

20-26 January 2019

Background

The [GCRF UKRI COMPASS project](#) (ES/P010849/1, 2017-21) is an ambitious UK government capacity-building initiative, aiming to extend UK research globally, to address the challenges of growth and sustainability in the developing countries. Notably, the COMPASS project, together with Cambridge University as its research partner, seeks to establish ‘**the hubs of excellence**’ at the top-level HEIs in Belarus, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, to enable them to act as nodes for knowledge sharing and transfer along the following three dimensions, namely ***research integration, impact governance, and sustainable communities***.

The GCRF COMPASS Executive Study Trip aims to bring top-level delegations from all our Consortium partners – ADA University (Azerbaijan), Belarusian State University, University of World Economy and Diplomacy (Uzbekistan), and Tajikistan National University – to Brussels for a 5-day executive training, learning and networking. Our COMPASS partners will meet top EU officials and practitioners to learn more about EU decision-making, negotiations, lobbying, trade, scientific cooperation and strategic priorities for the Eastern neighbourhood and Central Asia.

GCRF COMPASS project wishes to record its gratitude to [Eupportunity](#) for their assistance with the organisation of this event in Brussels, and to the UK organisers, Dr Oybek Madiyev and Dr Conny Jumel in particular. GCRF COMPASS (ES/P010849/1) thanks GCRF Research Councils UK for supporting this initiative.

Key Information

- **Address** for the working venue: Press Club Brussels, Rue Froissart, 95 1040 Brussels
- **Language of communication:** **please kindly note that ENGLISH is the working language of this study trip, and no translation will be provided throughout the programme**
- **Catering arrangements:** unless otherwise specified, dinner arrangements are the responsibility of individual group members
- **Travel arrangements:** airport pickup will be arranged for partner-delegations
- **Social media**
Participants are encouraged to take photos and videos in the conference and share their comments and thoughts on social media. The COMPASS hashtag is [@GCRF_COMPASS](#); @GCRF

Key contacts in case of emergency

<p style="text-align: center;">112</p> <p style="text-align: center;">European emergency</p> <p>In case you need urgent help from a fire brigade, a medical team or the police.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Website: www.112.be</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">101</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Federal Police</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Transport from the Airport</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DRIVERS</p> <p>Mr Javier GONZALEZ - Mobile: +32 (0)479 697068</p> <p>Mr Miguel PERALVO - Mobile: +32 (0)478 331040</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Airport Pickup Sign: ARCO Logistics</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Brussels City Tours (MONDAY ONLY)</p> <p>Rue du Marché aux Herbes 82 - 1000 Brussels</p> <p>Tel : +32 2 513 77 44 www.brussels-city-tours.com</p> <p>Tour guide: Guide Stefaan - Tel +32 479 709714</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">GCRF COMPASS</p> <p>Name: Oybek Madiyev</p> <p>E-mail: om204@kent.ac.uk</p> <p>Telephone: +44(0)7411425002</p> <p>Name: Elena Korosteleva</p> <p>E-mail: E.Korosteleva@kent.ac.uk</p> <p>Telephone: +44(0)7973161736</p> <p>Name: Conny Jumel</p> <p>E-mail: k.jumel@kent.ac.uk</p> <p>Telephone: +44(0)7786728086</p> <p>All National Team Leaders: please provide your mobile number to all delegates in your team</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Eupportunity</p> <p>Name: Thaís Gonçalves</p> <p>E-mail: tg@eupportunity.eu</p> <p>Telephone: +32 (0)484 184181</p> <p>Name: Henrique Burnay</p> <p>E-mail: hburnay@eupportunity.eu</p> <p>Telephone: +32 (0)473 29 25 02</p>
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Important addresses

<p style="text-align: center;">Monday to Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20-25/01/2019</p>	<p>Hotel IBIS Brussels City Centre (Ste-Catherine)</p> <p>Rue Joseph Plateau, 2 1000 Bruxelles</p> <p>Tel. +32 (0)2 620 04 26</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MAP 1</p>	<p>Working venue: Press Club Brussels</p> <p>Rue Froissart, 95 1040 Bruxelles</p> <p>Telephone: +32 (0)2 201 37 05</p> <p>https://www.pressclub.be</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MAP 2</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">How to get to the venue from the hotel and back using the metro: MAP 3</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22/01/2019</p>	<p>Residence Palace</p> <p>Rue de la Loi, 155 1040 Bruxelles</p> <p>https://residencepalace.be/en</p> <p>Cocktail at 17h00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MAP 4</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">23/01/2019</p>	<p>European Parliament</p> <p>Visitors' entrance of the Paul Henri-Spaak building (PHS) on rue Wiertz 60</p> <p>At 14h30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MAP 5</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25/01/2019</p>	<p>L'Huitrière</p> <p>Quai aux Briques 20 1000 Brussels</p> <p>http://www.lhuitriere.be</p> <p>Tel. +32 (0)2 5120866</p> <p>Farewell Dinner at 19h30</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MAP 6</p>	



*****To all delegates: please kindly note that the working language of this study trip is ENGLISH, and no translation will be provided throughout the programme*****

GCRF COMPASS project wishes to record its gratitude to EUPPORTUNITY for the assistance with the organisation of this event.

DAY 1 – SUNDAY (20/01/19)

Arrival of the different delegations

Welcome reception at the hotel at 19.00 for all the arrivals

Venue: Hotel ibis Brussels City Centre, Rue Joseph Plateau 2, 1000, Brussels

DAY 2 – MONDAY (21/01/19)

Venue: Press Club Brussels, Rue Froissart, 95

09:00 – 09:30	Registration-Refreshments
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09:30 – 11:00	EU Decision-Making
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Understanding the institutions' internal functioning

Marc Taquet-Graziani, Deputy Head of Unit, Oral Procedure & College Meetings, Secretariat-General of the European Commission

Seda Gürkan, Lecturer in Political Science and European Studies, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Robert Heiling, Political Administrator, General Secretariat of the EU Council

11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
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11:30 – 13:00	The EU's main policy priorities on Central Asia and Neighbourhood countries
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What role(s) does the EU play in Central Asia and Neighbourhood countries?

Pierre Amilhat, Director, Asia, Central Asia, Middle East/Gulf and Pacific, DG DEVCO, European Commission*

Domenico Valenza, PhD Fellow, United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS)

Martin Russell, European Parliament Think Tank

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
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14:00 – 15:30	Lobby – a key element of the political process
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How interest-representation contributes to policy-making at EU-level?

Frank Schwalba-Hoth, Founding member of the German Greens and former MEP

Bernardo Aguiar, Senior Consultant, Eupportunity

Daniel Debono, Manager EU Affairs and Head of Brussels Operations, Malta Business Bureau

16:00 – 18:00	Organised tour of Brussels
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DAY 3 – TUESDAY (22/01/19)

Venue: Press Club Brussels, Rue Froissart, 95

09:00 – 17:00	Negotiation Skills Workshop
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Negotiations in theory – “From a policy idea towards a legislative act: simplifying rules and procedures”

Robert Weibel; Jonathan Weibel - Centre for European Negotiation and Decision Making (CENAD)

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
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Negotiations in practice – “Hands-on approach towards policy-making: multi-country alliances and trade-offs”

Simulation of a real negotiation organized by CENAD

17:00 -18.30	Reception of National Representations - Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048
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Reception with participants’ countries Ambassadors and Permanent staff representations to Brussels

Ambassadors

Azerbaijan - His Excellency Ambassador Fuad Isgandarov

Belarus - His Excellency Ambassador Aleksandr Mikhnevich

Tajikistan - His Excellency Ambassador Erkinkhon Rahmatullozoda

Uzbekistan - His Excellency Ambassador Dilyor Khakimov

UK - Her Excellency Ambassador Alison Rose

Delegations from partner-country HEIs and other Invitees

Permanent representations’ staff

DAY 4 – WEDNESDAY (23/01/19)

Venue: Press Club Brussels, Rue Froissart, 95

Panels on this day will be moderated by Gregor Küpper (Press Club)

09:00 – 11:00 | Roundtable discussions on EU's Global Strategy***Eastern Partnership and Central Asia***

Nona Mikhelidze, Head of the Eastern Europe and Eurasia Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionale

Boris Iarochévitch, Head of Division Central Asia, European External Action Service

Hanna Jahns, Adviser, Cabinet of Commissioner Johannes Hahn (European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations), European Commission

11:00– 11:30 | Coffee break**11:30 – 13:00 | EU Trade Policies for the region- a strategic approach*****What are the EU's (current and foreseen) trade priorities towards neighbourhood countries?***

Rūta Žarnauskaitė, Deputy Head of Unit, Russia, CIS, Ukraine, Western Balkan, EFTA, EEA and Turkey, DG TRADE, European Commission

Fredrik Erixon, Director, European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE)

Pieter Cleppe, Head of Brussels Office, Open Europe

13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch

Venue: European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, 60

14:30 – 15:45 | European Parliament – Room: PHS 4B49

European Parliament Guided Tour

16:00 – 17:00 | Key note speeches – Room: A1H1***The role of the European Parliament delegations in shaping the Member States' relations with these countries: lessons learned and recommendations***

Sajjad Karim, MEP – Chair of Delegation for Relations with South Caucasus (DSCA), (ECR, UK) (Host)

Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, MEP – Chair of Delegation: relations with Belarus, (EPP, Poland)

17:00 – 18:30 | Cocktail with MEPs and staff - European Parliament – Room: ASP 3D Bar Forum

DAY 5 – THURSDAY (24/01/19)

Venue: Press Club Brussels, Rue Froissart, 95

Panels on this day will be moderated by Gregor Küpper (Press Club)

09:30 – 11:00 Funding & Tenders Opportunities: Part I - H2020 and Horizon Europe

Overview, finding partners and how to apply

Maria da Graça Carvalho, Member of the Scientific Advice Mechanism Unit, DG RTD, European Commission

Henrique Burnay, Senior Partner, Eupportunity

Andrés Martinez, Coordinator, SOST (IGLO network)

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:45 Funding & Tenders Opportunities: Part II – The EU's Cultural Diplomacy: Education and Youth (ERASMUS+)

Explanation about ERASMUS+ and its available funding opportunities

Irena Andrassy, Principal Adviser for International Cooperation, DG EAC, European Commission

Brikena Xhomaqi, Director, Lifelong Learning Platform*

Arthur Le Gall, Director, KEA European Affairs*

12:45 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 European Funding for Third Countries

Development cooperation (DG DEVCO) and international financial institutions (EIB and ERBD)

Daniel Weiss, Team Leader for Central Asian countries, DG DEVCO, European Commission

Jeroen Willems, Deputy Head of Unit, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Partnership, DG NEAR, European Commission

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 16:30 Dialogue to the European Cooperation in Science & Technology (COST)

Getting to know COST's activities and future opportunities

Mafalda Quintas, COST

16:50 – 18:30 Reception hosted by the Uzbekistan Embassy– Brussels Press Club, Rue Froissart 95

16:50 – 17:00 Welcoming speech from HE the Ambassador Mr. Dilyor Khakimov

17:00 – 18:30 Cocktail

DAY 6 – FRIDAY (25/01/19)

Venue: Press Club Brussels, Rue Froissart, 95

Panels on this day will be moderated by Gregor Küpper (Press Club)

09:30 – 11:00 EU's Global Policy: Part I – The future of Europe according to the main media outlets

Priorities and their views on the future of the EU after the elections of May 2019

Alia Papageorgiou, Journalist and Vice-President, Association of European Journalists (AEJ)

Georgi Gotev, Senior Editor, Euractiv

James Wilson, Journalist, Brussels Express

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30 EU's Global Policy - Council: priorities for Eastern and Central Asia partners

Priorities of the Finnish and Romanian presidencies of the Council explained

Kaisa Honka-Hallila, Desk Officer for Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Finnish Permanent Representation to the European Union

Anda Hobjila, Adviser COEST - Belarus, South Caucasus, Central Asia; European Neighbourhood Policy; East Partnership; Northern Dimension / Arctic Council; OSCE/COSCE, Romanian Permanent Representation to the European Union*

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:30 Wrapping up – The EU and challenges ahead

14:00 – 14:45 - "The EU's foreign policy objectives towards the East"

Miriam Lexmann, Director, EU Office, International Republican Institute, Brussels

14:45 – 15:30 "Geopolitical challenges in the East"

Luc Devigne, Director for Russia, Eastern partnership, Central Asia, Regional cooperation and OSCE, European External Action Service

15:30 – 16:15 "President Juncker's legacy and building blocks: Is the EU a more influent world player?"

Telmo Baltazar, Adviser, Cabinet of President Jean-Claude Juncker, European Commission

19:30 Farewell Dinner – L'Huitrière, Quai aux Briques 20

DAY 7 – SATURDAY (26/01/19)

09:00 – 11:00	Steering Group (SG) Meeting
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Venue: Hotel Breakfast Hall

Internal Compass Meeting:

- UoK (Professor Korosteleva (PI), Dr Conny Jumel (Project Manager),
- UoC (Dr Siddharth (Montu) Saxena)
- ADA University (Nargiz Ismayilova)
- BSU (Dr Artsiom Nazaranka)
- TNU (Professor Munira Shahidi)
- UWED (Professor Sherzod Abdullaev)
- GCRF Officer
- Members of the Advisory Board

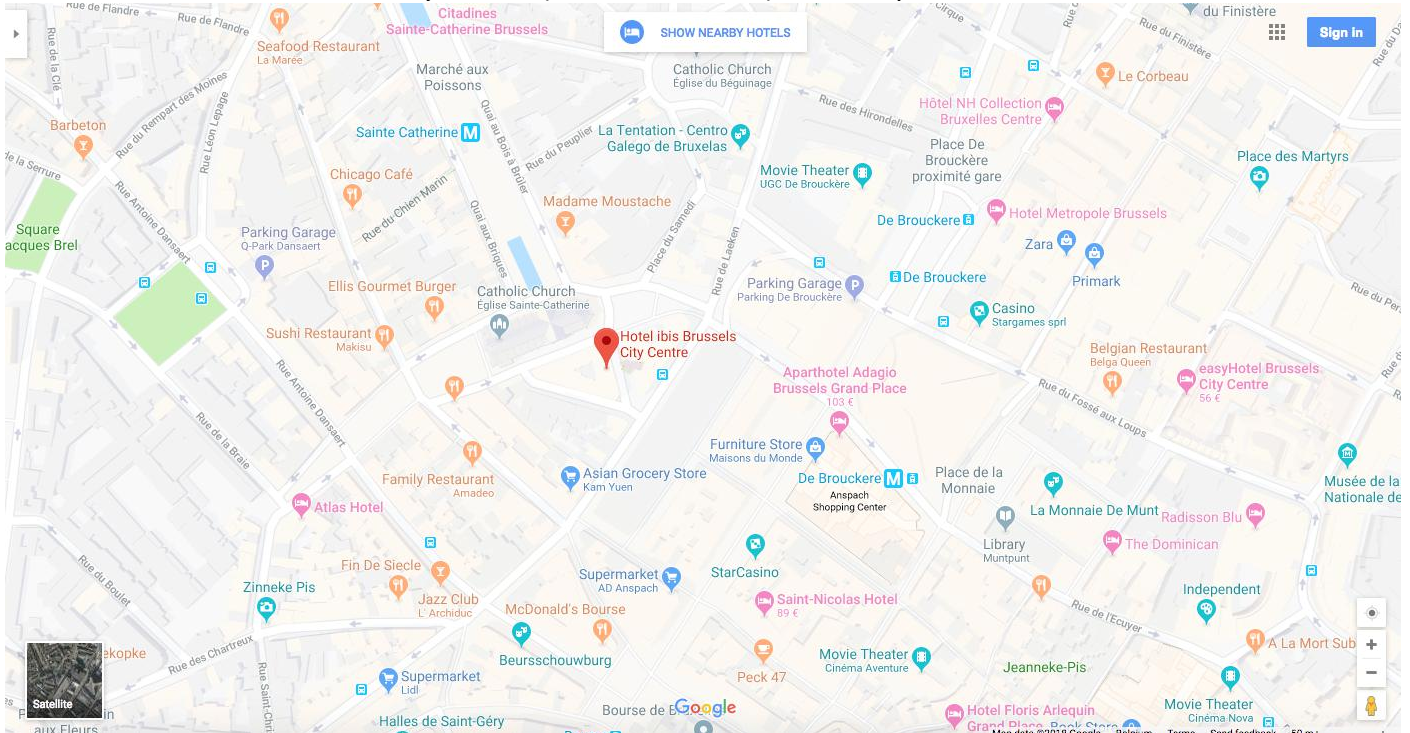
Departure for London

20 - 26 Jan 2019

W4	20 Jan 2019	Mon 21	Tue 22	Wed 23	Thu 24	Fri 25	Sat 26
8am							
9am		9am Registration & Refreshments	9am Negotiation Skills Workshop - Negotiations in theory (Robert Weibel & Joannathan Weibel (CENAD))	9am Roundtable discussions on EU's Global Strategy (Nona Mikhelidze (Istituto Affari Internazionale), Boris Iarochевич (EEAS), Hanna Jahns (Cabinet Johannes Hahn, EC))	9:30am Funding & Tender Opportunities Part I H2020 (Maria da Graça Carvalho (EC), Henrique Burnay (Eupportunity), Andrés Martínez (IGLO)	9:30am EU's Global Policy: Part I – The future of Europe according to the main media outlets (Alia Papageorgiou (Association of	9am Steering Group Meeting
10am		9:30am EU Decision Making (Marc Taquet-Graziani (EC), Seda Gürkan (ULB), Robert Heiling (EU Council))					
11am		11am Coffee Break	11am Coffee Break	11am Coffee Break	11am Coffee Break	11am Coffee Break	
12pm		11:30am The EU's main policy priorities on Central Asia and Neighbourhood countries (Pierre Amilhat (EC), Domenico Valenza	11:15am Negotiations Skills Workshop - Negotiations in theory (Robert Weibel & Joannathan Weibel (CENAD))	11:30am EU Trade Policies for the Region - a strategic approach (Ruta Zarnauskaite (EC), Fredrik Erixon (European Centre for International Political	11:15am Funding & Tender Opportunities Part II - The EU's Cultural Diplomacy: Education and Youth (Erasmus+) (Irena Andrassy (EC), Brikena	11:15am EU's Global Policy - Part II - Finland: priorities for Eastern and Central Asia partners (Kaisa Honka-Hallila (Finnish Permanent	
1pm		1pm Lunch at the Press Club	1pm Lunch at the Press Club	1pm Lunch at the Press Club	12:45pm Lunch at the Press Club	12:45pm Lunch at the Press Club	
2pm		2pm Lobby - A key element of the political process (Frank Schwalba-Hoth (Former MEP), Bernardo Aguiar (Eupportunity), Daniel Debono, (Malta	2pm Negotiation Skills Workshop - Negotiations in practice (Robert Weibel & Joannathan Weibel (CENAD))	2:30pm European Parliament Guided Tour	1:30pm European funding for Third Countries (Daniel Weiss (EC), Jeroen Willems (EC))	2pm Wrapping up - The EU and challenges ahead (Miriam Lexmann (International Republican Institute), Luc Devigne (EEAS), Telmo Baltazar (Cabinet President Juncker, EC))	
3pm			3pm Coffee Break		3pm Coffee Break		
4pm		4pm Organised tour of Brussels - Departure from Press Club & Arrival at the IBIS Hotel	3:15pm Negotiation Skills Workshop - Negotiations in practice (Robert Weibel & Joannathan Weibel (CENAD))	4pm European Parliament - Keynote Speeches (Sajjad Karim (MEP), Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski	3:15pm Dialogue with the European Cooperation in Science & Technology (COST) (Mafalda Quintas (COST))		
5pm			5pm Reception of National Representations - Residence Palace	5pm Cocktail with MEPs and Staff at the European Parliament (ASP3D Bar Forum)	5pm Reception hosted by the Embassy of Uzbekistan at the Press Club		
6pm							
7pm	7pm Welcome Reception at the IBIS Hotel					7:30pm Farewell Dinner - Restaurant L'Huitrière	
8pm							
9pm							

MAP 1

Hotel: IBIS Brussels City Centre (Sainte Catherine) Rue Joseph Plateau, 2 1000 Bruxelles



MAP 2

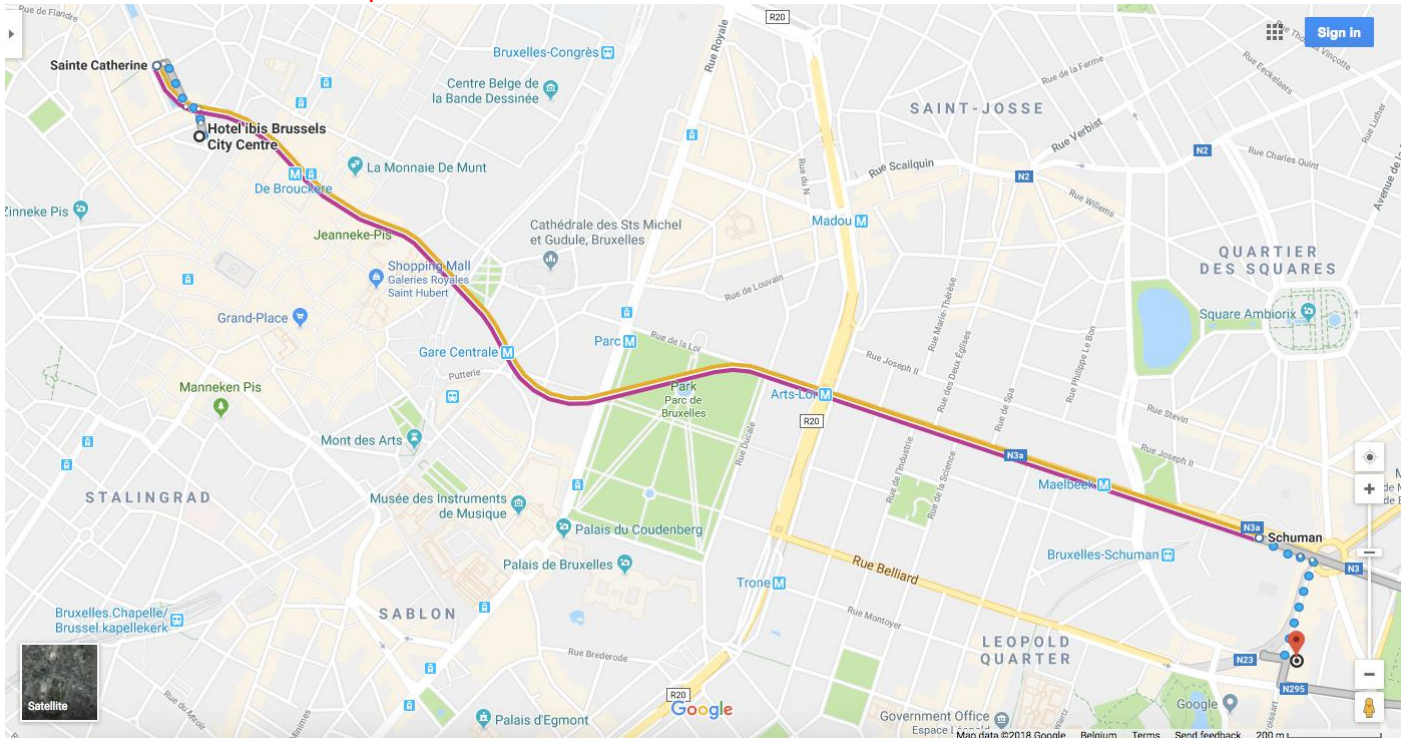
Conference venue: Press Club Brussels, Rue Froissart, 95 1040 Bruxelles



MAP 3

How to get to the venue from the hotel using the metro: From station **SAINTE CATHERINE**, take **LINE 5** direction **HERRMANN-DEBROUX** and **stop at station SCHUMAN**. Rue Froissart starts at the Schuman roundabout. At its top is the Council building in a corner and the KBC bank in the other.

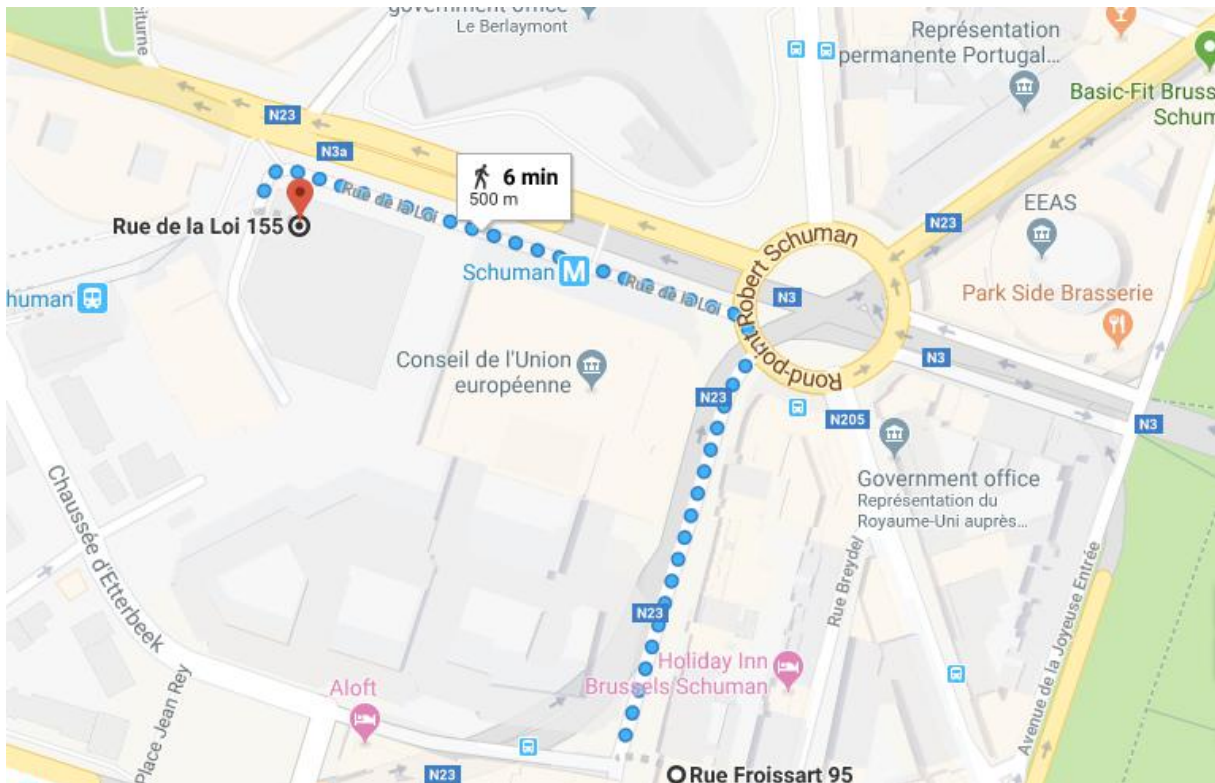
How to get to back to the hotel from the venue using the metro: From station **SCHUMAN**, take **LINE 5** direction **ERASMUS** and **stop at station SAINTE CATHERINE**.



MAP 4

Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 155 (Cocktail 22/01/2019 - 17h00)

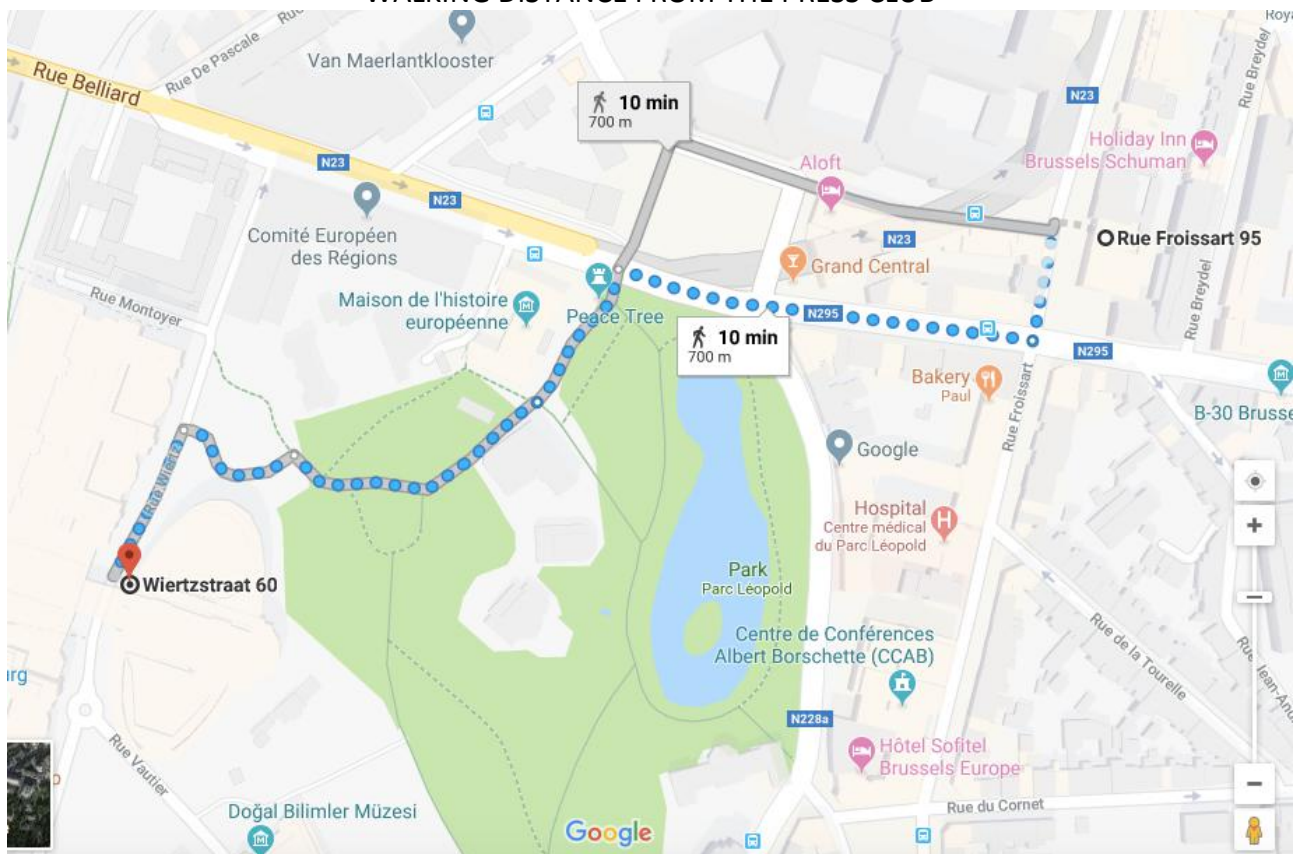
WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE PRESS CLUB



MAP 5

European Parliament PHS Buiding, Rue Wiertz 60 (23/01/2019 - 14h30)

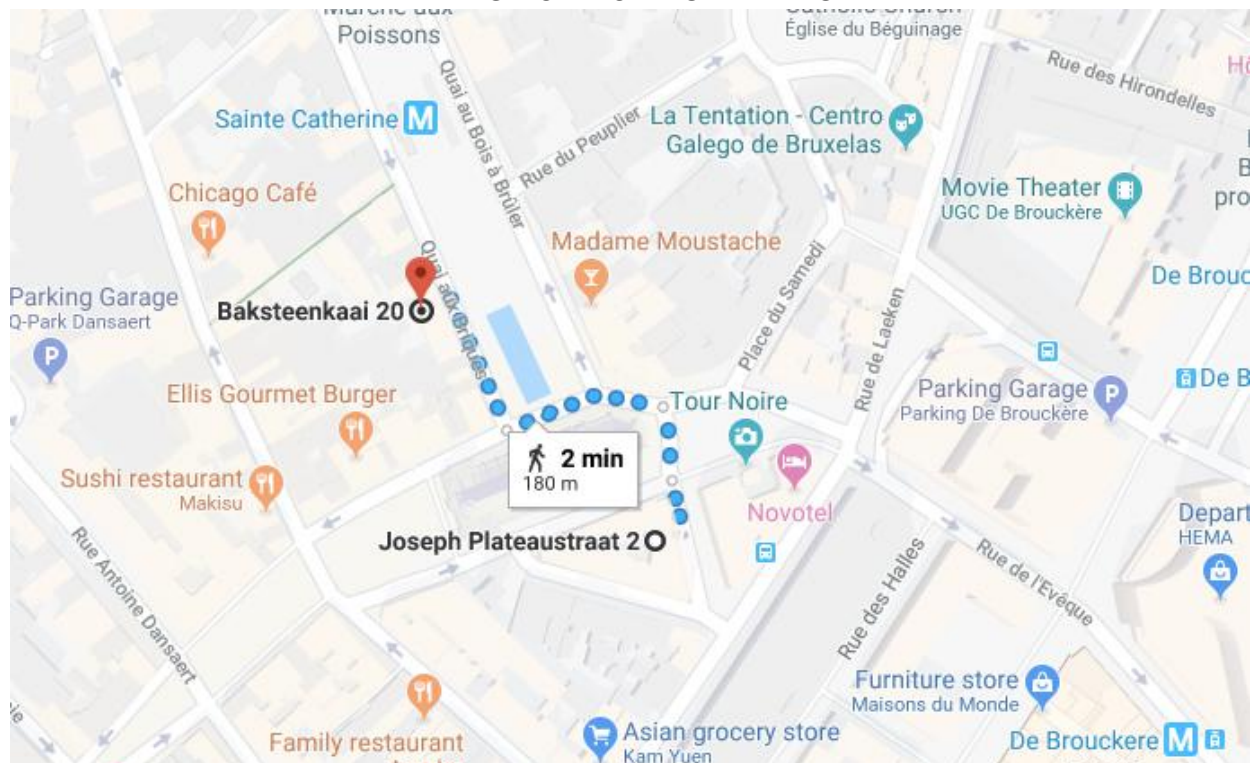
WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE PRESS CLUB

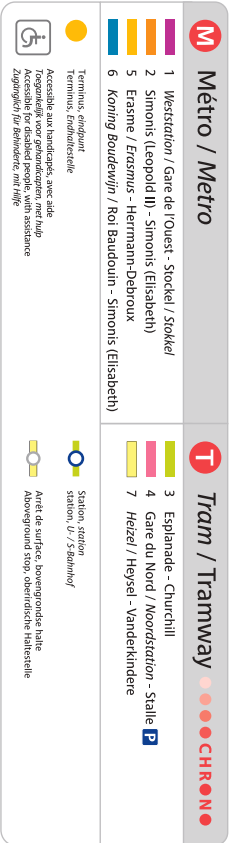


MAP 6

L'Huitrière Quai aux Briques 20 1000 Brussels (Farewell Dinner 25/01/2019 - 19h30)

WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE HOTEL





Farewell Dinner 25/01/2019

Please fill out this form and return it on Monday morning at the Press Club registration desk.

Name & Surname

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STARTERS

Choose ONE of the following options

Fish soup, old fashion way (Soupe de Poissons & sa rouille, croûtons)	
Duo of shrimp and cheese croquettes (Duo de Croquettes, aux Crevettes grises & fondu fromage)	
Gratinated mussels st Catherine style (Moules St Catherine)	
4 Oysters N5 on ice (4 huîtres N°3 sur glace)	

MAIN COURSE

Choose ONE of the following options

Beef steak with pepper cream sauce (Pavé de bœuf, poivre crème)	
Crab 650gr on ice (Tourteau - 650g sur glace)	
Cold seafood platter (Assiette de fruits de Mer)	
Cod filet with white butter sauce and chive (Dos de cabillaud beurre blanc ciboulette)	

DESSERT

Choose ONE of the following options

Homemade Belgium chocolate mousse (Mousse au chocolat belge)	
Panacotta with lemon (Panacotta au citron)	

The following drinks (per person) are included in the menu: appetizer (Cava, Porto or Kir) + ½ water + [½ house white/red wine **or** 2 drinks (soft or beer)] + coffee.

ALLERGIES

Are you allergic to any food products? In the affirmative, which ones?

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Signature: _____

DINNER RESTAURANTS

SUGGESTIONS

There are plenty of restaurants near the Press Club (namely at Place Jourdan) or the IBIS Hotel, but here are a few suggestions:

Close to the Press Club

Walking distance: 400m to the left	<u>Maison Antoine</u> Place Jourdan 1, 1040 Bruxelles Tel. +32 2 230 54 56	Belgian, Fast Food €
	<u>Mamma Roma Jourdan</u> Place Jourdan, 37 1040 Bruxelles Tel. +32 2 2 640 69 40	Pizza, Italian, Fast Food €
	<u>Ellis Gourmet Burger</u> Place Jourdan, 20 1040 Bruxelles Tel. +32 2 486 00 00	American, Vegan options €€-€€€
	<u>L'Esprit de Sel Brasserie</u> Place Jourdan, 52-54 1040 Bruxelles Tel. +32 2 230 60 40	French, Belgian, European €€-€€€
	<u>Park Side Brasserie</u> Avenue de la Joyeuse Entree 24, 1040 Bruxelles Tel. +32 2 238 08 08	French, Belgian, European €€-€€€
Walking distance: 500m to the right	<u>La Brace</u> Rue Franklin 1, 1000, Bruxelles Tel. +32 2 736 57 73	Italian €€-€€€
Walking distance: 600m to the right	<u>Kafeneio</u> Rue Stevin 134, 1000 Bruxelles Tel. + 32 2 231 07 42	Mediterranean €€-€€€
Walking distance: 650m to the right	<u>Meet Meat</u> Rue Stevin 124, 1000 Bruxelles Tel. + 32 2	Steak €€-€€€

Close to the Hotel

Walking distance: 180m	<u>De Monk</u> Rue Sainte-Catherine, 42 1000 Bruxelles Tel. +32 2 511 75 11	Belgian €
Walking distance: 230m	<u>Amadeus</u> Rue Sainte-Catherine 26 - 28, 100 Bruxelles Tel. +32 495 16 77 53	American, Belgian, Barbecue €€-€€€
Walking distance: 300m	<u>Le Grand Café</u> Boulevard Anspach 78, Brussels 1000, Belgium Tel. +32 2 513 02 0	Belgian €€-€€€
Walking distance: 550m	<u>Chez Leon</u> Rue des Bouchers 18, 1000 Bruxelles Tel. +32 2 511 14 15	Belgian (mussels) €€-€€€
Walking distance: 750m	<u>The Noodle Bar Brussels</u> Rue du Marché aux Fromages 15 1000 Bruxelles Tel. +32 2 503 49 29	Chinese, Thai, Asian €
Walking distance: 750m	<u>Santorini</u> Rue du Marché aux Fromages 11 1000 Bruxelles Tel. +32 2 513 73 54	Mediterranean €
Walking distance: 1400m	<u>Skievlat</u> Rue Joseph Stevens 16/18, 1000 Bruxelles Tel. +32 2 502 25 12	Belgian €€-€€€

Grand Place

The Grand Place in Brussels is hidden away in the centre of the city but when you enter on foot, you are guaranteed to be left awestruck. At the centre of the Grand Place is the beautiful 15th Century city hall but dotted around the square you will also be impressed by the six guild halls and their striking architecture. The square is worth visiting several times at different times of the day. On certain days there is a flower market in the square and visiting at night is recommended.



Old England Building

The Old England Building in Brussels was formerly a department store and was built in the very last year of the 19th Century. The building attracts visitors because of its stunning facade but also due to the fascinating and vast musical museum it houses. The museum is home to more than 2000 musical instruments with historic value and gives guests a chance to listen to many of them. The cafe on the roof of the building provides memorable panoramic views of the city.



Palais Royal

Although the royal family of Belgium now lives at Laeken, the Royal Palace in Brussels remains as their official residence. The palace is open for tourists in the summer months and makes a worthy addition to any itinerary whilst visiting the city. The most notable room in the palace has a ceiling covered in the wings of beetles, forming an oddly beautiful mosaic. The artwork as well as the interior decor is also as splendid as you might expect from a royal palace.



PLACES TO VISIT IN
BRUSSELS



Parc du Cinquantenaire

The Parc du Cinquantenaire has been around since the reign of Leopold II. It is a great place to visit for a number of reasons, whether you plan on having a picnic on the grass whilst absorbing the stunning architecture, or whether you intend to appreciate the vast collection of 35,000 artifacts housed in the museums here, a trip to the Parc du Cinquantenaire should be part of any trip to Brussels.



The Belgian Centre for Comic Strip Art

It is not widely known or as appreciated by tourists as other aspects of Brussels history but the city is actually known for its comic book history and the city has a museum dedicated to comics. Aside from that, you will also get a feel of how important comics are to the city when you gaze up at larger than life comic book murals on the side of building walls. Hunting these murals down is an exciting way to get around the city too.



Madame Mustache

The nightlife of Brussels is varied and entertaining and has something to suit all tastes and budgets. One of the most worthwhile nights out is Madame Mustache, a club with waiters clad in sailors attire that plays a variety of different music. Entry is free on weeknights, but not weekends. Dancing is the best way to enjoy your night here.



Notre Dame Du Sablon

This Gothic cathedral began life in the 14th century. It was extensively expanded in the following century to the popularity and supposed healing powers of the Madonna statue located within. The statue was allegedly stolen by a husband and wife team of thieves in a rowing boat. The location of the statue is unknown but the story is commemorated by a lifesize model inside the building.



Musee Royaux Des Beaux Arts

If you are craving some top-notch art then look no further than the Musee Royaux Beaux Arts. The museum incorporates collections of modern and ancient art across a range of styles. Famous works at the museum include the Fall of Icarus and various paintings by the Antwerpen painter Peter Rubens. There are also works by Anthony Van Dyke and Hans Memling on display.



Manneken Pis

This odd statue has risen to fame and is a popular tourist attraction in the city. It takes a little bit of skill in hunting down (unless you see it as part of a tour) but it is worth persevering. You will find it by taking the right lane away from the town hall. The statue is thought to date back to the early 17th Century when it was designed by Jerome Duquesnoy.



Kwak Beer

Belgians are very proud of their beer and it has played an important role throughout the history of the city. Tours are available that allow beer aficionados to experience the best pubs in the city as well as learning about the history of the beer and seeing how it is made in one of the city's breweries. Whether or not you are a beer fan, this tour is worth considering.



Atomium

The Atomium, located in Heysel Park in the West of the city, is a jaw dropping model of an atom which just happens to be a whopping 100 metres tall. The sculpture was made in 1958 to welcome a new and atomic age to Belgium and is an accurate depiction of an iron molecule except that it is about 165 billion times larger!.