

European National Platforms Meeting in London - 11-13 November

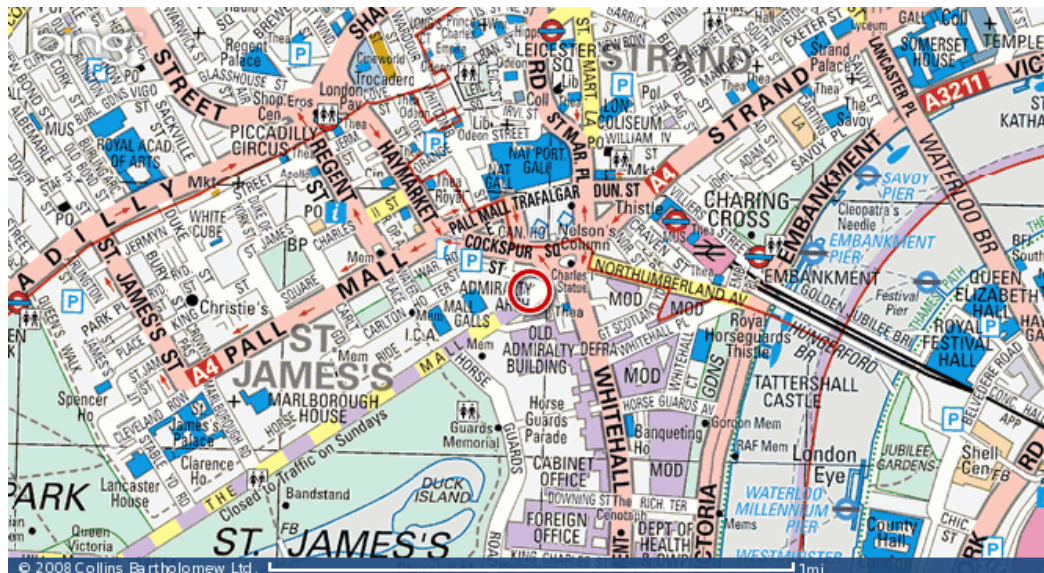
Venue - The meeting will take place in Admiralty Arch, The Mall, London SW1A 2WH



Admiralty Arch is an historic landmark. It was completed in 1910 to form a major processional route in memory of Queen Victoria. The building is made up of three arches which lead from Trafalgar Square into the Mall, towards Buckingham Palace. The entrance to the meeting room is through a door on the right hand side of the building, with Trafalgar Square behind you (as shown in the pictures).



Map of Central London



Getting to the venue

By underground (Metro)

Charing Cross underground and Embankment underground stations are within five minutes' walk.

(A London Underground Map is attached). Charing Cross is on the Northern and Bakerloo line and Embankment is also on the Bakerloo and the District and Circle line

By mainline rail (overground)

Charing Cross mainline is within 5 minutes' walk

Buses

Several red buses stop by the venue, if you want to come by bus let me know.

Taxis

There are lots of black cabs in London, but they're expensive and usually slow, so I wouldn't bother.

Getting to central London from airports or Eurostar

I hope the following information will cover all the ways you might travel to London. If I've missed someone out, please let me know and I'll get directions for you.

London is served by five main airports, from the UK's main gateway at London Heathrow to London City Airport in the Docklands.

- Heathrow
- Gatwick
- Stansted
- Luton
- London City

Heathrow Airport

Heathrow is located approximately 20 miles (32km) to the west of central London. There are two main ways to get into London. (Don't even think about a taxi!!)

London Underground

The Piccadilly line connects all Heathrow terminals including Terminal 5, with frequent services to central London between 05:00 and 23:40 (Heathrow Terminal 4 station closes at 23:35 Monday to Saturday, and 23:05 on Sunday). Journey time approximately 50 minutes to central London. Change at Piccadilly Circus to the Bakerloo Line for Charing Cross

Rail

Heathrow Connect - Heathrow Connect operates between Heathrow and Paddington via five intermediate stations in west London. Journey time to Paddington is 25 minutes and trains operate every 30 minutes. Trains depart from Paddington between 04:42 (06:12 on Sundays) and 23:03 and return from Heathrow Terminals 1,2,3 between 05:29 (06:13 on Sundays) and 00:06. Passengers for Terminal 5 should use the free inter-terminal service from Terminals 1,2 and 3.

Heathrow Express - Heathrow Express operates four non-stop trains per hour to and from Paddington. Trains depart from Paddington between 05:10 and 23:25 and return from Terminal 4 between 05:23 and 00:01 and Terminal 5 between 05:07 and 23:42. Journey time 15-20 minutes. There are three stations at Heathrow, Terminals 1, 2, 3, Terminal 4 and Terminal 5. Passengers for Terminal 4 must change at Terminals 1, 2, 3 for the free and frequent transfer service to Terminal 4.

In both cases you would then need to take the underground. Take the Hammersmith and City line to Baker Street and change onto the Bakerloo line to Charing Cross.

Coach

National Express operates an average of three coaches per hour to and from Victoria Coach Station. Journey time 35-60 minutes.

Taxi

Taxis are available at Heathrow Airport 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There are taxi ranks at all five terminals, as well as taxi information desks inside. The average journey time is approximately 30-45 minutes, and if four or five people travel together the fare could be lower than going by bus or train. Do not travel with anyone offering a 'taxi' service inside the terminal - it is likely to be an illegal, unlicensed driver.

Gatwick Airport

Gatwick is located approximately 30 miles (48km) to the south of central London. There is no underground service

Rail

Gatwick Express operates four trains per hour to and from London Victoria. Journey time 30 minutes. There is no service between 00:30 and 03:30 from London and between 01:35 and 04:35 from Gatwick. Other rail operators run services through the night. Tickets for this are almost twice the price of the service below.

Southern trains operate three trains per hour to and from London Victoria. Average journey time 35 minutes. An hourly service operates through the night.

Coach

National Express operates an hourly coach service to and from Victoria Coach Station. Journey time 65-95 minutes.

On arrival at Victoria, the venue is approximately a 20 minute walk from the station, past Buckingham Palace and along the Mall. By underground take the District and Circle line to Embankment and then a 5 minute walk to Admiralty Arch.

Stansted Airport

Stansted Airport is located 35 miles (56km) to the north east of central London. There is no underground link to central London

Rail

Stansted Express operates up to four trains per hour to and from Liverpool Street station. Journey time from 45 minutes. Trains depart from Liverpool Street station between approximately 04:10 and 23:25 and return from Stansted Airport between approximately 05:30 and 00:30 (later at weekends). Connections from the Tube are also available at Tottenham Hale which is 11 minutes from Liverpool Street on the Stansted Express. From Liverpool Street change to the underground and take the Central Line to Oxford Circus, then change to the Bakerloo line to Charing Cross.

Coach

National Express operates two separate coach services between Stansted and central London. Bus number A6 operates up to every 10 minutes, 24 hours per day to and from London Victoria via Marble Arch and Baker Street. A9 operates to and from Stratford (non-stop) every 30 minutes, 24 hours per day. Journey time one hour.

The Terravision Express Shuttle service operates every 30 minutes to and from Victoria Green Line Coach Station. Journey time 75 minutes. The service also operates every 30 minutes to and from Liverpool Street Station. Journey time is 55 minutes.

The underground connections from these stations to the venue are described above.

Luton Airport

Luton Airport is located approximately 30 miles (48km) to the north of London. Luton Airport Parkway train station is close to the airport and a regular shuttle bus connects the two. Rail passengers can purchase through tickets to the airport.

Rail

First Capital Connect operate up to six trains per hour to and from St Pancras International, London Bridge, Farringdon, London City Thameslink and Blackfriars stations. Journey time from 35 minutes. An hourly service operates through the night to and from St Pancras International and Blackfriars. However, please note there are no trains between approximately 01:00 and 03:00.

East Midlands Trains operate a frequent service from St. Pancras to and from Luton Airport Parkway station. Journey time from 21 minutes between 06:00 (09:00 Sundays) and 23:15.

Coach

Green Line route 757 operates up to four coaches per hour to and from Baker Street, Marble Arch and Victoria, 24 hours a day. Journey time from 65 minutes.

London City Airport

London City Airport is a small airport in the east of London. It only has a limited number of international flights.

Docklands Light Railway (DLR)

The airport has a dedicated station on the Docklands Light Railway (DLR). Journey times are 18 minutes to Canary Wharf and 22 minutes to Bank. Trains run approximately every 10 minutes departing Canary Wharf and Bank between 05:30 (07:00 on Sundays) and 00:38 and departing City Airport between 05:28 (07:00 on Sundays) and 00:20.

From Bank station you can take the underground on the District and Circle line round to Embankment, 5 minutes walk to the venue.

Eurostar

Eurostar comes into central London at St Pancras International station. The station is linked to six London Underground lines – Circle, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan, Northern, Piccadilly and Victoria. I suggest you take the Victoria line to Oxford Circus and change to the Bakerloo line for Charing Cross.

Hotels

Hotels in central London are very expensive. I have tried without any success to get a discount in some of these hotels. Unfortunately the World Travel Market from 9th-12th November is on in London at this time and therefore all room rates are subject to availability and may I please stress, that it is extremely busy. So I suggest you book as soon as you can.

City Inn Westminster- £179.00 including Full breakfast excluding VAT, rate inclusive of VAT £205.85, cancellation policy is 28days prior to day of arrival to avoid charges, subject to group contract from the hotel certain terms and conditions apply

Crown Plaza London St James- £180.00 inclusive of Full breakfast and VAT based on superior rooms, cancellation policy is 28days prior to day of arrival to avoid charges, subject to group contract from the hotel certain terms and conditions apply. Just to advise these rooms are on hold until Monday 5th October

Park Plaza County Hall- £170.00 including Full breakfast excluding VAT, rate inclusive of VAT £195.50, cancellation policy is 45days prior to day of arrival to avoid charges, subject to group contract from the hotel certain terms and conditions apply

Thistle Grosvenor- £170.00 including Full breakfast and VAT for double rooms for sole occupancy, cancellation policy is 28days prior to day of arrival to avoid charges, subject to group contract from the hotel certain terms and conditions apply

Park Plaza Victoria- £159.00 including full breakfast excluding VAT, rate inclusive of VAT £182.85, cancellation policy is 45days prior to day of arrival to avoid charges, subject to group contract from the hotel certain terms and conditions apply

Thistle Westminster-£146.00 including full breakfast excluding VAT, rate inclusive of VAT £167.90, cancellation policy is 28days prior to day of arrival to avoid charges, subject to group contract from the hotel certain terms and conditions apply

Oyster Card

If you travel a lot to London, or if you intend to travel around while you are here, you may find it cheaper to purchase an Oyster card. These can be used on all public transport, and can be 'topped-up' in shops and stations throughout London. You can purchase the Oyster card online before you come and I attach a link to the website below.

<http://www.visitlondon.com/travel/oyster>