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To ICP Waters Task Force members

**Your reference****Your letter****Our reference****Date**

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## **Invitation to the 27<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes to be held in Sochi, Russia from October 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2011.**

Dear colleagues,

The 27<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting of the ICP Waters programme will be held from October 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2011 in Sochi, Russia. The Task Force meeting will start on Wednesday at 10:00 hours and close at about 15:00 hours on Friday.

It is still a long way to October, and you may not yet have decided if you will go. But for a trip to Russia a visa is necessary, and application for a visa is a time consuming process, which makes it necessary to start early! We will advise that you start the process for applying for a visa even if you still not have decided if you will come to the Task Force meeting.

For each person travelling to Russia it is necessary that you send:

- The scanned main pages of your passports
- Time of your stay. If you come earlier, or would like to stay longer, this must be indicated.
- Where in Russia you will pass the border (in particular important if you fly in via Moscow or another city in Russia).

This information is necessary for the Focal Center in Russia to be able to send you an invitation that you will need for visa application at the Russian embassy in your home country.

Please send information to:

Natalia Gashkina: [ngashkina@gmail.com](mailto:ngashkina@gmail.com) and

Tatiana Moiseenko: [moiseenko.ti@gmail.com](mailto:moiseenko.ti@gmail.com)

Enclosed you will also find some information about Sochi and the accomodation there from Tatyana Moiseenko..

I hope as many of you will have the possiblity to come to our next Task Force meeting in Sochi!

Yours sincerely

**NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE FOR WATER RESEARCH**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brit Lisa Skjelkvåle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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## About Sochi

**Sochi** is a [city](#) in [Krasnodar Krai](#), [Russia](#), situated just north of Russia's border with the republic of [Abkhazia](#), on the [Black Sea](#) coast. Sochi is the largest and beautiful Russian [resort city](#), has the new international airport. Trip from the airport to city centre takes 30-40 minutes. Minibuses are very popular (№ 124, cost 5 Eu), it stops near to the hotel. Cost of a taxi 25 - 30 Eu. If you have decided to go by a private taxi in advance stipulate a route and trip cost.

Sochi has a [humid subtropical climate](#) – [Mediterranean-type](#), at the lower elevations. Generally, the summer season lasts 6 months (from May to October). In October the average temperature 12-20°C, but can be up to 30 °C (as was last October). However to this period often there are rains and can be cold. The sea still warm and does not cool down by October, at this time it is possible to swim.

The optimum combination of the price and quality are the hotel Magnolia (<http://www.findrussiahotel.com/Sochi/magnolia>) and Hotel Zhemchuzhina ([www.zhem.ru](http://www.zhem.ru)).

**Magnolia Hotel** is situated in downtown of Sochi. It is a modern 12-storeyed hotel providing magnificent view of the Caucasus Mountains and the Black sea. Zimny theatre, Sochi circus, “Festivalny” concert hall, “Dendrarium” botanical garden, museums and theatres are all located nearby. Also 7-10 min to the central beach.

**Zhemchuzhina Hotel Complex** is situated right by the seashore, downtown, taking up 70 000 sq m. Zhemchuzhina is right by the shores of the Black Sea in Sochi, just 25 minutes' drive from the airport. It is a modern 19-storeyed hotel providing magnificent view of the Caucasus Mountains and the Black sea. Zhemchuzhina Hotel has a park zone with tropical plants. Zimny theatre, Sochi circus, “Festivalny” concert hall, “Dendrarium” botanical garden, museums and theatres are all located nearby. They include two open air swimming pools with sea water: a larger pool with heated sea water and a smaller one, fitness centre, solarium, massage rooms, saunas, tennis courts, large billiards room. Besides, there are 8 restaurants, 14 bars, night club. Zhemchuzhina Hotel features business centre including 11 conference halls for 10 to 450 people, meeting rooms. Breakfast price is included in the hotel accommodation rate. Around hotels a lot of restaurants (small and big, cheap and expensive) are situated. As in any resort city, there are also many restaurants along the beach. In Sochi Caucasian, Uzbek and an Azerbaijan cuisine is very popular. The Abkhazian pies are especially good. But there is also European, Japanese and other regions cuisine in bars and restaurants in the city.

Zhemchuzhina and Magnolia are located among themselves in 8-10 minutes by walk. Zhemchuzhina has a more choice of rooms in comparison with a Magnolia, but this hotel is a little more expensive. Cost of very good numbers does not exceed 120 EU. Conference Halls are very beautiful. The manager of the Magnolia allocates 20 rooms for our meeting, in Zhemchuzhina - is not limited.

Excursion will be in the Caucasian mountains and the Krasnaya Rožaluysra lyana where the Olympic Games will be arranged in 2014. More exact information will be dispatched later.