Strasbourg is a wonderful European city steeped in medieval and renaissance culture. It is the capital of the Alsace region and the seat of several European Institutions, including the European Court of Human Rights and the European Parliament.

The city centre, the Grande île, has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1988. The focal point is the cathedral, for 400 years the tallest building in Christendom. Around the Cathedral Square, further medieval and renaissance buildings and alleyways lead out towards the Ill River and the atmospheric half-timbered Petite France quarter, a delight to explore.

Beyond the city limits, the countryside is dotted with picturesque villages in rolling countryside around the foothills of the Vosges mountains. Many of the hillsides are covered in vineyards, with meandering rivers running between them.

The Alsace is an area of great historical importance, fought over for centuries, occupied by Germany in 1871, liberated in 1918, re-occupied in 1940 and reliberated in 1944. It is imbued with both French and German cultures.

Strasbourg is small enough to walk around easily but large enough to provide a vibrant atmosphere, great shops and wonderful restaurants; it is a centre of gourmet eating and drinking and you will be expected to sample the local delicacy, *choucroute au trois poissons* – sauerkraut with three different fillets of fish and a lemony butter sauce. There are several Michelin starred restaurants and you will need to book well in advance of the meeting if you want to eat in one of them. You will find a list of recommended restaurants at [www.iaml.org/events/strasbourg/strasbourg_best_restaurants_guide](http://www.iaml.org/events/strasbourg/strasbourg_best_restaurants_guide).
We will be staying at the Sofitel, a great four star (trying to be 5 star) hotel in the centre of town. It is modern, stylishly decorated and with the look of a boutique hotel with a cosmopolitan atmosphere. Please note that this is the only hotel in the centre large enough to accommodate us and they will not keep the rooms after 15 January. But if you book now, you can cancel the booking with no charge up to 6th March 2011. Please also note that the cheapest rooms are rather small but they are good value at €215 including breakfast.

Wednesday 6th April 2011

3.00pm – 5.00pm - Strasbourg Orientation Tour on Foot

A guide will give two groups an introductory tour of the city centre so please try to arrive on the Wednesday in time for that. The tour will include a visit to the Cathedral, the church of St Demetrius and the Petite France quarter.

6.30pm - 8.00pm - Welcome Reception at the Hotel

This will take place in the Salon Rohan, a recently restored room in the Sofitel with outside space.

8.30pm - Pre-paid dinner at Restaurant Le Gruber

As so many people will be looking for a place to go for dinner on the first evening, we have found a restaurant that can accommodate all of us. As this is the last evening of the monthly European Parliament sitting, it will be very difficult to book a table elsewhere that evening other than well in advance. The restaurant is next to the Cathedral, a 5 to 10 minute walk from the hotel. It offers traditional Alsatian cuisine and we will be sampling a range of local delicacies.
Thursday 7th April 2011

9.00am – 1.00pm - Tour of the European Court of Human Rights and Boat Trip back along the Ill River

We have an opportunity to visit the European Court of Human Rights where we will have a talk from a lawyer about how the court works. The building, designed by the practice of British architect Richard Rogers together with a local Stasbourg architect, is part of the complex of the Council of Europe and is close to the European Parliament Building. After the visit, we will board a boat for a guided tour of Strasbourg along the Ill River. Seeing this beautiful city from the river gives quite a different impression from walking or driving around and is well worth it. The trip will include a finger buffet lunch and the boat will drop us back in the centre of town.

2.00pm – 5.30pm - Education Programme

The education session takes place in the afternoon. Please see www.iaml.org/events/strasbourg/education_programme for details on the education programme.

3.30pm – 5.30pm Guest Programme – Cooking Lessons

As the Alsace is a centre of culinary excellence there is an opportunity for guests to attend a cooking lesson at a cooking school in the centre of town. We will only be offering this if we have enough interest as the cost for fewer than 30 people would be prohibitive. The lesson will involve the preparation of 5 typical canapés, including a particular type of tarte flambée. The canapés will be brought back to the hotel for inspection and consumption at the happy hour!

6.00pm – 7.30pm - Happy Hour

At the hotel, where we can share wine and conversation before going for dinner. We should also be able to sample the canapés prepared at the guests’ cooking lesson that afternoon.
This dinner for Fellows attending their first meeting, their partners and IAML and IAML European Chapter officials will take place in a Winstub (a “wine lounge”) called Le Tire Bouchon. This restaurant has traditional decoration and a family atmosphere. This type of restaurant is a source of great regional pride to the Alsatians where the food is relatively simple, homemade and delicious. This is a pre-paid dinner and we will send you a menu choice in advance once we know the numbers.

This is a free evening for the rest of you so book one of those restaurants!

Friday 8th April 2010

9.00am – 12.00pm - Education Programme

Please see www.iaml.org/events/strasbourg/education_programme for details on the education programme.

9.30am – 11.30am - Guests’ tour of the Museum of Decorative Arts

This is located on the ground floor of the Rohan Palace, a fabulous classical palace built along the river in the 18th century. The museum concentrates on the French presence in Alsace in the 18th century and includes historic living quarters as well as works of art dating from 1681.

12.15pm – 6.10pm - Afternoon trip to Colmar and Unterlinden Museum

Lunch in a village on the way will be “Flammekueche” (tartes flambées) which is a great Alsatian tradition. Traditionally, the Flammekueche was the meal for Sunday evenings made with leftover bread dough from the week, rolled very thinly and covered with white cheese, onions and chopped bacon. It is completely delicious.

Colmar, less than an hour’s drive from Strasbourg, is famously picturesque. It is steeped in art and history, with narrow cobbledstone streets flanked by 16th and 17th century half-timbered houses. Churches, monasteries, balconies, facades, sculptures and paintings create an extraordinarily beautiful city centre. The colours and atmosphere of the middle ages have been well preserved and each century has added its particular features.

The Unterlinden Museum is housed in a 13th century Dominican convent. It displays a wealth of treasures, such as a hugely important collection of Rhenish sculptures and paintings from the middle ages and renaissance. The Grünevald altarpiece from 1510 is one of the star attractions.
6.30pm – 8.00pm - Wine Tasting at the hotel

For those who wish to take part in the wine tasting, this will be a relaxed affair and an opportunity for us to get together early in the evening. There will be the shortest of presentations from the expert and it will be more of an opportunity to chat and to sample the local wines with sweet and savoury local “kougelhopf”.

8.30pm - Dinner at the Ancienne Douane (The Old Customs House)

This is another evening where, if you wish, you could arrange to go to one of the Michelin starred or other exceptional restaurants in Strasbourg. Alternatively, we are arranging a more simple and traditional supper at the Ancienne Douane (Old Customs House), located along the Ill river close to the cathedral and near La Petite France. The building dates from 1358 and houses a large and typical brasserie. For those who want to take this option we will be asking you to choose from a menu in advance.

Saturday 9th April 2011

9.30am – 11.15am - Education Programme

Please see [www.iaml.org/events/strasbourg/education_programme](http://www.iaml.org/events/strasbourg/education_programme) for details on the education programme.

11.30am – 12.00pm – Annual General Meeting

12.30pm – 5.45pm - Excursion to Haut-Koenigsbourg Castle and Riquewihr.

Haut-Koenigsbourg is a restored medieval castle, originally built in the late 11th century and reconstructed by the Emperor William II at the beginning of the 20th century. It has often been used as a film set. It is a classic fortress of the sort that could be found all along the Rhine valley in the 15th century. Many of the rooms within the castle contain furniture from the 15th to the 17th centuries. The views of the surrounding area from its elevated position are second to none.

After the castle, the tour will continue along Alsace’s famous wine route, meandering through the eastern slopes and foothills of the Vosges mountains and passing through picturesque villages.

Riquewihr, which we will visit, is one of the wine route’s most attractive villages. Exceptionally pretty, it is surrounded by vine-covered slopes and the traffic-free cobblestone streets make it easy to explore the delightful renaissance houses and courtyards.

On this trip you will be given a box lunch – nothing too filling as this is the day of the President’s dinner.
7.00pm - President's Reception and Dinner

The pre-dinner drinks will take place in the Mozart room, an 18th century ballroom in the centre of town in which Mozart performed in 1778. This is a 5-10 minute walk from the hotel and for those with heels, the cobblestones can be avoided. It is hard to drive there and would take 15-20 minutes along a circuitous route but taxis can be arranged for those who want or need them. From there it is a very short walk to the Maison Kammerzell for the President’s Dinner. This fascinating renaissance building, situated at the foot of the cathedral, dates back to 1467. The upper floors were completed in 1589 when it became the private residence of a rich cheese merchant who insisted on installing 75 windows. The famous 3-fish sauerkraut dish was invented here!

Sunday 10th April 2011

Post Conference Tour

10.00am – 3.15pm - North Alsace and the Maginot Line including lunch

This tour will go through the “Potters’ Route” north of Strasbourg. We will cross part of the famous Haguenau forest, the largest forest in the Alsace. There are picturesque villages along the road, punctuated with numerous fountains.

The Maginot Line is a line of concrete fortifications, tank obstacles, machine gun posts and other defences constructed by the French along its borders with Germany between World War I and World War II. The German army occupied the line until the end of the Second World War, having found that it did not stop them proceeding relatively unobstructed through Belgium and on to France. The Maginot Line is today an important part of French history and, indeed, the history of 20th century warfare.

The tour will include a simple lunch and a visit to the galleries, the barracks, the stores and turrets of the Maginot Line.