

19TH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE (COFI:FT)

Bergen, Norway, 11-15 September 2023

BASIC LOGISTIC INFORMATION FOR DELEGATES – As of 5 June 2023

Place of the Session

The Kingdom of Norway will host the 19th Sub-Committee on Fish Trade Session (COFI:FT).

The meeting will take place from 11 to 15 September 2023 at the **Scandic Ørnen Hotel** in the city of **Bergen**.

About Bergen

Bergen was established in 1070 by King Olav Kyrre and quickly grew into an international trading centre. Bergen served as the capital of Norway until 1299, when Oslo took over. Bergen remained an administrative and commercial hub. From the late Middle Ages to the middle of the 16th century, the German Hanseatic League maintained a major office in the city and dominated the majority of trade. Bergen was the biggest city in Scandinavia in 1600, with a population of approximately 15 000.

Bergen has expanded multiple times by absorbing adjacent municipalities and districts. In 1877, the Cathedral and Korskirken county parishes (Sandviken, Møhlenpris, Nygård, Lungegården and Kalfaret) were incorporated. Årstad was incorporated in 1915, and Gyldenpris was moved from Laksevåg to Bergen in 1921. Fyllingsdalen was relocated from Fana to Bergen in 1955. The municipalities of Arna, Bergen, Fana, Laksevåg, and Åsane merged with Bergen in 1972 to form a single large municipality named Bergen. Concurrently, Bergen ceased to exist as a separate county.

Bergen is located at 60E 23' 36" latitude and 5E 20' 6" eastern longitude (measured from the Cathedral spire). The city's entire area is 465.3 km², while the land area is 445.1 km². Population density per square kilometre (land) is 638. The city consists of four deaneries and 21 parishes. The population was 285 601 on the 1st of January 2021.



Bergen is the metropolis of Western Norway and the centre of the world's most important maritime region. The city has the greatest concentration of business clusters in Norway and is a popular tourist destination.

The leading business and industry clusters are energy (oil, gas, and renewable energy), maritime industries, tourism, creative (media, design, film, and music) and the marine sector.

Bergen is the second biggest city in Norway after Oslo.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Bergen's economy has remained stable over the past few years. Bergen's GDP declined 1.8 percent from 2019 to 2020, falling from USD 78.3 billion to USD 76.9 billion. It increased to USD 78.9 billion in 2021.

Bergen is a centre for aquaculture, as Norway is the world's leading producer of salmon. This economic production is essential to the city's economy, also home to the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.

More information about Bergen is available on the city municipality [website](#).

An official digital guide about Bergen is available in PDF for download in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#).

Venue of the COFI:FT Session

The COFI:FT Session will take place at the **Scandic Ørnen Hotel** in Bergen:

- Address: Lars Hilles Gate 18
5008 Bergen
Norway
- Phone number: +47 5 537 5000
- Website: <https://www.scandichotels.com/hotels/norway/bergen/scandic-ornen>
- Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/zPCpdN4JZSTBYf889>

The hotel is centrally located near Bergen's Bystasjonen station, Grieghallen concert hall, and cultural attractions.

Distance of the hotel to some of Bergen's attractions (in meters):

- KODE Art Museums and Composer Homes 200 m
- The Leprosy Museum 400 m
- West Norway Museum of Decorative Art 500 m
- Bergen Art Museum 500 m
- Nygårdspark..... 600 m
- University Museum of Bergen 650 m
- Torgallmenningen 700 m
- Bergen Maritime Museum 700 m
- Hanseatic Museum 900 m
- Hanseatic Museum and Schøtstuene 900 m

Accommodation

The Norwegian government has arranged a special tariff with the Scandic Ørnen Hotel for Delegates attending the COFI:FT Session. Reservations at the preferential booking rate can be made until **the 27th of July 2023** and altered or cancelled until **the 4th of September 2023**. The reservation must be secured with a credit card, but the final payment is only at the hotel.

To book a room using this preferential rate, please click [here](#). Please note that the delegates will bear themselves all accommodation costs.

Delegates can also consider booking at other hotels near the Scandic Ørnen hotel, such as Citybox Bergen, Scandic Byparken, Grand Hotel Terminus, and Zander K Hotel (the hotels are listed in the order of proximity of the venue of the COFI:FT Session).

Click [here](#) for a list of hotels in the city centre of Bergen.

Practical Information

Language

Norway's official language is Norwegian, with two official written varieties: Bokmål and Nynorsk. Bokmål (Book Language) is an adaptation of written Danish introduced during the union of Denmark and Norway in the 14th century. Nynorsk (New Norwegian) was developed in the middle of the 19th century to preserve the traditions of the Old Norse.

The most frequently spoken second language in Norway is English. Approximately 90 percent of Norwegians speak English as a second language. Norway ranks among the top five non-native English-speaking countries for English proficiency.

Local Currency

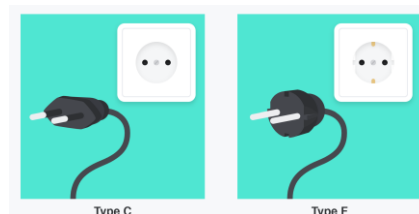
The Norwegian currency is named kroner (currency code NOK), often incorrectly translated into English as "crowns."

To check the exchange rate of the kroner in other currencies, click [here](#).

Local Voltage

Norway operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.

Types C and F are the associated plug varieties in Norway. Plug type C consists of two round pins, while plug type F consists of two round pins with two earth clamps on the side.



Weather

September, the first month of autumn in Bergen, is still a relatively moderate month, with average high temperatures of 13.9°C (57°F) and lows of 11°C (51.8°F), with an average relative humidity of 79 percent.

On average, in September, there are about 22 rainy days in Bergen, with an average of 179 mm (7.05 inches) of precipitation accumulation. In Bergen, there are 227 rainy days per year on average.

The average day duration in September is 12 hours and 52 minutes, with six hours of daylight. The first day of the month begins with sunrise at 06:32 h and ends with sunset at 20:45 h. On the final day of September, sunrise is at 07:41 h and sunset is at 19:15 h.

For recent weather information in Bergen, please click [here](#).

Internet

At the COFI:FT Session venue, Wi-Fi is accessible in all Scandic Ørnen Hotel meeting rooms and public areas.

Airport and commuting to downtown

- Bergen Airport

Bergen Airport (IATA: BGO, ICAO: ENBR), also known as Bergen Flesland Airport or simply Flesland Airport, is an international airport in Norway. It was opened in 1955 and is Norway's second-busiest airport. Avinor, which is owned by the state, operates Flesland.

Bergen Airport provides regular service to 63 destinations and seasonal or charter service to 26 destinations, predominantly during the summer. In addition, the helicopter terminal serves offshore hydrocarbon platforms. Flesland is operated by regular aircraft from 23 airlines.

Some major international airports with direct flights to Bergen are Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Copenhagen, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Gdansk, Gothenburg, Hamburg, Helsinki, London, Manchester, Munich, Paris, Rome, Stockholm, Zurich, among others.

- Commuting downtown

The airport is located about 18 kilometres (11 miles) from the city centre.

There are basically three options to get to and from the airport by public transportation:

- Light Rail

Bybanen (the light rail) connects the airport to the centre of Bergen. The stop for the light rail is right in front of the terminal. The "Skyss billett" app or the ticket machine at the Light Rail stop can be used to buy tickets for the Light Rail.

The timetable for the light rail is available [here](#).

- The Airport Express Bus

A fast bus goes from the airport to the centre of Bergen. The Airport Express bus stops on the left side of the airport's main terminal building. The Express Bus will reach the Bergen Bus Station in about 20 minutes. Flybussen makes six stops in the city centre, and most hotels are within walking distance from most of these stops.

More information about schedules and stops of the Airport Express Bus is available [here](#).

- Taxi or Uber

The taxi line is located outside the terminal building, and there are multiple taxi companies from which to choose.

It will cost about NOK 550 to take a taxi to the city centre.

Uber is also available in Bergen.

Disclaimer

All information in this document is provided to facilitate travel arrangements and inform Delegates.

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For any additional information or clarification please contact cofi-fishtrade@fao.org.