

Information

OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference 2014

Basel, 2-3 December



swiss
peace

Schweizerische Friedensstiftung
Fondation suisse pour la paix
Fondazione svizzera per la pace
Swiss Peace Foundation

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1. Welcoming Words



“It is my honor to welcome you in Basel on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 2014 OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference. In organizing this Conference, the Civic Solidarity Platform is building on the now well-established tradition of organizing parallel conferences ahead of the annual OSCE Ministerial Council Meetings in Astana, Vilnius, Dublin and Kyiv in 2010-2013.

At this Conference, civil society activists from all over the OSCE region will discuss and adopt an outcome document containing analysis and recommendations on alarming human dimension developments, including a Basel Declaration on Rising Intolerance, Discrimination and Hate Crimes. The Conference will reflect on the unprecedented impact of the crisis in Ukraine on comprehensive security in Europe, as a result of which the vision expressed in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 now is in greater peril than ever since the end of the Cold War. This crisis has highlighted the role of the OSCE as a unique forum for promoting dialogue and preventing and settling conflicts thanks to its broad approach to security issues, in which respect for human rights is a key dimension.

Another trend of outmost concern is the widening attack on human rights NGOs and defenders in many parts of the OSCE region. Today our colleagues in Azerbaijan are in prison. In Russia, leading human rights NGOs have been registered as “foreign agents” despite their refusal to adopt this discrediting label. Also in other countries of the region, human rights groups and their members are facing growing stigmatization and harassment. In the face of these challenges, the most pressing issues at this time will be shared with OSCE participating States and institutions for their consideration and action, as Foreign Ministers are meeting in Basel.”

Brigitte Dufour, Director of the organization International Partnership for Human Rights, on behalf of the Civic Solidarity Platform Organizing Committee



“The forthcoming ministerial meeting has enjoyed considerable public attention in Switzerland and particularly in Basel. It is important to stress the civil society component of the OSCE: it represents one of the most particular features of the organization and it counts both historically and in view of the OSCE’s potential contributions to peacebuilding in the future. With its preceding public event on the Ukraine and by including two sessions on transitional justice and on dialogue processes this year’s civil society conference underlines the responsibility of its participants and their potential to ease tensions and to encourage peace in a wider Europe.”

Laurent Goetschel, Director of swisspeace, on behalf of the Civic Solidarity Platform Organizing Committee

2. Agenda

2.1. Tuesday, 2 December 2014

Venues

- ≥ Hotel Pullman, Clarastrasse 43, 4058 Basel (from 09:00 to 16:30)
Please take the tram 6/14/15 to "Clarastrasse"
- ≥ Various places in Basel City (from 16:45 to 18:45)
Please follow the instructions given at the conference in Session 4
- ≥ Kaserne Basel, Rossstall, Klybeckstrasse 1b, 4057 Basel (from 19:00)
Nearest tram stop "Kaserne" (tram 8)

Day 1	Program
09.00 – 10.00	Registration & welcoming coffee
10.00 – 10.30	<u>Conference opening</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ Welcoming words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Laurent Goetschel, Director of swisspeace - Natascha Cerny Ehtesham, swisspeace OSCE Program Officer ≥ Introductory words (history of the OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conferences, outline of agenda, conference methodology, outcome documents, etc.) <i>Brigitte Dufour, Representative of the Civic Solidarity Platform</i> ≥ The Swiss OSCE Chairmanship 2014 and first conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amb. Heidi Grau, Head of the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship Task Force ≥ The Serbian OSCE Chairmanship 2015 and introduction to the Serbian priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amb. Dejan Šahović, Head of the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship Task Force
10.30 – 12.00	<u>Session 1 – Civil society challenges</u>
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 14.30	<u>Session 2 – Discrimination and hate crime</u>
14.30 – 16.00	<u>Session 3 – Combating torture and enforced disappearances</u>

16:00 – 16:15	Introduction to Session 4: The Swiss self-evaluation on the implementation of OSCE Human Dimension commitments
16.15 – 16.30	Short coffee break and departure in small groups
16.45 – 18.45 (Basel city)	<u>Session 4 – Spotlights in Basel: Implementation of Human Dimension commitments in Switzerland</u> Topics of on-site visits and encounters with Swiss NGOs (in groups): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refugees: reception, procedure, deportation - Inclusion/ exclusion and political participation of non-citizens - Human trafficking - Gender equality in the political and public life - Swiss corporations and the respect for human rights
19:00 – 19:30 (Kaserne, Rosstall)	Reception
19:30 – 20:15 (Kaserne, Rosstall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wrap-up: Human rights in Switzerland - Self-evaluation: NGO assessment of the model and hand-over to Serbia
From 20:15 (Kaserne, Rosstall)	Dinner

2.2. [Wednesday, 3 December 2014](#)

Venue

- ≥ Hotel Pullman, Clarastrasse 43, 4058 Basel
Please take the tram 6/14/15 to “Clarastrasse”

Day 2	Program
09.00 – 10.30	<u>Session 5 – Freedom of expression</u>
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.30	<u>Session 6 – Shrinking Space for Civil Society in Conflict Situations</u>

12.30 – 13.45	Lunch and side event on “The Future of OSCE Field Operations” organized by the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions
13.45 – 15.15	<u>Session 7 – Narratives for the Future in the Western Balkans</u>
15.15 – 15.45	Coffee break
15.45 – 17.00	<p><u>Conference Closing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ Welcoming remarks and introduction round <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Prof. Laurent Goetschel, Director of swisspeace</i> ≥ Presentation of the Civil Society Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Yuri Dzhibladze, Representative of the Civic Solidarity Platform</i> ≥ Presentation of the ‘Basel Declaration on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Izabela Kisić, Representative of the Civic Solidarity Platform</i> ≥ Remarks from the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Didier Burkhalter, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office</i> ≥ Remarks from the incoming OSCE Chairperson-in-Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ivica Dačić, Incoming OSCE Chairperson-in-Office</i> ≥ Remarks from the ODIHR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Michael Link, Director of the ODIHR</i> ≥ Questions and comments from the audience, followed by reactions from the panel <p><u>Moderator</u> Prof. Laurent Goetschel, Director of swisspeace</p> <p><i>Departure of guests due to the press conference held at the Media Centre of the OSCE Ministerial Council (at 16.50)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ Final remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Olga Zakharova, Representative of the Civic Solidarity Platform</i> - <i>Matthias Hui, Coordinator of the Swiss NGO Working Group OSCE</i>
Evening	Departure of participants/ leisure time

3. OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference

The idea of holding a parallel conference in Astana on the eve of the OSCE summit was announced in "places not so remote" from the Kazakh capital, in a penal colony in Ust-Kamenogorsk Kazakhstan region, by well-known Kazakh human rights defender Yevgeny Zhovtis. There he served his four-year sentence, being found guilty in an accident involving the death of a pedestrian. The trial of Zhovtis was held with gross violations of the law and the Constitution of Kazakhstan, and attracted the evidence of independent expertise stating that the objective guilt of Zhovtis was not proved. Concerns were expressed by the European Parliament and the European Union, the U.S. Senate and organizations from 45 countries. One of the unspoken conditions under which Western countries members of the OSCE agreed to a summit in Astana, was to ensure a fair review of the case.

On **28-29 November 2010 in Astana (Kazakhstan)** the OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference, which adopted a number of specific recommendations aimed at strengthening the capacity of the organization to respond to the emergencies, conflict prevention and crisis management, to strengthen the OSCE's engagement with civil society organizations and to address human rights issues, took place.

The conference adopted a declaration on human rights defenders and journalists in post-Soviet countries in which there were calls for a "full amnesty for human rights defenders sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for political reasons, and the pardon of seriously ill prisoners in the CIS."

The Parallel Conference was attended by about two hundred delegates from NGOs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Sweden, representatives of 19 international NGOs, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, Britain, the United States, as well as 11 members of the ODIHR.

Among the organizers were Human Rights Watch, Freedom House, CIVICUS (World Alliance for Citizen Participation), the Kazakh Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law, the Russian Center for Democracy and Human Rights, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee and other organizations.

On **4-5 December 2011 in Vilnius (Lithuania)**, a parallel conference of non-governmental organizations dedicated to the official OSCE Summit was held. Representatives of civil society organizations from different countries in Europe, the U.S. and the former Soviet Union discussed the human rights situation in the region, the issue of freedom of media and freedom of citizens, including the right to peaceful assembly and association, and the threat to democratic processes and the rule of law.

Delegates also discussed the reform proposals of the OSCE and improvement of the implementation of States Parties' obligations on the Human Dimension of the OSCE. Particular attention was paid to the human rights situation in the Baltic countries and the crisis situation with human rights in Belarus.

"Human Rights advocacy in the OSCE region is becoming increasingly dangerous": this was announced during the NGO conference, which was held in **Dublin (Ireland) on 5 December 2012**. In the "Dublin Declaration", adopted by the Conference, it is said that human rights activists are increasingly becoming the subject of persecution for their legitimate work. A Parallel Civil Society Conference was organized on the eve of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Dublin. Participants of the conference produced a series of recommendations concerning the human rights situation in Ukraine, which was to chair the

OSCE in 2013, including the urgent reform of judicial procedures and steps to address the problem of ill-treatment in prisons and other closed institutions.

The OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference that took place the following year in **Kiev (Ukraine)** was held at times of wide demonstrations on Maidan Square, on **2-4 December 2013**. Activists from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the USA and other countries discussed the document “Civil society recommendations to the participants of the 2013 OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Kiev” and formally adopted it. A session of the Conference addressing recent developments in Ukraine attracted wide attention and resulted in the adoption of a chapter on development in Ukraine.

The Kiev Declaration: OSCE Should Make Combating Torture a Priority was also adopted on 4 December, urging the OSCE Ministerial Council to explicitly re-affirm the OSCE commitment to eliminate torture and lead the organization’s work to ensure an absolute prohibition of torture throughout the OSCE region.

4. Organizers and Partners of the Conference

The OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference 2014 is organized by the Civic Solidarity Platform in collaboration with swisspeace and with the support of the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship, the International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR), the Netherlands Helsinki Committee and humanrights.ch.



Civic Solidarity Platform

The Civic Solidarity Platform was created to bring together nongovernment organizations committed to improving the human rights situation in Europe, Eurasia and the US. It provides a common space for these groups to share their experience in conducting research, advocacy, and public organizing and to find new channels of communication and improved methods for working cooperatively. Its aim is to serve as a conduit through which civic activists can build alliances, strengthen mutual support and solidarity, and improve their influence on national and international human rights policy.



swisspeace

swisspeace is a practice-oriented peace research institute. It carries out research on violent conflicts and their peaceful transformation. The institute aims to build the peacebuilding capacities of Swiss and international organizations by providing trainings, space for networking and exchange of experiences. It also shapes political and academic discourse on peace policy issues at the national and international level through publications, workshops and conferences. swisspeace, therefore, promotes knowledge transfer between researchers and practitioners.



humanrights.ch | MERS

humanrights.ch

The information platform humanrights.ch is a project of the Association Humanrights.ch/MERS which, since 1999, takes a stand for the furthering and implementation of human rights in Switzerland. The activities of the Association Humanrights.ch/MERS are mainly focused on information, awareness raising and education. In addition, the Association coordinates and publishes reports and opinions which make it easier for government agencies, international organizations and the general public to check on the human rights situation in Switzerland.

International Partnership for Human Rights

International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR)

IPHR is a non-profit organization with its seat in Brussels. It was founded in April 2008 with a mandate to support local civil society groups and help them to make human rights concerns heard at the international level. The starting point of IPHR's work is the recognition that human rights protection is always a matter of international concern and that the international community has a crucial role to play in supporting the efforts of civil society to hold governments accountable to international human rights standards. This is particularly essential with respect to civil society groups that are working in repressive environments.



NETHERLANDS HELSINKI COMMITTEE

Netherlands Helsinki Committee

The Netherlands Helsinki Committee is a non-governmental organization that promotes human rights and strengthens the rule of law and democracy, in particular in Europe. The NHC develops, seeks funding for and implements projects which in a practical and effective way build and strengthen the work of government institutions, NGOs and individual human rights defenders. In these projects, expertise from inside and outside the organization is used. Also, the NHC aims to influence the human rights policies of European governments and inter-governmental organizations, and to facilitate advocacy by its partner NGOs.



Swiss OSCE Chairmanship

Switzerland holds the Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) for 2014. Switzerland's assumption of the Chairmanship is evidence of the country's commitment to stability in Europe and the world – one of its foreign policy priorities. The Swiss Chairmanship is guided by the motto «Creating a Security Community for the Benefit of Everyone». Switzerland has set itself the following priorities for its Chairmanship of the OSCE: promoting security and stability; improving people's living conditions; strengthening the OSCE's capacity to act. The Swiss Chairmanship is also contributing to the OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference 2014.

5. Cultural Program

Basel is widely acknowledged as Switzerland's city of culture and for good reason, with visitors confronted by art at every turn – whether simply wandering through the streets of the Old Town or visiting one of the city's nearly forty museums.

5.1. Event

Until 23 December	<p>Christmas Market</p> <p>Wandering through the winding streets of the historic Old Town district, with its lovingly decorated houses and festively adorned shop windows, the city will simply enchant you. The Christmas markets on Barfüsserplatz and Münsterplatz have long been a fixed part of the Advent program for visitors to the city from near and far.</p> <p>Location: Barfüsserplatz and Münsterplatz Tram 3/8/11/14/15/16 to "Barfüsserplatz" or "Münsterplatz"</p>
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5.2. Exhibitions

Until mid-December 2014	<p>Making Peace</p> <p>Making Peace is a major public event that aims to teach the public what key elements are necessary to create a 'sustainable peace'; providing an opportunity for people of all ages to get involved in bringing about positive change.</p> <p>Location: Theaterplatz, Basel Tram 6/10/16 to "Theaterplatz"</p>
Until 4 January 2015	<p>Connecting Spaces</p> <p>This exhibition organized by the "artasfoundation" aims to offer a new perspective on places usually covered in the media only when political conflicts arise. The preparation of the exhibition involved young artists from Basel and Sukhum working together in Abkhazia for several weeks, joined in Basel by at least five other artists from the Southern Caucasus. Their topic is public space in their respective cities and societies.</p> <p>Location: Ausstellungsraum Klingental, Kasernenstrasse 23, 4058 Basel Tram 8 to "Kaserne"</p>

Until 15 February 2015	<p>14/18 – Switzerland and the Great War</p> <p>The exhibition addresses the consequences of the First World War for Switzerland. The conflict's aftermath is presented to visitors in the form of photos, films, documents, audio stations and installations. As an industrial city bordering onto the warring nations, Basel was seriously affected by the war.</p> <p>Location: Museum für Geschichte /Barfüsserkirche, Barfüsserplatz, 4051 Basel Tram 3/6/8/10/11/14/16 to "Barfüsserplatz"</p>
Until 1 February 2015	<p>Caspar Wolf</p> <p>His radical formulations of Alpine landscape well beyond the sphere of Baroque idyll make the Swiss painter Caspar Wolf one of the most important precursors of European Romanticism. This exhibition is showing 110 works by him and by artists who influenced him.</p> <p>Location: Kunstmuseum Basel, St. Alban-Graben 16, 4010 Basel Tram 2/15 to "Kunstmuseum"</p>
Until 28 January 2015	<p>Gustave Courbet</p> <p>The museum is dedicating an exhibition to Gustave Courbet (1819-1877) – a key figure in art history – which combines his self-portraits, portrayals of women, pictures of grottos and seascapes, and which highlights his strategy of ambiguity and his innovative use of color. His famous painting "L'origine du monde" is the centerpiece of the exhibition.</p> <p>Location: Fondation Beyeler, Baselstrasse 101, 4125 Riehen Tram 6 to "Fondation Beyeler"</p>



Making Peace exhibition, Basel. Photo Credit: Natascha Cerny, swisspeace

5.3. Museums

Fondation Beyeler

With the construction of the museum building, designed by Renzo Piano, in 1997, the Beyeler collection has been made permanently accessible to the public. Around 230 works of art reflect the views of art collectors Ernst and Hildy Beyeler on the art of the 20th century.

Location: Baselstrasse 101, 4125 Riehen/ Basel
Tram 6 to "Fondation Beyeler", train S6 from the Basel SBB railway station to "Riehen" or car park "Zentrum"

Kunstmuseum Basel

The Kunstmuseum Basel is the oldest publicly accessible art collection in the world. The focus of the museum is on paintings and graphic art by artists from the Upper Rhine region from 1400 to 1600 and the art of the 19th to 21st centuries.

Location: St. Alban-Graben 16, 4010 Basel
Tram 2/15 to "Kunstmuseum"

Historisches Museum Basel

The Historisches Museum Basel (HMB) is housed in four separate buildings and ranks among the most important museums of cultural history on the Upper Rhine. The permanent exhibition spotlights Basel's historic identity at the crossroads between three cultures: Swiss, German and French. Several hundred historical accounts and art works trace aspects of the city's history over the last thousand years

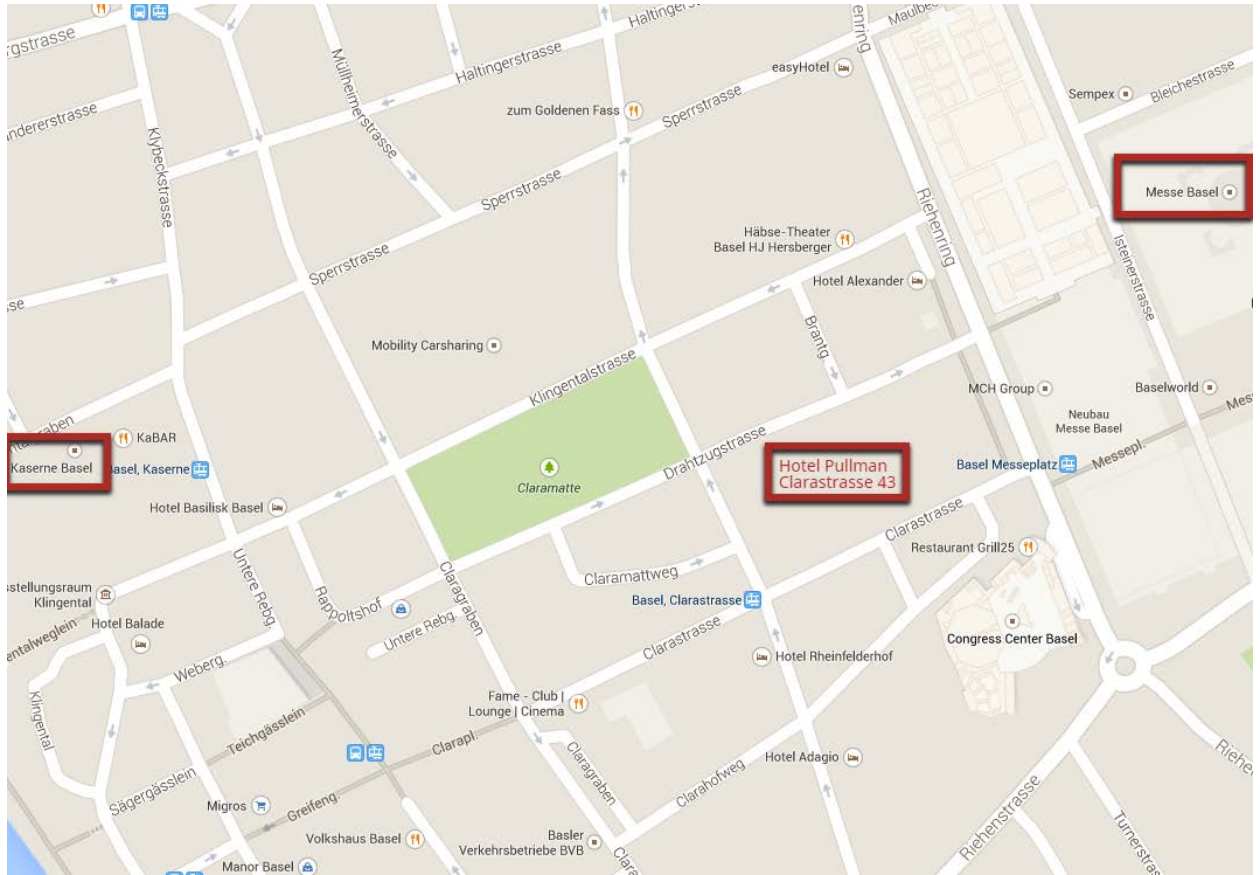
Location: Barfüsserplatz, 4051 Basel
Tram 3/6/8/11/14/16 to "Barfüsserplatz" or 10 to "Theater"



Fondation Beyeler. Copyright: Creative Commons, Rosmary

6. Maps

6.1. Hotel Pullman, Kaserne and Messe Basel



Hotel Pullman Basel Europe (Conference venue)

Address: Clarastrasse 43, 4058 Basel

Tel.: 061 690 80 80

Tram 6/14/15 to "Clarastrasse"

Kaserne Basel, Rossstall (One of the venues for Session 4)

Address: Klybeckstrasse 1b, 4057 Basel

Tel.: 061 666 60 00

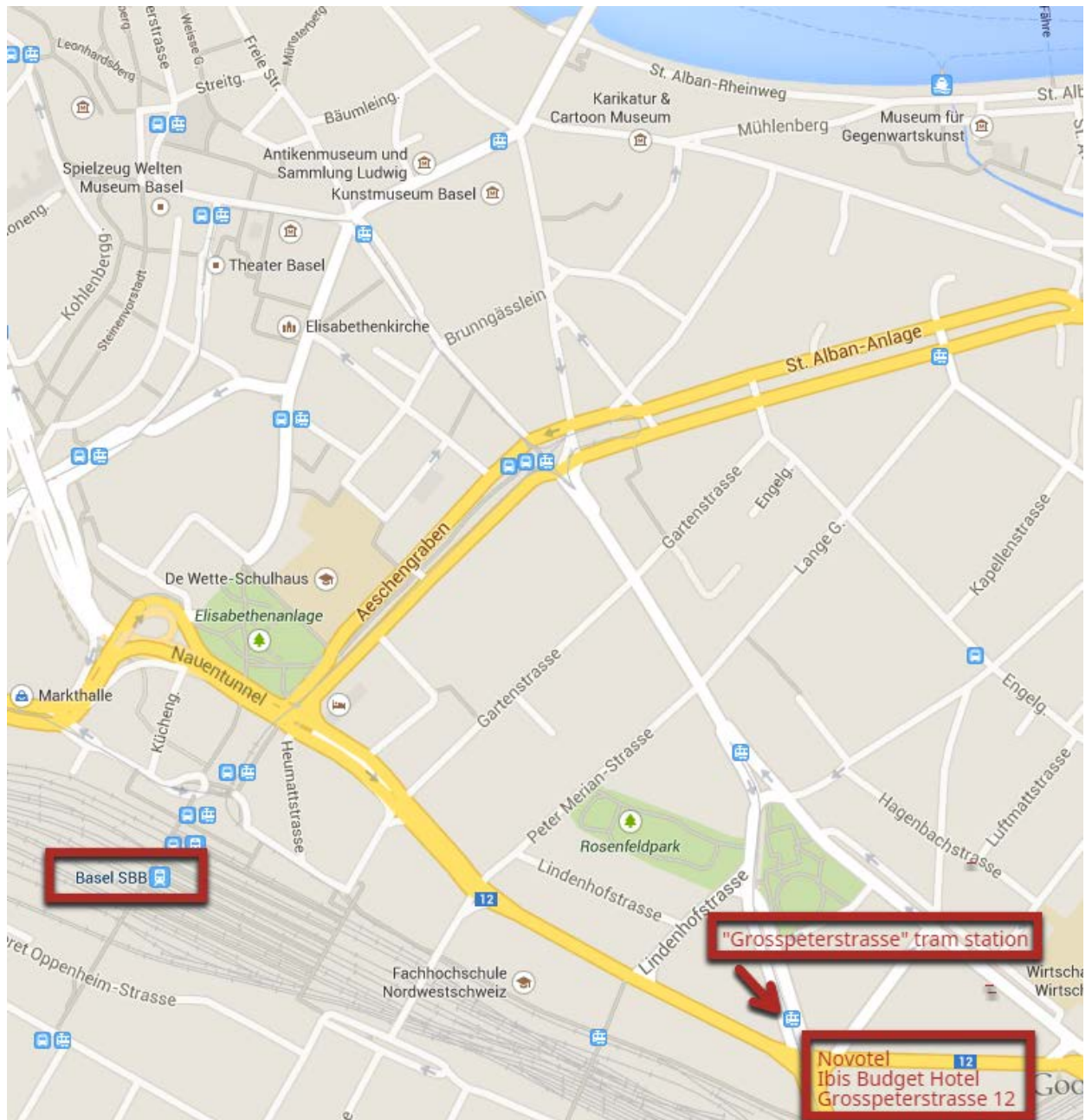
Tram 8 to "Kaserne"

Messe Basel (Venue of the OSCE Ministerial Council)

Address: Bleichstrasse, 4058 Basel

Tram 6/14/15 to "Clarastrasse"

6.2. Basel SBB train station, Novotel Basel City and Ibis Budget Hotel



Novotel Basel City / Ibis Budget Hotel Basel City

Address: Grosspeterstrasse 12, 4052 Basel

Tel.: 061 306 68 68 (Novotel Basel City) and 061 317 40 00 (Ibis Budget Hotel Basel City)

Tram 15 to "Grosspeterstrasse"

6.3. Basel Line Network




7. Practical information

7.1. Public transportation in Basel, Switzerland

The Swiss public transportation system is excellent and you can expect trams, buses and trains to be on time. Timetables and connections are available at every stop. Furthermore, all relevant information on fares, connections and stops can be found either at www.sbb.ch for train connections within Switzerland as well as to and from bordering countries or at www.bvb.ch for trams and buses within the city of Basel and its region.



When you see the symbol  on a train, you must bear in mind that tickets are not sold on board. Please buy and/ or validate your ticket before boarding. If you do not have a valid ticket, you will have to pay a high fine.

7.2. Important contacts

Natascha Cerny, swisspeace: +41 (0)78 667 88 22 (for English and Russian speakers)

Matthias Hui, humanrights.ch: +41 (0)79 831 53 74 (for English speakers)

7.3. Taxi Numbers

33er Taxi AG: +41 61 333 33 33

Taxiphon Genossenschaft: +41 61 444 44 44

Enzo Taxi Basel: +41 79 533 44 44

mini-cab AG: +41 61 777 77 77

7.4. Emergency numbers

Fire Fighters: 118

Ambulance: 144

Police: 117

Emergency pharmacy: +41 (0)61 263 75 75 (Petersgraben 3, 4051 Basel; www.notfallapothekebasel.ch)

8. Notes

