

Finncon X Agents newsletter April 2003

(This is a newsletter sent to all agents of Finncon X - Eurocon 2003)

Greetings Finncon agents!

First of all I want to apologize for not having been able to get out any newsletters in February and March, but on the other hand there really hasn't been that much to report about Finncon X - Eurocon 2003, but now there is!

This agent's newsletter is going to take up the following things:

- Bjørn Tore Sund from Norway will be our fanGOH
- Information about economy accommodation
- Information about registration
- New agents
- Agent's material
- Programming and partying

*** Bjørn Tore Sund from Norway will be our fanGOH ***

Finncon X - Eurocon 2003 is proud to announce that Bjørn Tore Sund will be our fan guest of honour! Bjørn Tore has made himself known as a very active fan even outside the Norwegian fandom. For a number of years now he has channeled his fannish energy to the European Worldcon, Interaction, that will be held in Glasgow August 4-8 2005. Bjørn Tore is the agent coordinator of Interaction. You can find more information on Interaction on <http://www.interaction.worldcon.org.uk/> also there will be a couple of panels about Interaction and the whole Worldcon concept at Finncon X.

Guests of honour at Finncon X - Eurocon 2003:

Karolina Bjällerstedt Mickos (Sweden)

Jonathan Clements (UK)

Boris Hurttta (Finland)

Steve Sansweet (USA)

Bjørn Tore Sund (Norway)

Michael Swanwick (USA)

*** Information about economy accommodation ***

For low budget travellers, Finncon X - Eurocon 2003 has arranged a classroom type accommodation near the city centre. The place is about 10 minutes walking distance from the main railway station, about 15 minutes from the centre of town and about 30 minutes from the con.

The house has one large room for sleeping on the floor (you need to have your own sleeping bag or the like), a little kitchen, toilets, showers, a washing machine and a sauna. Doors are open for a few hours per evening and night, and are locked during the daytime. The price is 5 euros per night.

Because this economy accommodation only has limited space (for maybe 50 fans) you really should register in advance to be sure to get your own sleeping space on the floor. You can register at the Finncon-registration pages at the address <http://www.finncon.org/english/e.register.shtml>

If you don't want to sleep in the same room with tens of other sf-fans, but are on a tight budget, you might consider the Turku Hostel. The hostel is situated close to the centre of town (address: Linnankatu 39), about 30 minutes walking distance from the con buildings. Close to the Turku Castle and the Passenger Ferry Harbour. The Hostel has twin (37 euros/room) and quadruple rooms (56 euros/room) or a low-budget alternative in a room for 6-8 persons for 13,50 euros per person per night.

Discount for Hostelling international members YMF etc.

Web pages at

http://www.turkutouring.fi/matkailijalle_2.phtml?path=MATKAILIJALLE%2FMajoitus%2FTurussa&id=210&kieli=englanti

And then there are of course the hotels.

As you probably remember from the January newsletter Finncon X has made a deal with Sokos Hotel Hamburger Börs and Sokos Hotel City Börs for hotel accommodation during Finncon X.

Prices are 76 euros/night at Sokos Hotel Hamburger Börs and 62 euros/night at Sokos Hotel City Börs. The prices are the same for single and double rooms and the price mentioned is per room (not per person). These hotels are situated just across the street from each other in the absolute centre of the town. The Sokos Hotel Hamburger Börs is considered to be one of the best hotels in town, so these prices are actually very good deals.

There are of course a lot of other hotels in Turku, but it might be hard to beat the con hotel prices. For example the hotel that is situated closest to the con building is the Spa Hotel Caribia (<http://www.caribia.fi/>) where a single room is 130 euros per night and a double 150 euros per night.

You can find links and/or telephone numbers to most of the hotels and hostels in Turku at Finncons web pages, but here are some prices and addresses:

* Centro Hotel, address: Yliopistonkatu 12 a (<http://personal.inet.fi/yritys/centrohotel/>)

Situated in the centre of town, not too far from the con hotels and about 20 minutes walking distance from the con buildings. Single room about 60 euros per night, double room about 70 euros per night.

* Sokos Hotel Seurahuone, address: Eerikinkatu 23

(<http://www.sokoshotels.fi/>)

Situated in the centre of town about 25 minutes walking distance from the con buildings.

Single room about 75-110 euros per night, double room about 75-135 euros per night.

* Ramada Hotel Turku, address: Eerikinkatu 28

Situated in the centre of town about 25 minutes walking distance from the con buildings.

Single room about 75 euros per night, double room about 75 euros per night.

On <http://www.finncon.org/english/e.accomodation.shtml> you'll find a list of most of the hotels/hostels in Turku and their contact addresses.

*** Information about registration ***

You can now register yourself for attendance at Finncon X - Eurocon 2003. Registration is by no means compulsory, but if you want to make sure that you'll get floor space at our economy accommodation you really should register.

Registering is also the way to get yourself an official Finncon badge (for free). Everyone who registers (wether they will stay at the economy accommodation or not) will get a badge with their name and country.

So, if you are coming to Finncon, take a moment to register at our web pages (<http://www.finncon.org/english/e.register.shtml>).

But remember: Wether you register or not, you are just as welcome to Finncon X - Eurocon 2003!

*** New agents ***

Finncon X - Eurocon 2003 has gotten some new agents. Please welcome Vlatko Juric-Kokic (Croatia), Jean-Pierre Laigle (France), Roberto Quaglia (Italy) and Elena Vitkauskaitė (Lithuania).

Finncon X - Eurocon 2003 has now agents in 14 countries! Our list of agents is:

Croatia: Vlatko Juric-Kokic

Denmark: Klaus Æ. Mogensen

Estonia: Raul Sulbi

France: Jean-Pierre Laigle

Great Britain: Wilf James

Ireland: Pádraig Ó Méalóid

Italy: Roberto Quaglia

Latvia: Aivars Liepa

Lithuania: Elena Vitkauskaitė

The Netherlands: Jan-Willem Haeke

Norway: P. C. Jørgensen

Poland: Andrzej "Pawkens" Palka

Spain: Lawrence Schimel

Spain: Joan Manel Ortiz

Sweden: Johan Anglemark

A very big thank you to all of you for spreading the word about Finncon!

*** Agent's material ***

You will find links to pdf-files with posters for Finncon at the Finncon agent's web page (<http://www.finncon.org/english/e.agents.shtml>). There are posters in English, Swedish and Finnish. These posters are made for printing in A3 size, but they will look perfectly good also as A4, so they can also be used as flyers.

There will be other materials as pdf files on the agent's page as well, as soon as we get other stuff made. And of course you'll also find copies of both this and the January agent's newsletter on the web page.

Let me know if you want me to send you printed material about Finncon and Turku. I could send you Finncon posters and flyers and brochures about Turku. Just e-mail me (Ben.Roimola@sci.fi) with your snail-mail address and tell me what you would need and how many copies.

*** Programming and partying ***

The dead line for the programme for Finncon X - Eurocon 2003 is May 2nd. The programme is shaping up really nicely and we will have at least one continuous programme track in English. The Swedish programming is also looking very nice, there will be at least five programme items in Swedish.

As soon as the programme gets finalized it will be published on our web pages at <http://www.finncon.org/english/e.programme.shtml> and I will of course include it in a future agent's newsletter.

For all you foreign sf-fans coming to Turku and Finncon, we will arrange a special warming up party on Thursday evening (31.7). Please let me know if you know for sure that you are arriving by Thursday (or if you know that you are not arriving until later or not at all). Also let me know if you have some kind of hunch about how many people are coming from your country to Finncon X - Eurocon 2003. It would be nice to have some kind of estimate of what to expect. You can e-mail me your estimates at Ben.Roimola@sci.fi and remember that you can register for Finncon at <http://www.finncon.org/english/e.register.shtml>

Don't worry if you can't come to Finncon, you can still be an agent for Finncon and spread the news!

Also, don't worry if you can't arrive on Thursday. There will be a general Finncon warming up party on Friday (1.8), the main Finncon party on Saturday (2.8) and the dead dog party on Sunday (3.8), so there will be enough partying for everyone.

Only three months and some odd weeks to go till Finncon X - Eurocon 2003!

All the best and don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the con or want material sent to you!

-Ben-