



**Informal meeting of the European agriculture ministers
Annecy, 21-23 September 2008**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR THE JOURNALISTS

VENUE/DATE

The informal meeting of the European agriculture ministers will take place in Annecy from Sunday 21 September to Tuesday 23 September 2008.

The plenary session of the informal meeting between agriculture ministers will be held at the Imperial Palace Hotel's congress centre in Annecy, in the "Europe" room on Tuesday 23 September 2008 from 9:00 to 12.30.

*Imperial Palace congress centre,
Allée de l'Impérial
74000 Annecy*

ACCREDITATION

To obtain your badge giving secure access to the official venue facilities of the informal meeting in Annecy, you need to apply for accreditation on the website of the French Presidency: <https://medias.ue2008.fr>

**On-line accreditation is compulsory if you wish to participate in the event.
Access to the event is exclusively reserved for accredited persons.**

When you register on the website, make sure you have your official press card and a recent uploadable identity photo in JPEG format (maximum 200 Ko) to hand. Please remember to tick the event that you wish register for (in this case it will be the "Informal meeting of the agriculture ministers").

The fields that must be filled in are preceded by an *. For help, please refer to the user guide available on-line in French and English.

The deadline to register for the informal meeting of the Agriculture ministers is Friday 5 September 2008 at the latest. To facilitate the work for the team organising the event, we invite you to fill in the accreditation form as soon as possible.

BADGES

The journalists will be able to collect their accreditation badges on Sunday 21 September at 12.30 from the press accreditation desk at the Imperial Palace.

Your identity will be checked before you are given your badge, so we will also request you to present **your identity card and your press card** at the desk. Any journalist who does not have a press card must show **the original of a letter from his/her editor** certifying that he/she is in fact employed by the latter.

Any lost or stolen badges or any accreditation arrangements changes must be reported to the accreditation centre. Any last-minute changes will require specific, additional accreditation procedures. The badge is allocated on an individual basis and must therefore not be given to any other person, and it should be worn in a visible manner throughout the event.

ACCOMMODATION

In order to meet your accommodation needs, the organising team has pre-booked rooms in 5 hotels in the centre of Annecy for the nights of Sunday 21 and Monday 22 September. All the prices quoted in the table below are per night and per person, including breakfast, VAT and local taxes.

HOTELS	*	Geographical location	Single room	Double room
NOUVEL HOTEL	2	Station City Centre	€80.80	€80.80
LE BONLIEU	2	Station City Centre	€93.00	€93.00
MERCURE GARE	3	Station City Centre	€124.00	€148.00
BW CARLTON	3	Station City Centre	€129.00	€143.00
PRE CARRE	3	Station City Centre	€145.00	€145.00

Rooms for any of these hotels can be booked through the registration site of our reception service : http://www.pepss.com/gti/0300/GTI_300_PACKAGE/107/

Since this is a very busy time of year, we recommend you reserve as soon as possible.

All hotel accommodation expenses must be settled by the person occupying the room; the organising team will be in charge of bookings.

For any additional information concerning hotel bookings, please contact our reception service at the following e-mail addresses: nancy.gentil@gl-events.com or maude.pavageau@gl-events.com

LOCATION OF THE HOTELS



** You will also be able to use this website to give us your day and time of arrival in Annecy and confirm your participation in the main events of the journalists' programme.*

DEPARTURES/ARRIVALS

The airports for arrival and departure are:

Geneva International Airport

21, Route de l'Aéroport CH-

1218 Grand-Saconnex

Tel: +41 22 717 71 05

www.gva.ch

Annecy Haute-Savoie Mont Blanc Airport

8, Route de Côte Merle 74

370 Metz Tussy

Tel: +33 (0)4 50 27 30 06

www.annecy.aeroport.fr

There is a daily direct flight from Paris Orly and Annecy airports.

Flight departures from Paris Orly West	Departure	Arrival	Days
	07:50	09:10	All weekdays
	11:30	12:45	All weekdays
	11:45	13:00	Saturday
	15:25	16:40	All weekdays
	19:25	20:40	All weekdays and Sundays

**These times are subject to change without prior notice.
Please contact the airlines for information.**

You can also arrive or leave by train. The trip between Paris and Annecy takes 3 1/2 hours by TGV.

Annecy train station

Place de la Gare

74 000 Annecy

Tel: +33 (0)4 50 52 82 54

www.voyages-sncf.com

WELCOME FACILITIES AT THE TRAIN STATION AND AIRPORTS

French Presidency welcome desks will be set up in the main concourses of the train station and the airports. Please ask the hostesses manning the desks for any information you might need upon arrival.

SHUTTLES AND TRANSPORTATION

Upon arrival in the railway station or the airport, a shuttle service provided by the French Presidency will take you to your hotels and/or the accreditation centre at the Imperial Palace.

There will also be a minibus service between your hotel and the Imperial Palace Press Centre.

On Monday 22 September, buses will take you to the Bauges Mountains nature reserve, a visit included in the field trip programme.

PRESS CENTRE

A press centre located on level 3 of the Congress Centre at the Imperial Palace is available for journalists. There will be two working rooms – one for the written press and the other for television/radio teams – equipped with computers and internet access, printers, photocopiers, telephones with international access and fax machines. Wi-fi access will also be available.

INTERPRETATION ARRANGEMENTS

The language combinations selected for the following events are:

- Plenary session of the ministers' informal meeting, 23 September: 22/6 (into FR, EN, GER, IT, SP, POL)
- Press conference with Michel Barnier and Mariann Fischer Boel, 23 September: 2/2 (FR/EN)

PRESS CONTACTS:

Press service for Michel Barnier's office: 0149555974

Press service for the Ministry of Agriculture: 0149555982