



## **AREGNET PLENARY MEETING**

### **6-7 JULY 2011**

### **BRISTOL HOTEL, BEIRUT, LEBANON**

#### **LOCATION**

AREGNET Plenary meeting will take place at the Bristol Hotel, Hamra, Beirut on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **REGISTRATION**

The registration desk will be open on July 6<sup>th</sup> as of 8:30 AM at the entrance of the Golden Room at le Bristol where a welcome coffee will be served.

#### **INTERNET**

An Internet access point will be available for AREGNET meeting participants at the venue entrance.

#### **PRAYING**

A Mosque (Ammache Mosque) is located at a walking distance of 1 minute from the Bristol Hotel. Please ask the hotel reception or any of the TRA organizing staff for directions if needed.

#### **SOCIAL EVENT**

A social event is scheduled starting 4:00 PM, where a bus will be driving all participants from the meeting venue at the Bristol Hotel to the touristic site of Qasr Moussa in the Chouf area. After the tour, a traditional Lebanese dinner will be served at the terrace of the famous restaurant Mir Amin, the former residence of the last Emirs of Lebanon in the 19<sup>th</sup> century restored and transformed into a luxurious five-star hotel and restaurant. Dinner is scheduled at around 8:30 PM.

It is advisable to bring along jackets as the weather might be cooler than expected in the evening (if you are not staying at the Bristol, please bring your jacket with you to the meeting).

#### **WEATHER**

Weather is expected to be sunny and warm. Temperatures should vary between 32 C during the day and 22 C at night.

## CURRENCY

The official Lebanese currency is the Lebanese pound or lira (LL). Notes are available in denominations of: LL1,000; LL5,000; LL10,000; LL20,000; LL50,000; and LL100,000. There are also LL250 and LL500 coins.

U.S. dollars are used widely throughout the country. Restaurants, hotels, and stores often quote their prices in U.S. dollars, and many establishments will convert and provide U.S. dollar prices for you upon request. If you plan to use U.S. dollars, it is advisable to bring small bills (US\$1 to US\$20 notes).

The US\$/LL exchange rate is relatively stable, hovering around US\$1=LL1,507.5. Money or travelers checks can be exchanged at banks, private money exchange shops, and major hotels.

Major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club) are accepted at most establishments throughout the country. ATMs are also widely available in Beirut and larger cities and will usually dispense both U.S. dollars and Lebanese pounds.

## LANGUAGE

While Arabic is Lebanon's official language, English and French are widely spoken. Most Lebanese speak at least two or three languages, and visitors will find no problems communicating. Many establishments provide signs, menus, and information in both Arabic and English.

## TIME

Lebanese time is G.M.T. +2 hours in winter (October to March) and +3 hours in summer (April to September), where daylight savings time is observed.

## BUSINESS HOURS

Shops are typically open Monday through Saturday, 10:00-19:00, except for Malls that stay open till midnight and shops in Down Town Beirut till 10:00 PM. Restaurant hours vary, and many, especially in Beirut, are open late at night. Banking hours are Monday through Saturday, 8:30-12:30. Working hours for government offices and post offices are typically 8:00-14:00, except for Friday where closing time is 11:00 AM and Saturday where closing time at 1:00 PM.

## ELECTRICITY

Electric current is 110/220 volts, 50 cycles. A two-pin plug, with round pins is commonly used (Type C, similar to many European countries), but other types of plugs are also in use. It is therefore safe to have an adaptor or ask for it if needed at your hotel reception.

### TOURISTIC SITES

Lebanon offers a wide range of attractive touristic sites. To learn more, please visit <http://www.lebanon-tourism.gov.lb/Attractions/CityLife/DINING.aspx#>

The TRA will also provide you with brochures published by the Lebanese Ministry of Tourism for different locations you can visit in our marvelous country, where roads lead from town to village and from site to city, from one époque to another.

We look forward welcoming you in Lebanon!