



14TH MEP CSEE SESSION

PLOVDIV, BULGARIA

April 17th - 22nd 2026

SESSION BOOKLET



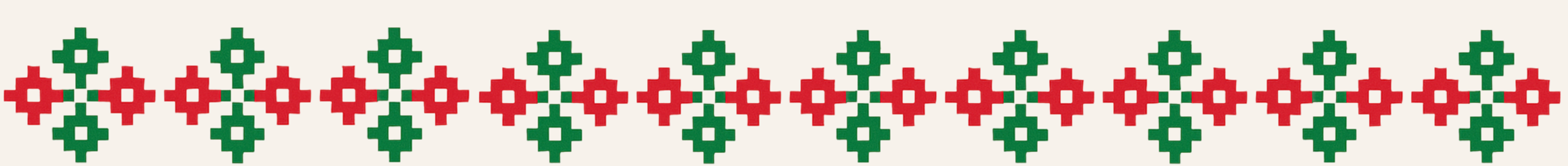
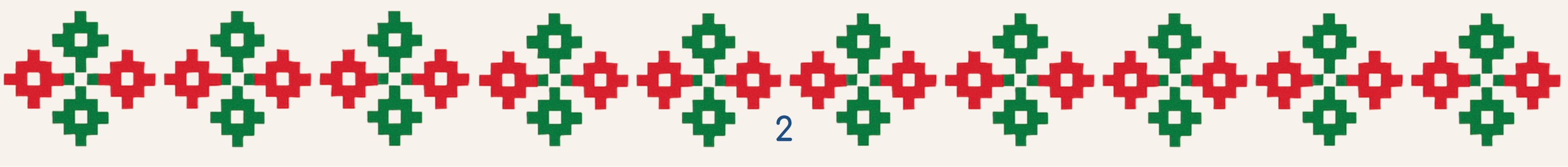
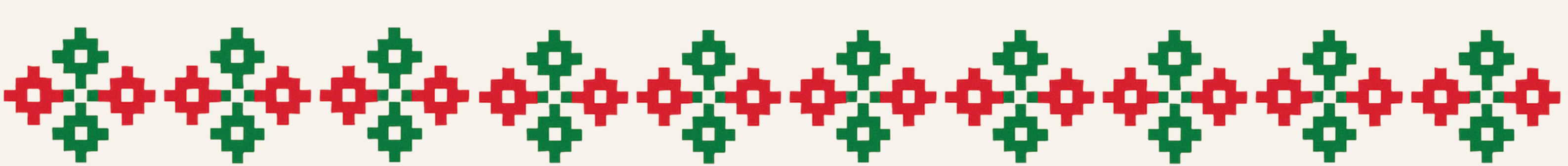


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WELCOME NOTE

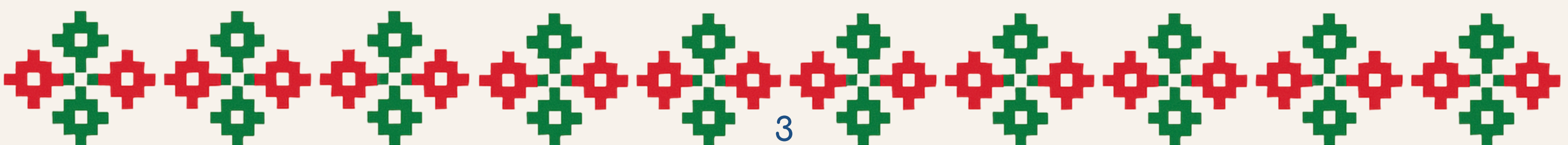
FROM THE PRESIDENCY

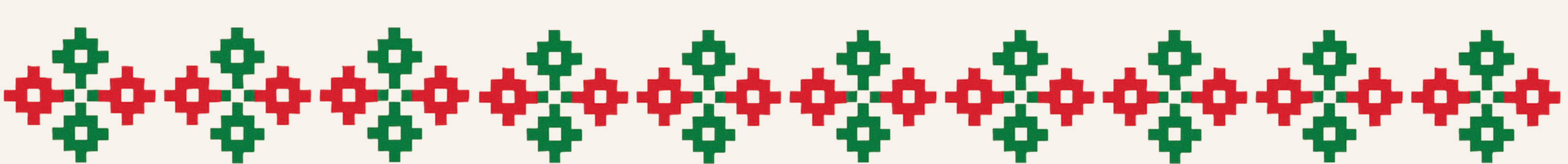
Distinguished Guests, Dear Teachers and Coordinators, Esteemed Committee Presidents and Honourable Delegates of the 14th Central Southeast Euroregional Session of the Model European Parliament,

It is with profound enthusiasm and sincere pride that we welcome you to Plovdiv – a city where ancient history meets vibrant modern life, and where the spirit of Bulgaria and the Southeastern European region finds one of its most dynamic and inspiring expressions.

As Europe's oldest continuously inhabited city, Plovdiv embodies resilience, cultural dialogue and an unwavering belief in community. It is therefore only fitting that it serves as the host of the 2026 CSEE MEP session. We are delighted to share with you not only the beauty of Plovdiv, but the depth, warmth, and spirit of Bulgaria as a whole. Throughout our history, we have learned that unity is not depended on the absence of differences, but on the conscious choice to cooperate despite them. In this spirit, we gather here to practice the very values upon which Europe is built: dignity, democracy, solidarity, and responsibility.

We want this session to be more than an extracurricular experience. We want it to become what it has long been for us – an opportunity to discover our own convictions and strengths, to recognise and respect those of others, and to build deep, lasting, and authentic connections.





During your time in Plovdiv, you will not only confront the realities of policymaking, but you will also confront yourselves. MEP has always been a character-shaping experience that extends far beyond drafting resolutions, negotiating, and delivering speeches.

It is where you can truly learn resilience in disagreement, confidence in uncertainty, and leadership through advocacy. MEP is where you can grow as individuals, as active citizens, as friends, and as determined young people, capable of wonderful and impactful deeds.

As the Presidency, our role is to safeguard the integrity and spirit of this exact process. We are here to guide and support you, and to ensure that every participant feels heard, respected, and empowered to contribute meaningfully. We are committed to fostering an environment where dedication is valued and dialogue is driven by substance rather than volume.

We encourage you to approach this session with courage and curiosity. Speak boldly, but always listen carefully. Defend your ideas with conviction, yet remain open-minded and open-hearted. We have learned that the most meaningful growth does not occur when we win speeches or recommendations, but when we actively and fearlessly engage and when we deepen our understanding of one another and the world we seek to shape.

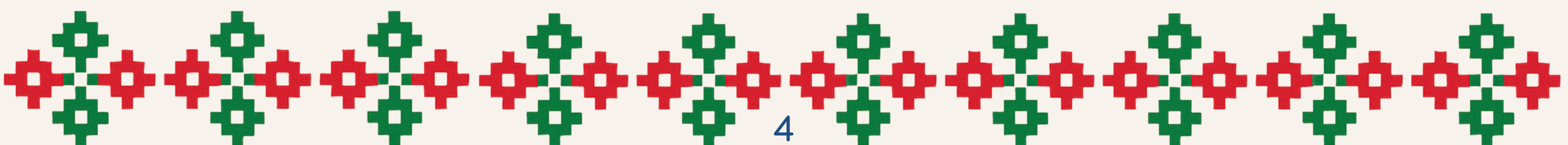
Beyond committee meetings, lobbying and the Plenary Session, this week is also an invitation – to build friendships, to experience the warmth and hospitality of Bulgarian culture, to refine your already impressive debating skills, and of course, to have fun and to create memories that will stay with you long after our time together comes to an end!

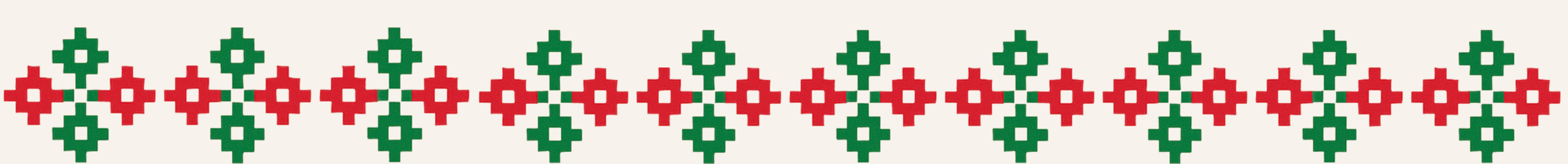
May Plovdiv inspire you! May this session challenge you! And may you leave as stronger delegates and as more thoughtful, united, and courageous leaders!

Yours,

the Presidency,

Ms. Sofia Valkova, Ms. Marta Ruseva, Ms. Alexandria Chaliovski





WELCOME NOTE

FROM MEP BULGARIA

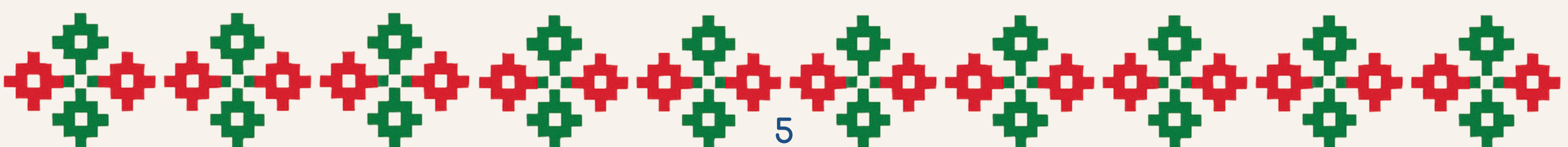
Distinguished Guests, Dear Colleagues, Hounourable Presidents, Dear Delegates,

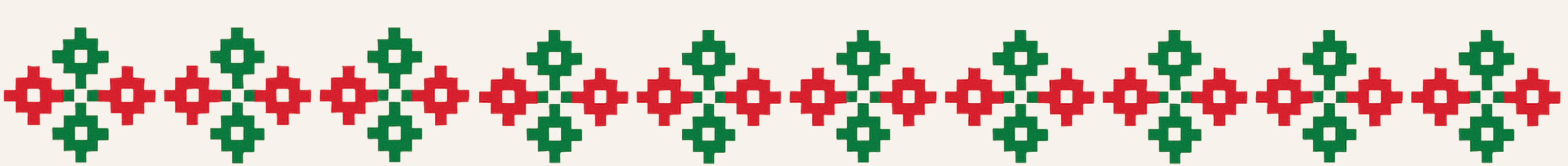
It is of uttermost honour and pleasure to welcome you all to the eternal city of Plovdiv. The crown jewel of the Thracian valley in the south of Bulgaria and a crossroad of nations and cultures for the better part of its history, Plovdiv is welcoming the MEP for the first time ever with an open heart!

This year's 14th Central Southeast Euroregional Session carries particular significance. As Europe's oldest continuously inhabited city, Plovdiv stands as a symbol of cultural dialogue, resilience, and authenticity. Its cobblestone streets reflect centuries of history shaped by diverse peoples and ideas – making it a particularly fitting setting for young Europeans to gather, exchange perspectives, challenge one another, and create the future of Europe together.

The Model European Parliament (MEP) is a simulation of the European Parliament designed for secondary school students. It offers young people the opportunity to collaborate across national borders in search of common solutions to shared European challenges. Acting as Members of the European Parliament, participants encounter the complexity of democratic decision-making and learn how, despite differing perspectives and interests, consensus can be achieved through dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect. Along the way, they develop not only political awareness, but also valuable communication, leadership, and social skills.

MEP was founded with the goal of fostering active citizenship and deeper engagement with European affairs by placing young people directly within a realistic political environment. Thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of teachers, coordinators, and partner organisations, the programme has grown into a lasting and meaningful success across Bulgaria and throughout Europe.





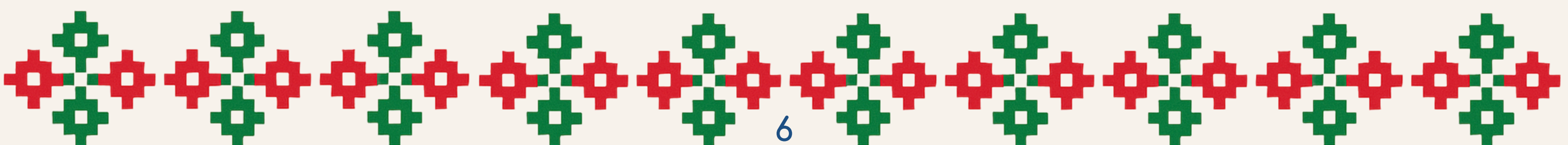
At a time when cooperation across borders remains essential in addressing the complex challenges facing the world, initiatives like MEP remind us that the European project is ultimately built by people – through dialogue, understanding, and shared responsibility. This session offers participants not only the opportunity to debate European policy, but also build friendships, develop mutual trust, and experience what unity in diversity truly means.

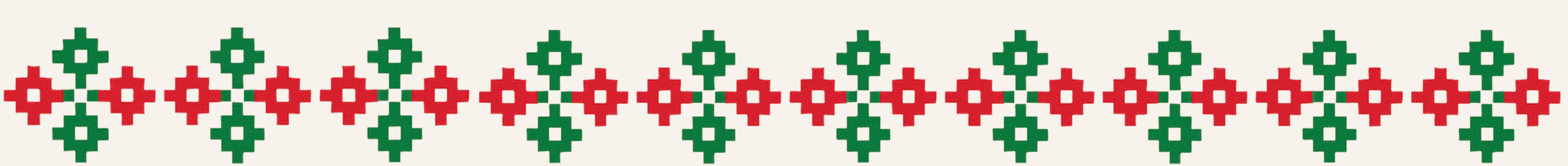
We are proud that Bulgaria hosts this year's CSEE session and warmly welcome all delegates, members of the Presidency, teachers, and guests to Plovdiv. We hope that the days ahead will be inspiring and memorable – and everyone who has dedicated their time and effort into the session will leave with new ideas, lasting friendships, and a renewed sense of belonging and responsibility towards the Europe we are shaping together every day.

As Robert Shuman famously said, *“Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.”* May this session be one of those achievements, and we wish all participant a rewarding and unforgettable week!

Yours faithfully,

The Organisers





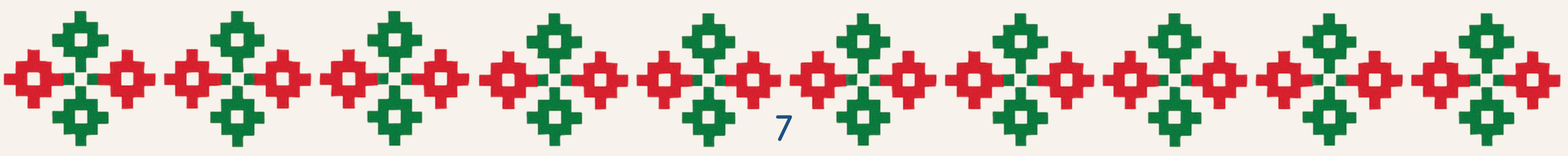
SESSION PROGRAMME

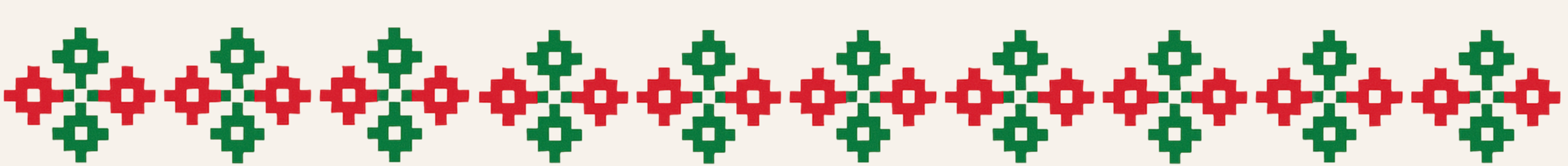
FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH

ALL DAY	Arrival in Sofia <i>Welcomed by volunteers at Sofia Airport “Vasil Levski”</i> <i>Delegations make their way to Sofia Central Bus Station, accompanied by volunteers. Buses leave for Plovdiv (inter-city lines).</i>
AFTER 18:00	Delegations check in at <u>Puldin COOP Hotel</u> Teachers check in at <u>Hotel Allur</u> <i>120 - 130 Tsar Boris III Obedinitel blvd.</i> <i>Welcomed by volunteers</i>

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH

07:30 - 08:30	Breakfast <i>Puldin COOP Hotel</i>
09:00 - 11:00	Team Building Activities <i>Facilitated by Committee Presidents and Volunteers</i> <u>Tsar Simeon Garden Park</u> <i>11A Veliko Tarnovo str.</i>
11:30 - 13:30	Opening Ceremony <u>"N. O. Masalitinov" Plovdiv Drama Theatre</u> <i>38 Knyaz Alexander I str.</i>

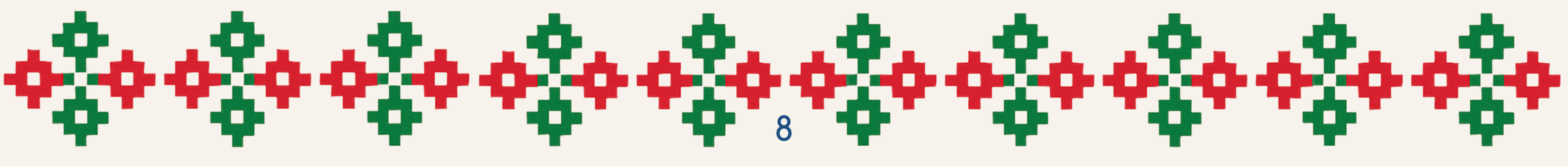


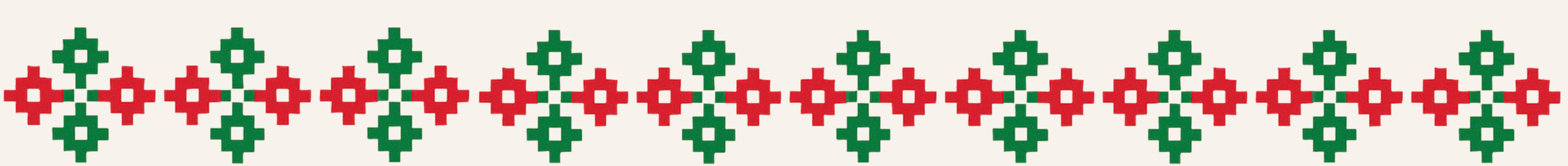


	Speakers: <i>Representatives of Plovdiv Municipality</i> <i>Bulgarian Members of the European Parliament</i> <i>Representatives of European Parliament Liaison Office</i> <i>Mr. Gottfried Oehl, MEP Europe Board Chairman</i> <i>Mr. Marko Semov, National Coordinator of the MEP for Bulgaria and Director of European Youth Academy</i> <i>Heads of delegations</i> <i>Presidents of the Plenary Session</i>
13:45 – 14:00	Transfer to <u>“Ivan Vazov” Language High School</u> <i>123 Bulgaria Blvd.</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Packed Lunch
15:00 – 19:30	Committee Meetings
16:00 – 17:30	Teacher’s Workshop/Regional CSEE Meeting <u>“Ivan Vazov” Language High School</u> <i>123 Bulgaria Blvd.</i>
19:30 – 20:45	Cultural Evening and Packed Dinner
20:00	Teacher’s Dinner <i>Kapana District (Old Town)</i>
21:00	Transfer to Pudín COOP Hotel

SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH

07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast <i>Puldín COOP Hotel</i>
08:30 – 09:00	Transfer to <u>“Ivan Vazov” Language High School</u> <i>Bulgaria Blvd. 123</i>

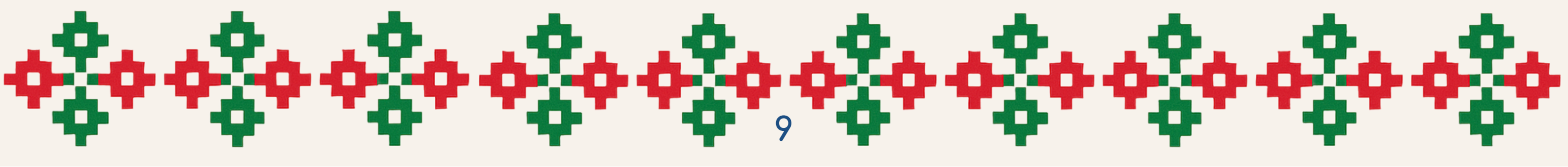


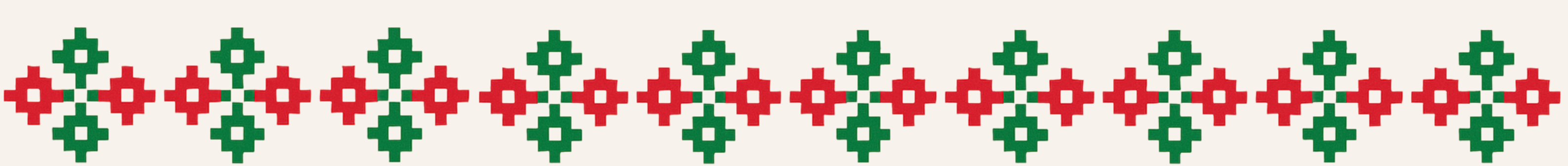


09:00 – 13:30	Committee meetings
10:30 – 12:00	Teachers Visit the <u>Regional Ethnographic Museum</u> <i>2 Doctor Stoyan Chomakov str.</i>
14:00 – 16:00	Guided Tour of Plovdiv’s Old Town for Teachers and Coordinators <i>Meeting point: Hotel Allur</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Packed Lunch
14:30 – 18:00	Committee Meetings
17:30 – 19:30	Correction Panel <i>Presidents, Committee Presidents, Teachers and Coordinators only</i>
18:00 – 19:30	Packed dinner and Preparation for the Plenary Session
19:30	Transfer to City Centre Free time

MONDAY, APRIL 20TH

07:30 – 09:00	Breakfast <i>Puldin COOP Hotel</i>
09:00 – 10:30	Walk in Plovdiv’s Historical Centre
10:30 – 12:30	Delegation Meetings
12:30 – 13:45	Packed Lunch <u>Singing Fountains</u> <i>Tsar Simeon Garden Park</i>

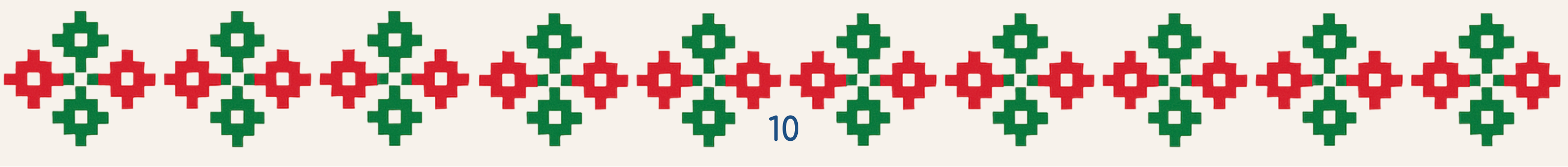


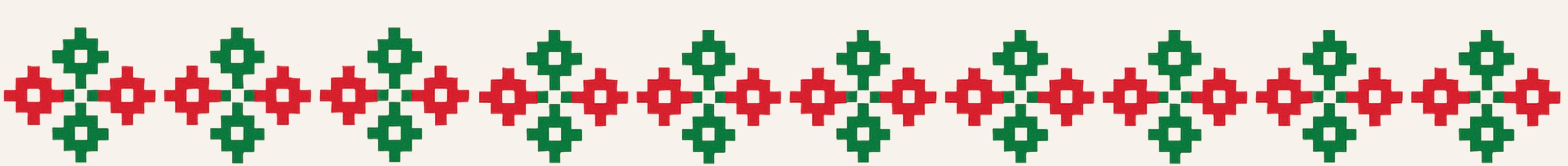


13:45 – 14:00	Transfer to Lobbying
14:00 – 17:00	Lobbying
17:30	Walk to Sunset Spot and Dinner at Own Account

TUESDAY, APRIL 21TH

07:00 – 08:15	Breakfast <i>Puldin COOP Hotel</i>
08:45	Arrival at Plenary Session Venue “<u>Puldin</u>” Hall <i>97 Bulgaria Blvd.</i>
09:15 – 10:15	Committee 1
10:15 – 11:15	Committee 2
11:15 – 12:15	Committee 3
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	Committee 4

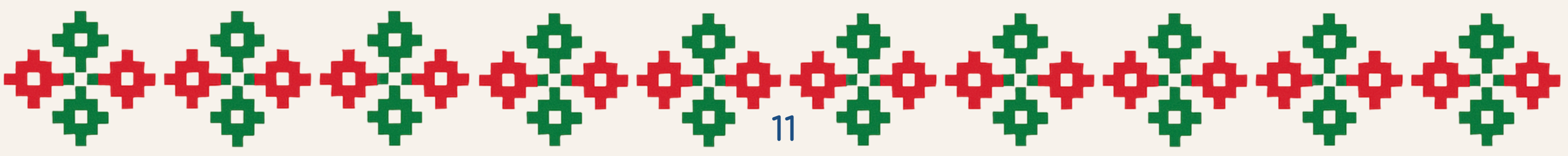


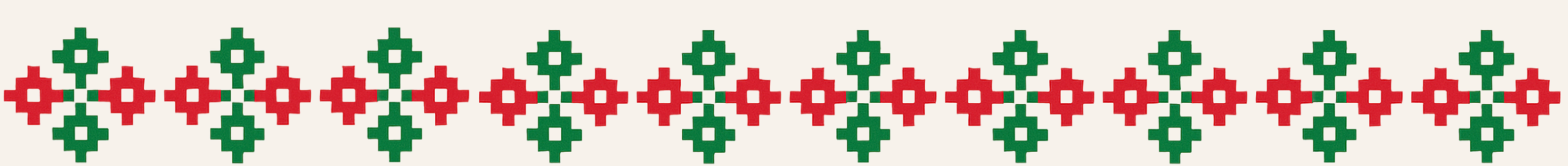


14:30 – 15:30	Committee 5
15:30 – 16:30	Committee 6
16:30 – 17:30	Closing Ceremony Speakers: • <i>Bulgarian Members of the European Parliament</i> • <i>Presidents of the Plenary Session</i>
17:30 – 19:30	Free Time
19:30 – 20:00	Transfer to Farewell Party Venue
20:00 – 22:00	Farewell party and Dinner

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22ND

07:30	Breakfast <i>Puldin COOP Hotel</i>
	Departure by buses to <u>Sofia Airport “Vasil Levski”</u> depending on delegations’ travel itinerary





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Transfers from Sofia to Plovdiv and back

All delegations will be welcomed upon arrival at Sofia Airport “Vasil Levski” by volunteers. Depending on arrival times and accompanied by volunteers the whole way, single delegations or groups of delegations make their way to the Central Station of Sofia by metro (ticket price is €0,80, not covered by organisers). Participants embark on trains to Plovdiv (regular inter-city lines).

Upon arrival in Plovdiv, delegations make their way to COOP Hotel either on foot or by public transport. They later check in at COOP Hotel or Hotel Allur (teachers and coordinators), just meters down the road.

On the day of departure (22nd of April), delegations make their way to the proper bus station / train station in Plovdiv (depending on times of departure). After arriving at Sofia Central Bus Station they leave for Sofia Airport “Vasil Levski” (by metro). Teachers and coordinators are responsible for keeping up with the schedules from the moment they leave Plovdiv onward (volunteers are not going to escort delegations to Sofia).

Delegations are responsible for:

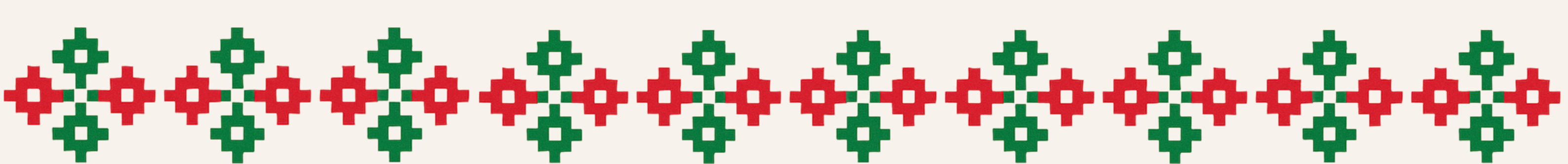
- ensuring their travel documents are valid,
- respecting the communicated departure times,
- managing their personal belongings and luggage.

The organisers are not responsible for missed flights due to failure to follow the communicated schedule.

Preparation

Delegates should **NOT** prepare a resolution in advance!

While delegates are expected to have a solid understanding of their assigned topic and be familiar with the official format of resolution writing, all resolutions will be drafted collaboratively during the committee work following discussions within the committee.



Public Transport

Please note that public transport in Plovdiv can be **inconsistent** and is generally **not very reliable** due to local administrative challenges. Participants will be informed in advance of the instances when public transport is going to be taken. Following the clear directions of the organisers is a must. All participants must have **€5 in cash** to cover for their tickets.

Currency and Payments

As of January 1st 2026, Bulgaria officially joined the Eurozone and adopted the euro as its national currency. Until August 2026, the country is in a transitional “double pricing” period. During this time, prices are displayed in both Bulgarian lev (BGN) and Euro (EUR). The **lower** amount shown represents the price in euro that customers pay, and, subsequently the higher amount is the price in Bulgarian Lev (BGN), which participants should **disregard**.

Plovdiv is generally considered affordable by European standards. A meal typically costs between €5 and €15, while a single public transport ticket is approximately €0.50 – €0.60.

Most businesses accept card payments; however, not all marchants do. We therefore recommend carrying a small amount of cash for convenience.

Weather

April in Plovdiv is usually sunny and relatively warm, with temperatures ranging between 5°C and 25°C. However, spring weather can be unpredictable. We recommend bringing a warm layer or two, as well as waterproof clothing in case of rain.

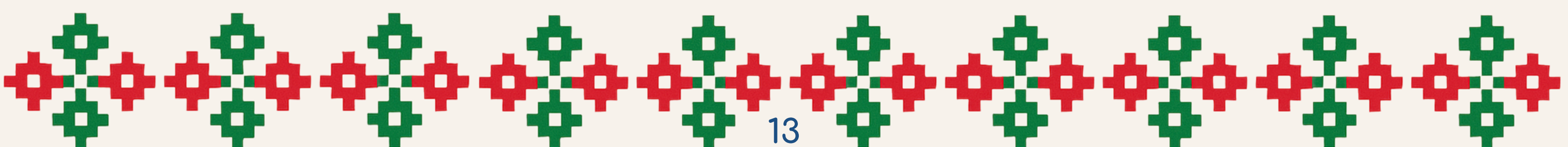
Safety Measures

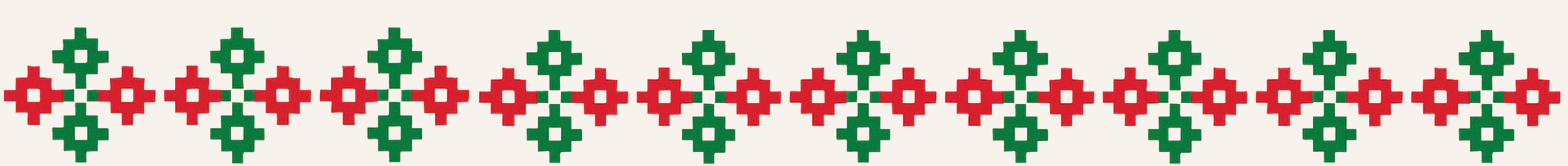
In Plovdiv, as in any other big city, you have to pay extra attention to your bags and other personal belongings, especially on the streets, in restaurants, and in public transportation. Keep your personal valuables with you at all times.

Generally, Plovdiv is very safe, but please, be cautious.

Identification

We kindly ask all participants to always carry a valid ID card or passport on their person. Your MEP participant badge must also be worn at all times during the session.





Contacts for Emergencies

In case of emergencies during the session you can contact the following people:

+359 87 737 6414, Marko Semov - Head Organiser

+359 89 988 2053, Emma Ananieva - Head Organiser

Emergency number: 112

Loss of Belongings

The organisers do not assume responsibility for loss, theft or damage to personal belongings at the hotels or programme venues.

Participants are advised not to leave valuables unattended.

Meals Provided

Meals are provided according to the official session programme, including breakfasts at Puldin COOP Hotel and scheduled packed lunches and dinners.

Dinner on Monday evening (April 20th) is **at participants' own account**.

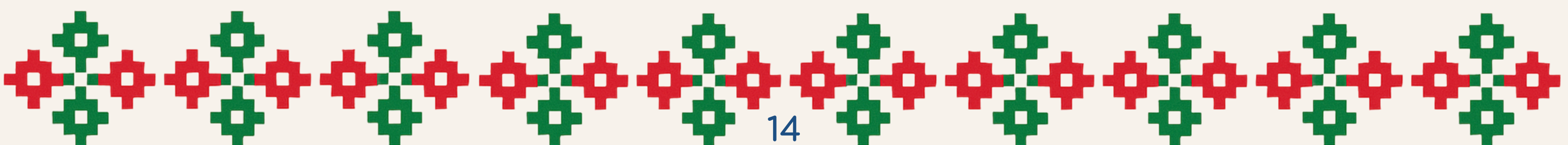
Insurance

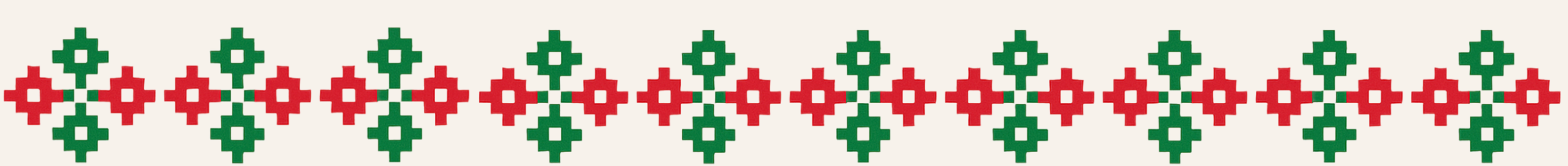
A **valid medical insurance or third-party liability insurance** is mandatory for all delegates, teachers and coordinators.

Participants must possess:

- a **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** or equivalent medical insurance document,
- relevant insurance documentation.

Travel and luggage insurance is strongly recommended, especially when bringing electronic devices.





SESSION RULES

During the MEP Central South East Euroregional Session in Plovdiv (April 17th – 22nd, 2026) all participants are expected to behave responsibly and respectfully at all times.

Please read the following rules carefully.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking

The use of **alcohol or drugs** during the session week is strictly prohibited.

Any delegate found using drugs or alcohol will be **sent home immediately at their own expense**, without refund of the participation or travel fee. Smoking (including e-cigarettes/vapes) is **not permitted during official activities** or directly outside programme venues, neither on the premises of COOP Hotel.

Curfew

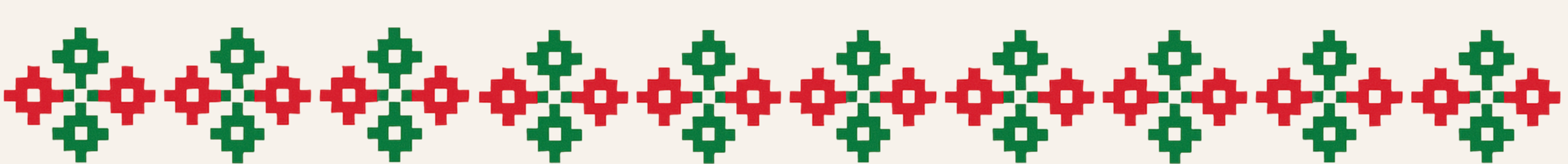
All delegates, Committee Presidents and Presidents must respect the curfew.

Participants must be inside COOP Hotel by **22:00 hrs**.

After 22:00 hrs:

- participants must remain in their assigned rooms;
- no loud gatherings or disturbances are permitted;
- respect for other guests and hotel staff is mandatory.

There will be sufficient time after each day's activities to return to the hotels, as outlined in the official programme.



Use of Laptops and Electronic Devices

The use of laptops is prohibited during the Plenary Session at “Puldin” Hall.

During Committee Meetings at “Ivan Vazov” Language High School:

- Delegates are encouraged to focus on discussions.
- Electronic devices may only be used at the discretion of the Committee Presidents.
- Committee Presidents may use electronic equipment at all times.

Delegates will receive printed materials where necessary.

Social Media Rules

Social media is a great way to share your MEP CSEE experience in Plovdiv. However, it must be used responsibly!

Please take these guidelines into consideration when using social media during the session:

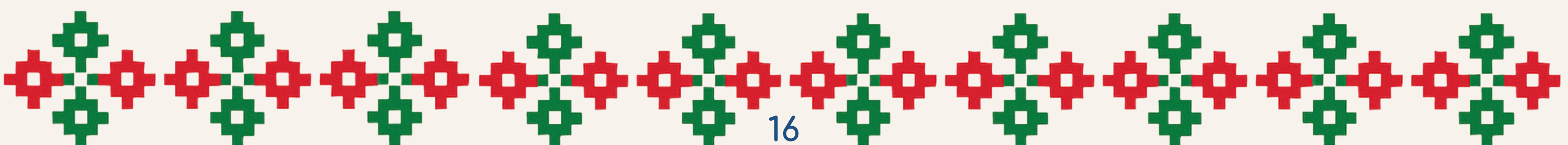
- **Respect the privacy of others.** Do not share personal data or images without consent.
- Be **kind and respectful** in all posts and comments.
- **Protect your own privacy.** Do not share sensitive personal information.
- **Do not spread misinformation.** Verify content before sharing.

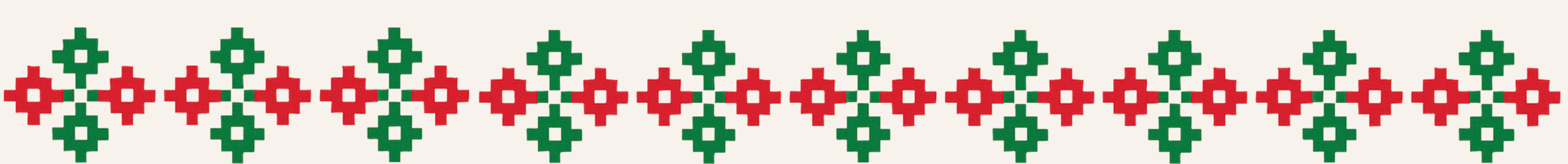
Food and Liquids

In official venues (Plovdiv Drama Theatre, “Puldin” Hall):

- Bringing food and drinks into conference rooms is strictly forbidden (except water, where permitted).
- No eating or drinking is allowed during the Plenary Session.
- Littering and damaging property is strictly prohibited.

Participants are financially responsible for any damage caused.





Medical Information and Medication

Participants with specific medical needs (allergies, prescribed medication, etc.) must:

- bring all necessary medication in sufficient quantity,
- carry medication in its original packaging,
- bring an extra prescription if required,
- carry medication in hand luggage when travelling by air.

Participants are responsible for checking airline and airport regulations regarding liquids and medical items.

Dress Code

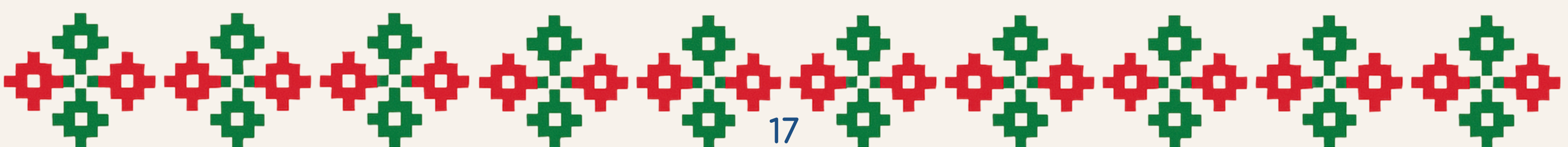
Delegates should be dressed appropriately for the location and activity during the week. **Dress code for the Opening Ceremony, the committee meetings and the Plenary Session is strictly formal:**

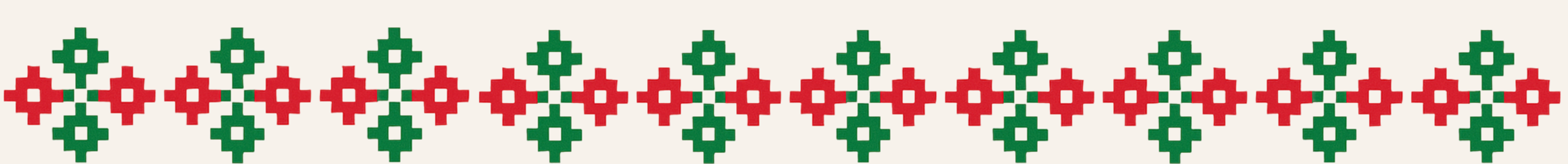
Ladies: skirts or suit pants, shirts, and jackets. No jeans and no sneakers!

Gentlemen: suits or trousers, shirt, jackets and ties. No jeans and no sneakers!

Dress code for the rest of the programme is business casual; on days with this dress code you are allowed to wear neat clothes. **The dress code for lobbying and delegation meetings is business casual.**

Arrival and departure days have no dress code. The farewell evening also has no dress code.





IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FOR TEACHERS AND COORDINATORS

Supervision

In principle, the coordinators of the delegations remain responsible for their delegates throughout the entire session, including their stay at the hotels.

Volunteers will be present to assist with practical questions and logistics; however, they are not responsible for the supervision of delegations or for the behaviour of participants.

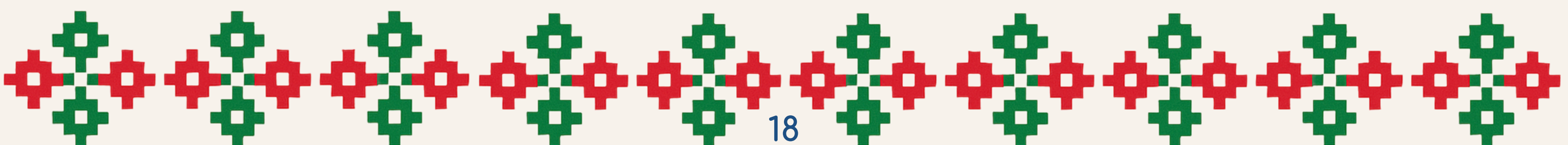
Committee Presidents , Presidents and delegates will always be accommodated in shared rooms and will not be placed alone, unless agreed upon otherwise between the organisers and teachers / coordinators.

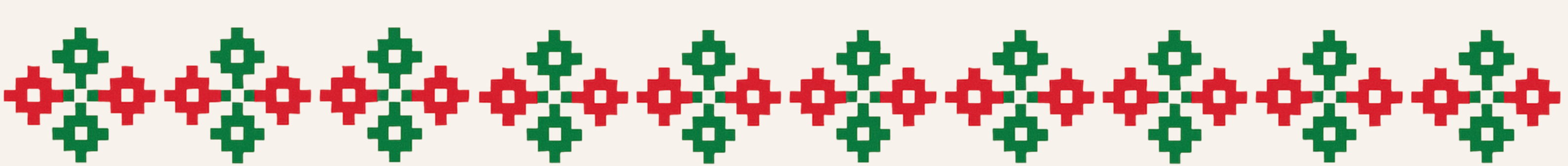
The hotel receptions are available for assistance in case of questions or special circumstances.

Student Information and Emergencies

Teachers and coordinators must, at all times, have access to their students' information/delegate forms, including relevant medical information (allergies, medication, etc.), the mobile phone numbers of their delegates, and the contact details of parents/guardians.

Coordinators must be reachable at all times in case of emergencies.





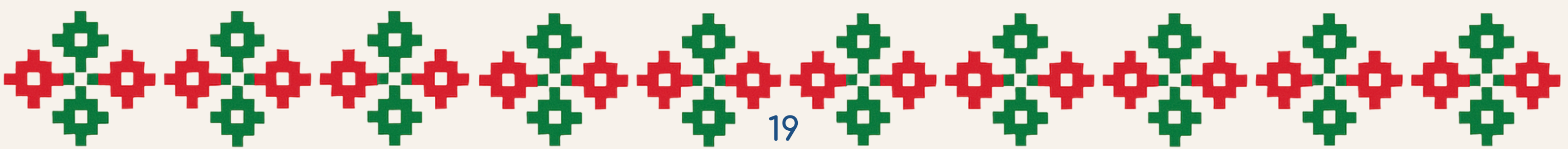
CONTACTS

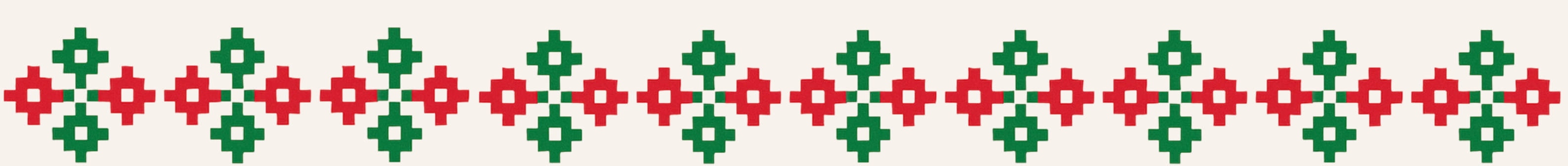
Team

Marko Semov (M)	Head Organiser	+359 877 37 64 14	<i>semovmarko@gmail.com</i>
Emma Ananieva (F)	Head Organiser	+359 899 88 20 53	<i>emma.ananieva@gmail.com</i>
Stanimir Stoyanov (M)	Head Organiser	+359 898 85 25 85	<i>stanimir00009@gmail.com</i>
Iva Petkova (F)	Head Organiser	+359 890 31 96 65	<i>ivadanailovapetkova@gmail.com</i>

Presidency

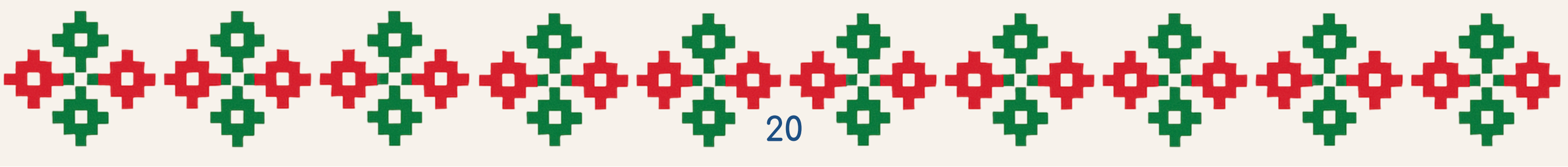
Sofia Valkova (F)	<i>President, BG</i>	<u><i>s.valkova101@gmail.com</i></u>
Marta Ruseva (F)	<i>President, BG</i>	<u><i>martharuseva@gmail.com</i></u>
Alexandria Chaliovski (F)	<i>President, BG</i>	<u><i>alexandria.chaliovski@gmail.com</i></u>
William Ye (M)	<i>Vice-President, AT</i>	<u><i>yewilli19@gmail.com</i></u>
Blanka Bałtruszewicz (F)	<i>Vice-President, PL</i>	<u><i>blanka.baltruszewicz@slo5.edu.pl</i></u>
Kryštof Miča (M)	<i>Vice-President, CZ</i>	<u><i>krystof.mica@gmail.com</i></u>

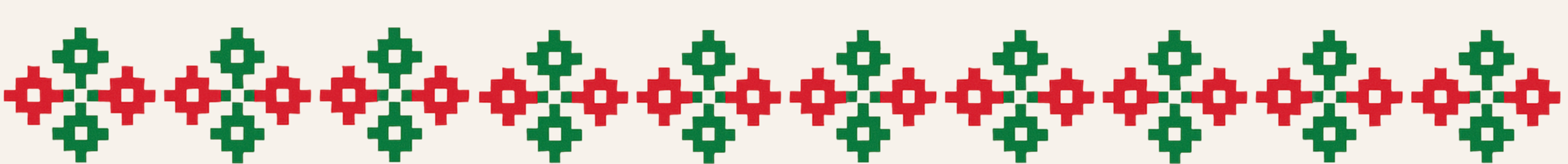




Committee Presidents

Nadezhda Popska (BG)	<i>DEVE</i>	<u>nadejda_popska@abv.bg</u>
Peter Painsi (AT)	<i>DEVE</i>	<u>peter-painsi@gmx.at</u>
Neda Predova (AT)	<i>CULT</i>	<u>predne19@theresianum.ac.at</u>
Elisavet Chrysanthakopoulou (GR)	<i>CULT</i>	<u>elizabeth.chrysanthakopoulou@gmail.com</u>
Agnese Lunardi (IT)	<i>JURI</i>	<u>agnese.lunardi@icloud.com</u>
Anna-Maria Paunova (BG)	<i>JURI</i>	<u>annamariaschool@gmail.com</u>
Julie Maříková (CZ)	<i>EMPL</i>	<u>xmarjul01@gjk.cz</u>
Noah Kiefer (DE)	<i>EMPL</i>	<u>noah@smart-in-fahrt.de</u>
Kateřina Petkovová (CZ)	<i>AFET</i>	<u>xpetka01@gjk.cz</u>
Martina Pingarova (BG)	<i>AFET</i>	<u>m.pingarova@gmail.com</u>
Ino Diakoulaki (GR)	<i>LIBE</i>	<u>inodiak@gmail.com</u>
Mikołaj Dąbrowski (PL)	<i>LIBE</i>	<u>mikolaj.dabrowski@slo5.edu.pl</u>





COMMITTEE ISSUES

Committee on Development (DEVE)

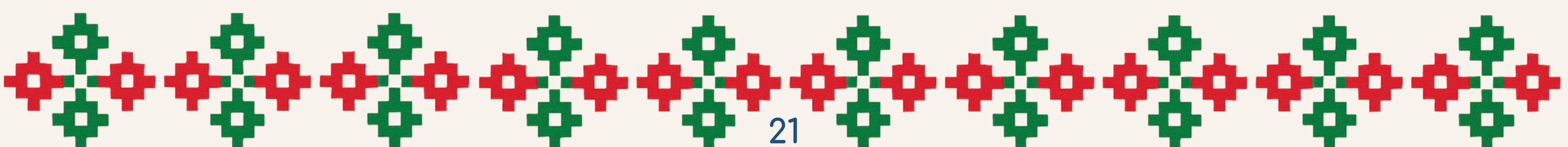
The question of ensuring sustainable and ethical supply chains in the EU's green transition:

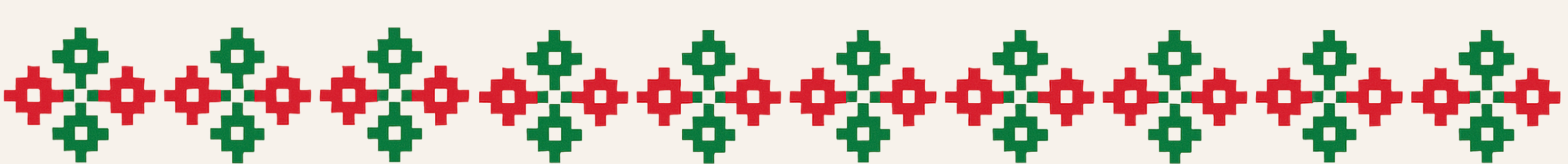
Demand for bio-based materials like biomass pellets and renewable energy sources has increased dramatically as the EU moves closer to becoming climate neutral. Concerns about deforestation, labor exploitation, land degradation, and unequal burdens placed on third countries involved in production continue to exist despite the promotion of these alternatives as sustainable solutions. The EU must balance its environmental goals with its obligation to advance global equity, ethical trade, and sustainable development.

- *Without externalizing social and environmental costs to developing nations, how can the EU ensure that green supply chains actually promote sustainability?*
- *What systems can be put in place to guarantee accountability, openness, and equitable development collaborations along the entire green supply chain?*

Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)

The question of safeguarding Europe's cultural heritage in an era of conflict, climate change, and digitalisation:





Europe's cultural heritage, recognised through frameworks such as UNESCO World Heritage status, is increasingly threatened by armed conflict, climate-induced disasters, mass tourism, and illicit trafficking. Simultaneously, digitalisation presents new opportunities for preservation, but also raises concerns regarding authenticity, access, and cultural ownership. Protecting cultural heritage is not only about preservation, but also about identity, education, and intergenerational responsibility.

- *How can the EU ensure inclusivity and accessibility while bolstering the protection of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage?*
- *What part should international collaboration and digital technologies play in preserving Europe's common cultural heritage?*

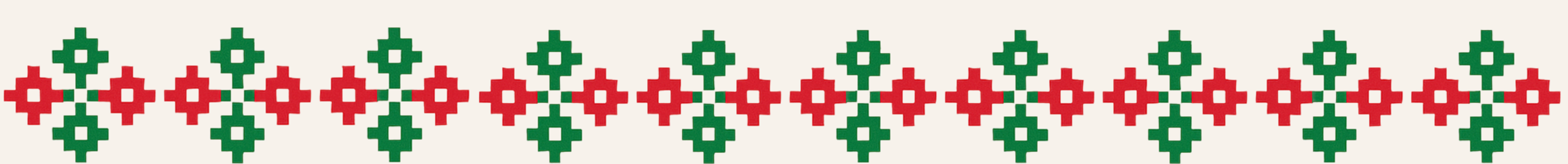
Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI)

The question of ensuring more equal digital public administration standards across the EU:

As the European Union advances its digital transformation, significant disparities remain in the level of digitalisation of public administration among Member States. While some have developed fully digital systems, others continue to rely on paper-based or fragmented procedures. These differences create administrative inefficiencies, unequal access to public services, and obstacles to the consistent implementation of EU law, ultimately affecting citizens' ability to exercise their rights across the Union. Ensuring common standards for digital public administration is essential for legal certainty, transparency, and the effective functioning of the internal market, while also raising concerns regarding data protection, accessibility, and respect for national competences.

- *How can the European Union support the alignment of digital public administration across Member States while respecting national legal traditions and competences?*
- *What steps can be taken to ensure that digitalisation improves legal certainty, access to public services, and democratic accountability, rather than increasing administrative inequality?*





Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)

The question of extending social protection to non-standard and atypical forms of employment:

As labour markets across the European Union become increasingly fragmented, a growing number of workers are engaged in non-standard forms of employment, including temporary contracts, freelance work, and other atypical arrangements. Many of these workers face limited access to social security, unemployment benefits, and adequate labour protections due to contribution-based systems designed around traditional, full-time employment. This gap in social protection risks increasing precariousness, in-work poverty, and social exclusion, while undermining the principles of fairness and solidarity underpinning the European Social Model.

- *How can the EU support Member States in modernising social protection systems to ensure adequate coverage for non-standard and atypical workers?*
- *What measures are necessary to improve the portability, accessibility, and sustainability of social rights across diverse forms of employment?*

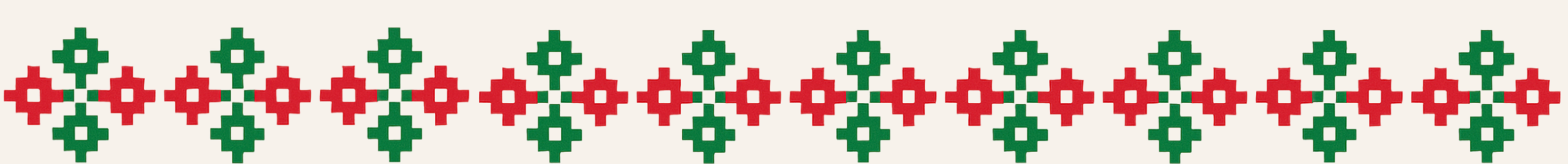
Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)

The question of the European Union's approach to the Western Balkans and enlargement fatigue:

The Western Balkans remain a region of strategic importance for the European Union, yet prolonged accession processes and internal divisions within the EU have contributed to growing enlargement fatigue. This has weakened the credibility of the EU's enlargement policy and reduced incentives for reforms in candidate and potential candidate countries. At the same time, geopolitical competition in the region has intensified, raising concerns about long-term stability and alignment with the EU. Recognising enlargement as both a political and strategic tool, key questions arise regarding how the EU can reinvigorate its engagement with the Western Balkans while addressing internal constraints.

- *How can the European Union overcome enlargement fatigue and restore a credible accession perspective for the Western Balkans?*
- *Which policy approaches can strengthen stability and the EU's long-term influence in the region?*





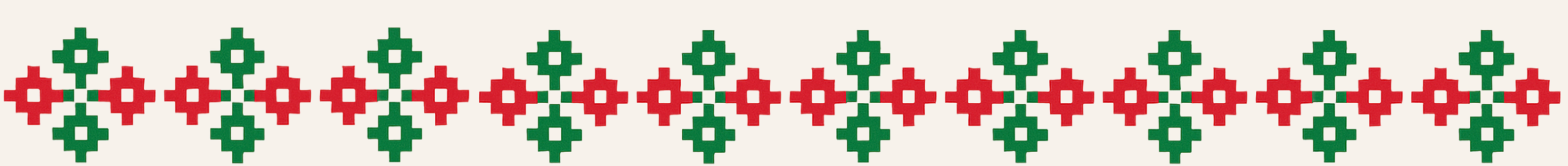
Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)

The question of balancing regulatory safeguards on artificial intelligence with the effective use of AI by law enforcement in the EU:

As criminal networks increasingly rely on digital technologies, law enforcement authorities across the European Union are calling for expanded use of artificial intelligence to enhance crime prevention, investigation, and cross-border cooperation. However, existing and proposed EU regulatory frameworks, including safeguards under the AI Act, have raised concerns among police authorities that excessive administrative and legal constraints may limit the effective use of such technologies. At the same time, civil liberties organisations and lawmakers warn that reducing safeguards risks enabling mass surveillance, discrimination, and violations of fundamental rights.

- *How can the European Union strike a balance between empowering law enforcement to use AI effectively and ensuring robust protection of fundamental rights and democratic oversight?*
- *Should existing regulatory constraints on AI in policing be adapted, maintained, or strengthened in light of evolving security challenges?*





PARTNERS



ЕЛЕКТРОХОЛД



**ЕЗИКОВА ГИМНАЗИЯ
ИВАН ВАЗОВ**



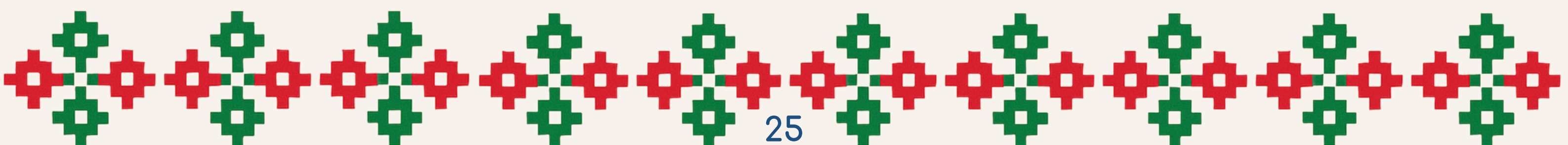
**Европейски
парламент**

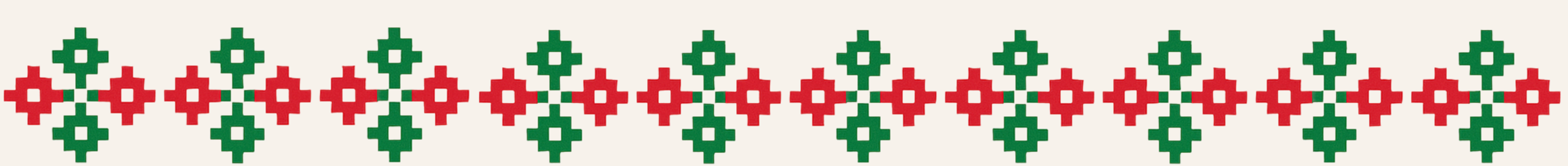


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The Team

Alexandria Chaliovski (*President*)
Aleksandra Bogdanova (*Head of Volunteers*)
Adelina Galabinova (*Public Relations and Media*)
Emma Ananieva (*Chief of Staff*)
Iva Petkova (*Head of Volunteers*)
Marta Ruseva (*President*)
Sofia Valkova (*President*)
Stanimir Stoyanov (*Human Resources*)
Viktor Zlatev (*Venues and Partnerships*)
Marko Semov (*National Coordinator*)

