Venus Transit 2004:
Amateur-astronomers meeting
Brandys nad Labem - castle
May 7-9, 2004

Meeting agenda:

Friday, May 7:

14:00 Opening of the meeting
14:30 Venus Transit 2004 Educational project (R. West, ESO)

I. Astronomical background
Chairman: F. Wagner

14:40 Solar observations (P. Heinzel, AsÚ Ondřejov)
15:00 History of Venus transits (J.-E. Arlot, Paris Obs.)
15:30 Calculations of the astronomical unit from the Venus transits
(W. Thuillot, Paris Observatory)
16:00 Distances in the Universe
S. Štefl, AsÚ Ondřejov
16:15 coffee break
16:45 Exo-planets and transits (G. Ruprecht, ESO)
17:20 Summary talk: ESO and front-lines of astronomy in the
21st century (R. West, ESO)
18:50 End of the session
19:30 Welcome reception by the major of the town Brandys
and ISC
21:00 Late night concert of classical music

Saturday, May 8

II. VT-2004 support of amateur astronomers
Chairman P. Heinzel

9:00 - VT 2004 information and education sheets, school activities
(F. Wagner, R. Ros, EAAE)
9:20 Internet output from ISC and participating professional observatories (R. West, ESO)
9:40 Acquisition and processing of amateur observations
   (J.-E. Arlot, W. Thuillot, Paris Observatory)
10:00 Image processing (S. Šimberová)
10:20 coffee break

III. Preparing the observations

10:50 Reports on activities of individual associations/participants
12:00 End of the session, lunch
   Excursion to the house of famous Czech astronomer Antonín Bečvář, who lived and worked in Brandys

Chairman: W. Thuillot
14:30 Reports on activities of individual associations/participants (cont.)
15:30 Observations of the transit - instructions, discussion
   P. Heinzl, M. Knížek - AsÚ Ondřejov
16:00 Panel discussion
   moderated by R. West - ESO
17:00 coffee break
17:30 Closing talk: The European Planetary Programme
   F.W. Taylor, Oxford University)
19:00 Summary of the meeting
   (R. West - ESO)
19:10 End of the session
20:00 Dinner, free time for informal discussions

Sunday, May 9

9:00 Trip to the Ondřejov observatory.
   The bus will be provided for the participants. The all trip will take about 5-6 hours.
   On the return way the bus will stop in Prague (near the center, about 2. p.m.) and at the Prague’s airport (about 3 p.m.).