

Zagreb, 27 April 2021.

Broj: 217-001/21

To: FEMS DELEGATES

Dear colleagues!

HLS will host FEMS General Assembly in Croatia, Dubrovnik, on 24-26 September 2021.

The meeting will take place at the Royal Hotels & Resort 5 *, Kardinala Stepinca 31, Dubrovnik.

Epidemiological situation is expected to calm down in the next months, so we hope to be able to meet in Dubrovnik after a long time.

As you will see in the Registration Form (in attachment), **dead line** for accommodation reservation and paying fees is **1 June 2021**, for following reason:

In normal (epidemiological) conditions, September and October are the most popular months for visiting Dubrovnik. This year is - due to the pandemic - expected an even greater interest in holidays in September, so the organizers must make earlier payments than usual, to ensure that the Assembly is held in that period.

If the meeting would have to be canceled due to an unfavorable epidemiological situation, all funds paid will be refunded to you. I sincerely hope that doesn't happen!

**ABOUT DUBROVNIK**

Dubrovnik (lat. Ragusium) is a city located in the south of Croatia. It is the administrative center of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County and one of the most important historical and tourist centers in Croatia. According to the latest official data, Dubrovnik has a population of 42.000.

George Bernard Shaw was enchanted by this beautiful city, about which he said *“those who seek paradise on Earth should come to Dubrovnik”*, as well as, famously, describing it as *“the pearl of the Adriatic”*. It really is a stunning city with an amazing Old Town, which became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1979. But whatever we and others say, our words do not give justice to this dazzling place.

So come soon and see it with your own eyes!

Weather in Dubrovnik in September

The average temperature in September is about 22°C and the sea is still pleasant for swimming (local people enjoy swimming in the sea until the end of October).

At the end of September, the days can still be quite hot (up to 33°C), and the evenings are a little colder, so you'll need a lighter jacket or sweater.

TRANSPORTATION

Dubrovnik can be reached by plane (Dubrovnik airport), by car, bus (A1 motorway) and ferry. Dubrovnik does not have a railway.

Dubrovnik Airport is 30 km from the hotel and is well connected with all major European airports by regular and low-cost lines. There are several flights a day from Zagreb.

A **ferry to Dubrovnik** could be a good option if you're coming from southern Italy. The Bari to Dubrovnik ferry runs from spring to fall. It's the only international ferry connection.

There are several passenger ferries from Split and the Croatian islands but no car ferries and no links to coastal cities north of Split.

To and from Dubrovnik Airport

By taxi (Uber also available), by airport bus or local bus.

(More detailed information will be sent when you get closer to the travel time.)

ACCOMMODATION

The Royal Hotels & Resort 5* is located on Babin Kuk, Lapad peninsula, one of the most beautiful places in Dubrovnik. Babin Kuk on the Lapad peninsula is a rich neighborhood known for its luxury hotels, elegant spas and yacht clubs.

The hotel rooms are elegantly furnished and free Wi-Fi is available in all areas. The hotel has indoor and outdoor pools with sun terrace and deck chairs, fitness center and sauna.

The hotel is 6 km from the famous Dubrovnik City Walls, 30 km from Dubrovnik Airport, 4 km from the Main Bus Station and 5 km from the Ferry Port.

Close to the hotel (walking distance) are luxury restaurants that serve seafood and offer Croatian specialties and several snack bars.

You can book your stay at the hotel for the same price 3 days before and 3 days after our meeting. If you want to take advantage of this offer, just enter the dates in the registration form and we will make a reservation for you.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

For accompanying persons:

On *Friday morning*, a walking tour of Dubrovnik is organized - *Discover Dubrovnik* (1,5 – 2 hours). A tour guide is provided in English, and we will try to provide a tour guide in French (but I can't promise that at the moment). Bring comfortable shoes and enjoy!

On *Friday afternoon*, we suggest you visit Dubrovnik on your own:

- walk through the famous *Dubrovnik City Walls* (ticket is around € 30)
- visit some of the many Dubrovnik *museums and galleries* (The Cultural Historical Museum, Ethnographic Museum, Maritime Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Homeland War Museum, Red History Museum, Love Stories Museum, Sebastian Art Gallery, Croatian Naive Art Gallery ...)
- and *churches* (Dubrovnik Cathedral, Church of the Holy Annunciation, Dominican and Franciscan Monastery, Dubrovnik Synagogue...)
- visit Botanical Garden - Trsteno Arboretum
- or simply enjoy a walk along Stradun (Dubrovnik's main street) and a beautiful city full of historical sites.

As the time of arrival approaches, we will send additional information and suggestions.

For both – delegates and accompanying persons:

On *Saturday afternoon*, a cable car trip to Srđ is organized.

Taking the cable car to the top of Mount Srđ is a must-do experience in Dubrovnik. Climbing from the top of Mount Srđ to the walls of the Old Town, the orange cablecar glides along for only four minutes but it's a ride to remember. At 415 metres above sea level, the views from the top are staggering. On a clear day you can see up to 60km, taking in Lokrum, the Elafiti Islands and a huge sweep of the Dubrovnik coastline. You can enjoy a longer view from the top at the Panorama bar/restaurant.

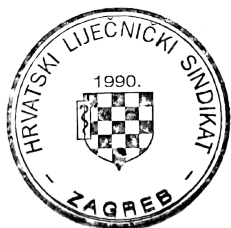
With such a birds-eye view of potential invaders, it's no surprise that there's a fortress on top. Napoleon Bonaparte was the first to spot the defensive potential of Srđ hill. He began construction of Fort Imperial (or Fort Napoleon) in 1806.....

All details about the exact venue of the meetings (halls) in the hotel, as well as all other relevant information, we will provide you in a timely manner.

If you have any further question or need more information, don't hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to seeing you again and we will do our best to make your stay in Dubrovnik an unforgettable memory!

Best wishes and stay safe!



President of HLS (Croatian Medical Union):
MSc. Renata Čuknović-Čaić, M.D.

