**State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**INFORMATION NOTE**

**The 8th meeting of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics**

**24-27 September 2013**

**Meeting venue**

The 8th meeting of the Oslo Group (OG) on Energy Statistics will take place at the State Statistical Committee (at conference room), from 24 to 27 September 2013.

The State Statistical Committee is located at Baku, Inshaatchilar ave. (in Azeri language “Inshaatchilar prospekti, Dovlet Statistika Komitesi”).

Contact details:

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Web: [www.stat.gov.az](http://www.stat.gov.az)

Agenda of meeting will be provided by OG Secretariat.

**Transportation from airport**

Baku Heydar Aliyev International Airport is located 20 km northeast of the capital Baku and is linked to the city by two modern highways - Airport Highway (14 km) and Zigh-Airport Highway (17 km). The journey from city center to the airport by car takes approximately 30 min-40 min depending of the traffic conditions.

*Public transport (not recommended)*

There is a direct Express minibus route number 116 operating from the Airport to Baku City center. Service runs every 30 minutes beginning from early in the morning until late night.

The bus leaves outside the Airport building, across the parking area. The service terminates at S.Vurgun's park on the 28 May Street. The journey takes approximately 40-50 minutes. The fare is 30 gepiks (kopecks).

*Taxi*

A regular private taxi ride to the city costs 25-35 €. Taxi drivers accept cash Azerbaijan manat (AZN).

**Currency**

The national currency is the Azerbaijani manat (AZN). One manat = 100 gepiks (kopecks). Banknotes have face-values of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 manats; metal coins have face-values of 1, 3, 5, 10, 20 and 50 kopecks. Foreign currency (USD, GBP, EUR), including traveller’s cheques can be exchanged for Azerbaijan manats in all banks. In addition, official exchange offices are located throughout the country.

Please change some many (50 €) for taxi at airport or please inform taxi driver before sitting kind of payment.

Rate for 06.06.2013

1 USD= 0.7846 manats

1 EUR= 1.0274 manats

**General information about Baku and Azerbaijan**

For information about Baku and Azerbaijan visit the official website: <http://www.mct.gov.az>

**Languages**

Azerbaijani (a Turkic language) is the official language of the country. Russian and English (particularly young people) are widely used in the capital city and in other regional centers.

**Passports, visas**

Information about passport and visa requirements for entry into Azerbaijan can be found at the Website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan: <http://mfa.gov.az/?options=content&id=184&language=en>

If an invitation from State Statistical Committee to conference is required, please contact by e-mail: [sc@azstat.org](mailto:sc@azstat.org); [farhada@azstat.org](mailto:farhada@azstat.org)

**Climate and weather**

The climate varies between moderate and subtropical.

The average temperatures for September range between 20-25 °C. Please see the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources http://www.eco.gov.az/en/

**Electricity**

220/240 Volt, 50 Hz; Eastern European two-prong sockets are conventional.

**Water**

Recommended ask with hotel staff before drinking tap water.

**Time zone**

GMT +4; summer: GMT +5

**Cellular Communication**Uses standard GSM 900 and covers nearly the whole country. The largest operators are Azercell Telecom, Bakcell, and Nar Mobile.

**Accommodation**

Participants are requested to make their own hotel and travel arrangements. Here you can find a link for hotel reservation services:

<http://www.traveller.az/>, <http://hotels.az/>

Recommended that participants stay at:

***Qafqaz Baku City Hotel & Residences (4 stars)*** –The largest new hotel in Azerbaijan which is located in the heart of the business and commercial district of Baku and easily accessible by car and public transportation. There are 316 modern rooms.

* 1.7 km from State Statistical Committee, walking 20 minutes;
* 5 km distance from the City center;
* 5-minute walk from Heydar Aliyev Sports, Music and Exhibition Complex.

Price of standard room is 80 EUR (for OG meeting participants) and transfer from/to airport. Hotel offers a large spa area, elegant rooms with free high-speed Wi-Fi and a rich buffet breakfast.

The closest other hotels to State Statistical Committee are following:

* “Hyatt Regency Baku” – Luxury, 5 stars, 5 minutes walking distance to the State Statistical Committee (http://www.baku.regency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp );
* “Happy Inn Hotel” – 4 stars, 15-20 minutes distance (by car) to the State Statistical Committee (<http://www.happyinn.az/>);
* “Caspian Palace Hotel” – 4 stars, 15 minutes walking distance to the State Statistical Committee, but busy street in front of the hotel, difficult to cross (<http://www.caspianpalace.com/>)
* For more information please visit: <http://www.bakutourism.az/>

**Coffee and lunch**

Coffee/tea and lunch will be provided by SSC on each of the days of the meeting.

**Social event**

Social events will be organized by the State Statistical Committee. Information about it will be given during the meeting.