

AGREEMENT

between the Federal Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Mutual Representation by Diplomatic and Consular Missions of their States in the Visa Application Procedure

The Federal Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the “Contracting Parties”);

recalling the trustful cooperation between the diplomatic and consular missions of the Contracting Parties;

acknowledging the fact that facilitation of visa issuance is in the common interest of both States;

in view of Community achievements and proposals concerning cooperation in the field of visa issuance;

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

(1) The subject of this Agreement is a mutual representation in processing and issuing uniform visas valid in the sovereign territory of all Contracting Parties to the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement of 14 June 1985 between the Governments of the States of the Benelux Economic Union, the Federal Republic of Germany and the French Republic on the gradual abolition of checks at their common borders in compliance with the EC/EU laws on visa issuance, this Agreement, as well as with implementing agreements concluded pursuant to Article 4.

(2) The implementing agreements may establish the scope of the mutual representation.

(3) The Contracting Parties may assist each other in collection of biometric data when submitting visa applications. Detailed rules for the co-operation may be specified in the implementing agreements.

Article 2

Activities under Article 1 of this Agreement shall be governed by respective EC/EU legal regulations, including the legislation on protection of individuals at processing of personal data, as well as by the national legislation of the representing Contracting Party.

Article 3

Acting under Article 1 of this Agreement, the diplomatic or consular missions of the States of the Contracting Parties shall act as diligently as they would act at processing or data collecting on their own behalf. There is no liability beyond this scope of one Contracting Party for activities performed on behalf of the other Contracting Party.

Article 4

The Foreign Affairs Ministries of the States of the Contracting Parties shall conclude implementing agreements by means of an exchange of notes which designate the diplomatic and consular mission to which this Agreement shall apply. Provisions of the implementing agreements shall also cover details of implementation of the obligations pursuant to Article 1 of this Agreement.

Article 5

This Agreement shall be subject to approval under national legislation of the States of the Contracting Parties and shall enter into force on the first day of month subsequent to the exchange of written notes between both Contracting Parties on the fulfilment of conditions required for the Agreement to enter into force under their national legislation.

Article 6

This Agreement is concluded for an unlimited period. The Agreement may be denounced by a written notice by either Contracting Party. The Agreement shall cease to be effective on the ninetieth (90th) day following the delivery of such written notice of denouncement to the other Contracting Party.

Article 7

Either Contracting Party may suspend the implementation of the Agreement at any time, either in part or in its entirety. The starting and closing date of such suspension shall be notified to the other Contracting Party in writing through diplomatic channels. The beginning and the end of such suspension becomes effective on the thirtieth (30th) day following the receipt of the notification.

Done in Bratislava on 23.10.2009 in two original copies, each in the German, Slovak and English language. In the case of differences in interpretation, the English version shall prevail.

**On behalf of the Government
of the Federal Republic of Austria**

Helmut Wessely m.p.

**On behalf of the Government
of the Slovak Republic**

Miroslav Lajčák m.p.