

Eurodisplay 2019 to be held in Minsk, September 16-20.

Last week (May 16-18) I visited **Minsk** for the first time. Minsk is the capital of Belarus, with almost 2 million inhabitants one of the largest capitals in Europe. Since 2019, **no visa is required** when arriving by plane to Minsk (except when flying in from Russia) for citizens of most countries (including EU, US, Japan, Korea) for stays of up to 30 days. Only a **valid passport** is needed, and medical insurance has to be purchased in an office just before passing immigration at the airport (the cost is 6 euro for 5 or 6 days, buying it takes only a few minutes). My direct flight with the Belarussian company Belavia from Belgium to Minsk took less than 3 hours (cost back and forth: 220 euro). There are many direct flights from all over Europe to Minsk.

Transport from the airport to the city center (40 km) is possible by bus (3 euro) or taxi (30 euro). The conference organization will provide transport from the airport to the venue (10 euro). **The city** is clean and modern, with wide avenues, large parks, monuments, museums, concert halls and churches. Prices in hotels and restaurants in Minsk are considerably lower than in Western Europe or in the US.

The **venue of the conference** is the Marriott hotel, on the right bank of the Svisloch river, 5 km to the Northwest of the city center and 1 km from the presidential palace. The hotel has very high standards, including an excellent restaurant, a spa and a terrace overlooking the river. The organizing committee is working hard to make Eurodisplay 2019 a success. I imagine that for many participants it will be their first visit to Minsk. For me this first visit was a very positive experience. We hope that you can join us in Minsk in September!

Kristiaan Neyts, chair Eurodisplay 2019

