

**RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION WORKS
AT THE CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD**

Access Restrictions

The following circular from the Construction Project Committee (CPC) contains important information for delegations on the building projects in the Centre William Rappard (CWR).

Delegations are kindly requested to take note of the changes to building access, parking areas and conduct of meetings in the CWR caused by the construction projects. Delegations are further asked to ensure that delegates who frequent the WTO premises are aware of the inconvenience these activities will entail.

This information circular provides an overview of progress on the building projects and outlines the restrictions on access and movement of persons and vehicles at the CWR

I. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE BUILDING AND PARKING

The three projects in the CWR – Renovation, Intra-muros (works in the two courtyards) and Extra-muros (new building) are advancing according to plan. In addition, the Security Perimeter project has entered a new phase, with the publication of the results of the architectural competition.

Renovation

All offices in the South Wing have now been renovated. Divisions which formerly occupied offices in the North Wing have moved to the South Wing.

Renovation of the North wing offices started in February 2011 and will continue until mid-2012. Delegations will be informed in due course of the moves of the Office of the Director-General and the Appellate Body Secretariat, as well as closure of Meeting Rooms W, A, B, C, D, X, D and E.

Delegations are kindly advised that **Room F is no longer available** due to the works in the North Courtyard.

Intra-Muros

Construction of the conference centre in the South Courtyard is advancing according to plan and **will be open for use by Delegations in September 2011**. This flexible conference centre will offer the possibility of different configurations depending on the size and requirements of the meetings and will be equipped with new furniture, a state-of-the art sound system and interpretation facilities, and a delegates' lounge.

Extra-muros

Following the approval by the Swiss Parliament of a loan for the construction of the new building and a grant for its underground car park, as well as the issuance of building permits by the Geneva Cantonal authorities, construction of the new building has started. The first phase of these works is the demolition of the Villa (formerly a garage for WTO official vehicles and FIPOI offices) and excavation of the underground car park. The excavation works, which will last until July 2011, will entail a sharp increase in traffic of heavy vehicles at the CWR.

The heavy traffic envisaged around the CWR will cause additional inconvenience for delegations accessing the CWR, and delegates are **kindly requested to take this into account when planning their commuting time to meetings in the WTO.**

Security Perimeter

An architectural competition for the design of a future security perimeter around the CWR was launched in 2009. The jury which examined the various proposals reached a unanimous decision on a project designed by the Oxalis-Behnisch consortium. This project is being undertaken by the FIPOI, in co-operation with the WTO Secretariat. Its construction will start in late 2011.

II. RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS AND MOVEMENT AT THE CWR

Restrictions on access to the site

As indicated above, delegations are advised that access to the CWR by car is currently very difficult. As no parking is available at the CWR, delegates should take this into account when planning their commute to the WTO.

Restrictions on movement within the CWR

Delegations are kindly requested to note the restrictions in access between the South and the North wings of the CWR. These restrictions will apply from now until mid-September 2011. Security staff in the CWR will be able to keep delegates updated on available access.

Restrictions on availability of meeting rooms and need to use off-site meeting rooms

As a result of the advancement in works in the CWR, there will be limitations on the number of meeting rooms available for delegations. The Secretariat is in contact with the WMO and the CICG, in order to secure meeting rooms on their premises. As noted earlier, **Room F has been closed until further notice.**

Rooms W, A, B, C, D and E continue to be available to delegations, but might suffer from disruptions due to noise, vibration and dust. These meeting rooms will eventually be closed for renovation. Delegations will be kept informed of their availability.

The CPC regrets this inconvenience and is trying to minimize the impact on meeting rooms to the extent possible. The Secretariat Conference Office will continue to try to accommodate requests for meeting rooms by delegations within the constraints outlined above.

Disturbance (noise, vibration, dust) caused by commencement of works in North courtyard

As the construction works start in the North courtyard, which will be transformed into an Atrium and open to delegates and staff in the course of 2012, delegates and WTO staff will be

affected by noise, vibrations and dust. This will be felt particularly in the main hallway of the CWR, as well as in the Salle des Pas Perdus, the coffee shop and in meeting rooms W, A, B, C, D and X. Meeting rooms D and E should initially be less exposed to such disturbance.

Parking

Parking at the CWR is no longer possible. Delegates are kindly requested to use the Sécheron car park.

The Sécheron car park will be available to the WTO (Delegates and Staff) until the end of 2011. As of 2012, when the construction of the JTI headquarters is due to start in that area, WTO delegates and Staff will be able to park in a new Park-and-Ride (P+R) building being constructed adjacent to the bridge over the rail tracks on Avenue de France.

The WTO is studying the possibility of establishing a shuttle service between that area and the CWR in peak hours. A 400-place underground car park next to the new JTI building in Sécheron will be available to Delegations and Staff as of 2014.

Although the drop-off zone in front of the CWR main entrance is still operational, this area has been restricted due to the renovation work on the CWR building. This will further complicate access to and departure from the WTO. Parking, even temporary, next to the Conference Room and the crèche is no longer available. Attention is also drawn to the danger to pedestrians, cyclists and other road users of illegal parking on the pavements outside the main CWR gates.

Delegations are kindly requested to plan their access to the CWR with the above restrictions in mind. It is highly recommended that delegates use public transport to the CWR, especially as of early 2012.
