run around the Old Town and across the bridge, with a stop close to the conference venue.

Single journey tickets can be bought from the driver and cost € 2.00 (cash only).

It is also possible to buy a transport card (*e-talons*) for one or more journeys, with each journey costing € 1.15, or a ticket for 24 hours (€ 5.00), 3 days (€ 10.00) and 5 days (€ 15.00). You have to validate the ticket each time you board a vehicle. The tickets can be bought at *Narvesen* kiosks (mini-shops) or from vending machines at a number of public transport stops, including at the airport.

For more information about public transport in Riga, please visit: [www.rigassatiksm.lv/en/](http://www.rigassatiksm.lv/en/)

## Travel documents and visa applications

Latvia is a European Union Member State and a signatory of the Schengen Agreement. Accordingly, those arriving in Latvia from the Schengen Area are not subject to border controls. EU, EEA and Swiss citizens can travel with their national ID card or passport. Nationals of other countries are required to have a valid passport.

Latvia has signed many visa-free agreements. If you need to obtain a visa, please check the [www.mfa.gov.lv/en/service](http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/service) website for further guidelines.

Visa can be obtained at the Latvian Embassy or at the Diplomatic and Consular Mission of another Schengen Member State issuing visas on behalf of Latvia. To see the list, please follow the link above. In case you need a VISA invitation please contact Project Manager, Lelde Rozentale by e-mail: [lelde.rozentale@vzd.gov.lv](mailto:lelde.rozentale@vzd.gov.lv).

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## About Latvia

**Weather:** Latvia's geographical location makes it possible to enjoy the differences of four pronounced seasons. The presence of the Baltic Sea means that the climate is temperate and humid. Winter lasts from mid-December until mid-March, with an average temperature of around  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$ . January and February are usually the coldest months of the year when the temperature may drop to  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  for days. Spring, with



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average temperatures of above 0 °C, comes at the end of March. April is sunny but can be unpredictable and full of surprises (including the possibility both of late snow and temperatures of +25°C). May is usually sunny and warm, as is June. For the latest forecast, please visit: [www.meteo.lv/en/laiks/](http://www.meteo.lv/en/laiks/)

**Language:** Latvian is the official language of Latvia. English is widely spoken.

**Local time:** Latvia Time is GMT+2 (from late March until late October Latvia participates in the Western European summer time scheme: GMT+3).

**Currency:** Latvia's currency is the euro (€). Other currencies can be exchanged for euros at most banks and exchange offices located in the city centre and at the airport.

**ATMs and credit cards:** there are many automatic teller machines (ATMs) in the city and all major credit cards are accepted almost everywhere.



### Useful numbers

- Dial code for Latvia: +371
- Emergency: call 112, the EU-wide emergency number for the police, fire and ambulance services

Alternatively, call:

- Police: 110 or 112
- Medical service: 113
- Fire service: 112
- Gas emergency: 114

### Useful information

- Useful information about Latvia can be found on [www.latvia.travel](http://www.latvia.travel) and [www.latvia.eu](http://www.latvia.eu).
  - Use an application to learn more about Latvia while using your phone: the *Latvia.Travel*. Application is available on Google Play Store and iTunes.
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