

PRESS RELEASE

## **Barcelona retains its position as the world's second international congress city and is closing the gap on the leader**

- **Vienna, with 154 professional meetings, heads the ranking, according to the International Congress & Convention Association (ICCA)**
- **The Catalan capital also ranks second in the numbers of delegates attending, surpassing the Austrian capital in this regard**

**Barcelona, 16th May 2011.** – Barcelona retains its position as the world's second top city to host the most international congresses, with a total of 148 professional meetings, 13 more than in 2009, and is closing the gap on the leader, Vienna, which held 154 meetings, according to the 2010 world rankings compiled by the International Congress & Convention Association (ICCA). The ICCA collates data on all the professional meetings that rotate on a regular basis between at least three countries, and attract a minimum of 50 delegates

Barcelona, which attracted 81,933 delegates, also ranks second in terms of delegate numbers at professional meetings, and surpasses the Austrian capital, which ranks fourth in this respect, with 69,573 delegates, according to the latest individual ICCA attendance figures for 2008. Berlin, which attracts 106,171 delegates, is the world leader.

The most important European cities head the world ranking of meetings tourism and, in 2009, countries in Central Europe and the Mediterranean gained ground over those in Northern Europe. Paris ranks third, after Vienna and Barcelona, with 147 professional meetings which, according to the 2008 figures, attracted more than 70,000 delegates. Berlin, which ranks fourth, and Madrid, which ranks sixth, are two other important

hubs, with 138 and 114 meetings respectively. A number of cities outside Europe are also among the top ten, with Singapore in fifth place, and Sydney tenth.

<b>Ranking</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Number of meetings (2010)</b>
1	Vienna	154
<b>2</b>	<b>Barcelona</b>	<b>148</b>
3	Paris	147
4	Berlin	138
5	Singapore	136
6	Madrid	114
7	Istanbul	109
8	Lisbon	106
9	Amsterdam	104
10	Sydney	102

<b>Ranking</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Number of meetings (2009)</b>
1	Vienna	160
<b>2</b>	<b>Barcelona</b>	<b>135</b>
3	Paris	131
4	Berlin	129
5	Singapore	119
6	Copenhagen	103
7	Stockholm	102
8	Amsterdam	98
9	Lisbon	98
10	Beijing	96

### **Joint promotions with Vienna**

Turisme de Barcelona's Barcelona Convention Bureau promotes the Catalan capital as a meetings and business tourism destination. Over the past few years it has carried out joint promotions with Vienna, the world leader in this field, in outgoing markets on other continents.

Turisme de Barcelona