



## ***EUROPA FORUM 2008 CANNES, FRANCE. MD 105 UPDATE No. 1***

### **Place and date.**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Europa Forum will take place in Cannes on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2008. It will be hosted by our colleagues in MD 103 France and will follow the theme *the diversity of Lions service Activities will be an asset to promote a true European Lions identity.*

Full details including on-line Registration can be viewed on the Forum Website that is now active at

[www.europaforum2008.org](http://www.europaforum2008.org)

A direct link will shortly be provided from our MD website at [www.lions.org.uk](http://www.lions.org.uk) where notices such as this and other information relative to the MD105 participation in Europa Forum can be viewed.

On-line Registration is now live by accessing 'Login & Reserve' from the website menu when you will enter a secure section of the site. There is an "early bird" discount of approximately 11+% for Registration prior to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008 (pre 31<sup>st</sup> May registration is 179 Euro for Lions & Lioness Members, 149 Euro for Accompanying persons, 85 Euro for Leo Members). The last date for Registration is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008.

I have not been provided with hard copies of the Registration Form this year and suspect that Registration will be confined to the on-line facility.

**To take advantage of the "early bird" discount you must Register prior to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008.**

### **MD 105 Travel & Hotel arrangements.**

From my investigations I have concluded that there is no opportunity on this occasion to organise a combined travel/hotel package and using the official Forum hotels or the additional hotel suggested below, with individuals organising their own means of transport represents best value.

A varied selection of 'official' Forum Hotels has been added to the website during the last month with room rates starting at Euro 78.00 per night for a double including breakfast, rising to Euro 325.00, all within a six to ten minute walk of the Palais Des Festivals.

Following our very comfortable stay at the Ibis Parliament Hotel in Bucharest last year we have found a similar hotel in Cannes the Ibis Cannes Centre (Hotel Code 1370), that is situated three minutes walk from the Palais Des Festivals. It has the advantage of being able to be booked on line at preferential rates using the Ibis website at [www.ibishotel.com/](http://www.ibishotel.com/) and dependant on the tariff selected, does not incur any penalty for alteration or cancellation. Typical average room rate for a double including breakfast is Euro 76.00 per night (room prices are lower over the weekend). A lower rate applies if you are prepared to commit and pay 30 days in advance. This hotel does not appear on the 'official' Forum list and whilst the choice of hotel remains with you I suggest that it appears to be the most appropriate for the MD delegation.

In any event I suggest that you book your hotel accommodation as quickly as possible. I am aware that other delegations are also interested in using the Ibis Cannes Centre hotel and I suspect that many of the lower priced rooms available from the 'official' Forum list will be taken up quickly.

The closest airport to Cannes is Nice International. For those situated in the mid southern area of England Flybe fly direct from Southampton on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays and a direct on-line return booking Tuesday to Tuesday is currently quoted at around £85.00 per person with hold baggage extra (weekend flights are slightly dearer). Otherwise Easy Jet fly direct from a considerable number of airports in the UK but their on-line schedules and costs following the 28<sup>th</sup> September are not yet available.

### **Specific MD105 arrangements.**

To follow the pattern of previous years we will be arranging:

- A briefing meeting during the evening of Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October where the procedures of the Forum will be explained, information is up-dated and any concerns can be addressed.

In previous years we have organised an MD105 exclusive activity on the Sunday following Forum with a farewell dinner in the evening. I note that this year the Forum Organisers have a Beach Party as an additional social event on the Sunday that may limit our options in this respect. It may well be that we can organise something on the Monday if there is sufficient support and we are keeping our options open at this time.

Further details will follow when arrangements have been finalised.

*PDG Barrie Richardson – MD Europa Forum Committee Chairman. 12/4/08*  
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