

A G R E E M E N T

between

the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

and

the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria

on Visa Exemption

for Holders of Diplomatic and Service/Official Passports

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties,"

Guided by a desire to develop their friendly and traditional bilateral relations and to promote co-operation between them,

Expressing their willingness to exempt the citizens of both countries holding valid diplomatic and service/official passports from the obligation to obtain a visa for entry into the territory of the relevant other country,

Acting in compliance with the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,

Have agreed on the following:

ARTICLE 1

1. The citizens of each Contracting Party holding valid diplomatic or service/official passports may enter into, transit through, and sojourn within the territory of the other Contracting Party without a visa for a period of time of no more than ninety (90) days in any one hundred and eighty (180) days period from the date of first entry.
2. The citizens of each Contracting Party shall enter and leave the territory of the other Contracting Party via the border checkpoints of said Contracting Party that are open to international traffic.

ARTICLE 2

1. The citizens of each Contracting Party who are holders of valid diplomatic or service/official passports and assigned as members of the diplomatic or consular missions or of its permanent missions to international organizations based in the territory of the other Contracting Party, shall be required to obtain appropriate entry visa from the Embassy of the other Contracting Party prior to the first entry.
2. The provision of paragraph 1 of this Article shall also apply to members of the families of the above cited persons who reside with them for the term of their official sojourn and hold valid diplomatic or service/official

passports – spouse, children under 18, unless married; adult children if permanently incapacitated; or children up to the age of 25, including of the spouse, if they study at an educational establishment in the receiving country and are not married.

ARTICLE 3

Citizens of one of the Contracting Parties who enjoy privileges and immunities shall, during their sojourn in the territory of the other Contracting Party, abide by the relevant legislation of said Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 4

1. For reasons of public order, national security or public health, the Contracting Parties may suspend, in whole or in part, the effect of this Agreement. Such suspension and the resumption thereof shall be communicated without delay through diplomatic channels to the relevant other Contracting Party and shall become effective as of the date of receipt of the relevant communication.
2. Each of the Contracting Parties shall have the right to deny entry of, or sojourn in, its territory to a citizen of the other Contracting Party holding a valid diplomatic or service/official passport, as well as to terminate or shorten the duration of the sojourn of any such citizen within the territory of its State for reasons of public order, national security or public health, or on account of the said citizen being declared a *persona non grata*.

ARTICLE 5

1. Upon signature of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall exchange, through diplomatic channels, specimens of their valid diplomatic and service/official passports.
2. In the event that one of the Contracting Parties introduces any changes in the diplomatic or service/official passports issued thereby, said Party shall present to the other Party, through diplomatic channels, specimens of the new passports within the shortest time possible following the effective date of the changes made.

ARTICLE 6

1. In the event that a citizen of one of the Contracting Parties holding the passports specified in Article 1 would lose or damage the said document in the territory of the other Contracting Party, he/she shall immediately notify thereof the competent authorities of the receiving State.
2. The diplomatic mission or consular post of the State whose citizen the above person is shall issue to him/her a temporary travel document *in lieu* of the lost or damaged passport. Said person shall be entitled to leave the territory of the receiving State in compliance with the applicable legislation.

ARTICLE 7

Both Contracting Parties shall provide their diplomatic and service/official passports with the highest level of protection against counterfeiting.

ARTICLE 8

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the rights and obligations of either Contracting Party ensuing from other international treaties and agreements to which they, whether jointly or separately, are signatories.

ARTICLE 9

In case that disputes or differences arise in the course of interpretation or application of this Agreement, the Contracting Parties shall resolve them by means of negotiations and consultations through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE 10

This Agreement may be supplemented and amended by mutual consent between the Contracting Parties by the exchange of the relevant notes through diplomatic channels.

ARTICLE 11

1. This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period of time and shall take effect sixty (60) days from the date of receipt, through diplomatic channels, of the last written notification of the completion by the Contracting Parties of the internal procedures, required for its entry into force.
2. Each Contracting Party shall be entitled to terminate this Agreement via diplomatic channels by written notification to the other Party. The termination shall enter into effect ninety (90) days following the date of receipt of the respective notification.
3. With its entry into force this Agreement shall terminate the Agreement between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the People's Republic of Bulgaria for establishing a facilitated visa regime, concluded by exchange of notes with identical text and entered into force on June 1, 1966.

Done in Sofia on *07.07.2010* in two originals, each in the Vietnamese, Bulgarian and English language, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in the interpretation of the provisions of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM**



**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BULGARIA**

