

**GENERAL PRACTICAL INFORMATION**  
**on the**  
**Informal meeting of economy and finance ministers**  
**(Nice/France, 12-13 September 2008)**

**1/ Status and purpose**

- ▶ **Status:** Informal meeting of the ministers who are members of the ECOFIN council.
- ▶ **Purpose:** Exchange of views of an informal nature on the economic and financial issues of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

**2/ Dates and location**

- ▶ **Date:** Friday 12 September and Saturday 13 September 2008.
- ▶ **Location:** Palais des Expositions, 1 Esplanade Kennedy, 06300 Nice.

**3/ Participants**

- ▶ **States and institutions represented:** Member States of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Central Bank, the European Investment Bank, national central banks.
- ▶ **Level:** ministers, European Commissioner, governors.
- ▶ **Total number of participants:** around 300.

**4/ Programme**

- ▶ **Start and finish:** from Friday 12 September at 13.00 (following the Eurogroup meeting from 9.00 to 12.00) to Saturday 13 September at the end of the lunch.
- ▶ **Programme:**
  - Friday 12 September at 13.00: lunch;
  - Friday 12 September from 14.00 to 18.30: first working session of the ministers and governors;
  - Evening of Friday 12 September: dinner;
  - Saturday 13 September from 8.30 to 10.00: working session of the ministers;

- Saturday 13 September from 10.00 to 12.00: second working session of the ministers and governors;
- Saturday 13 September at 12.30: press conference of the French Presidency;
- Saturday 13 September at 13.00: closing buffet.

## **5/ Languages**

▶ **Working languages:** The working languages for the meeting are French, English and German. Interpretation services will also be provided for Estonian, Czech and Hungarian.

▶ **Languages for the press conferences:** French and English.

## **6/ Information for the press**

▶ **Accreditation:** Press representatives are requested to accredit themselves online (<https://medias.ue2008.fr>).

▶ **Press centre:** A fully-equipped press centre will be made available to the accredited press.

▶ **Press conferences:**

- **Informal Eurogroup meeting:** The press conference of the Eurogroup will be announced in the press centre on Friday 12 September during the morning;
- **Informal ECOFIN meeting:** the press conference of the French chairperson of the informal meeting will be held on Saturday 13 September at 12:30.

▶ **Accommodation:** We recommend reserving the required number of hotel rooms well in advance.

The Nice Tourist Office has practical information available for journalists (c.f. [www.nicetourisme.com](http://www.nicetourisme.com)) and a hotel reservation system ([www.niceres.com](http://www.niceres.com))

▶ **Press contacts:**

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