

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT
ON VISA EXEMPTION FOR THE HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC AND SERVICE
PASSPORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA AND THE HOLDERS OF
DIPLOMATIC AND SPECIAL PASSPORTS OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT**

The Austrian Federal Government and the Government of the State of Kuwait (hereinafter referred to as "Parties") desiring to facilitate the entry of holders of diplomatic and service passports of the Republic of Austria and of holders of diplomatic and special passports of the State of Kuwait have agreed as follows:

Article 1

(1) Austrian nationals, who are holders of a valid biometric diplomatic or service passport, shall not be required to obtain a visa to enter the territory of the State of Kuwait for a period which does not exceed 90 (ninety) days within a 180 (one hundred and eighty)-day period counted from the date of entry.

(2) Kuwaiti nationals, who are holders of a valid biometric diplomatic or special passport, shall not be required to obtain a visa to enter the territory of the Republic of Austria for a period which does not exceed 90 (ninety) days within a 180 (one hundred and eighty)-day period, counted from the day of entry into either the territory of the Republic of Austria or the territory of any other State to which the Schengen Convention of 19th of June 1990 implementing the Agreement of Schengen of 14th of June 1985 on the gradual abolition of checks at their common borders is applicable.

Article 2

Holders of a valid biometric diplomatic or service passport of the Republic of Austria and holders of a valid biometric diplomatic or special passport of the State of Kuwait may enter into and depart from the territory of the other Party at any point authorised for that purpose by the competent immigration authorities, without any restriction except for those stipulated in the security, migratory, customs, sanitary entry and other provisions which may be legally applicable to holders of such valid passports.

Article 3

The provisions of Article 1 of this Agreement do not apply to persons, who are planning to stay in the territory of the other Party for a period longer than the one stated in Article 1, or intending to take up employment there.

Article 4

Nationals of either contracting Party enjoying privileges and immunities according to international law and who are holders of the respective ID card issued by the receiving country, do not need a visa or a residence permit to stay in or to re-enter the territory of this Party as long as this ID card is valid and presented upon entry along with a valid biometric diplomatic or service passport of the Republic of Austria or a valid biometric diplomatic or special passport of the State of Kuwait.

Article 5

(1) The Parties shall exchange, through diplomatic channels, samples of the passports according to Article 1 of this agreement used by either Party within 30 (thirty) days after the signing of this Agreement; and each Party shall provide to the other Party the sample of any new or changed diplomatic, service or special passport within at least 30 (thirty) days before issuing such passports.

(2) Both Parties shall duly inform each other about any modification introduced in their respective national laws and regulations related to passport issuance.

(3) If a national of either Party loses his/her valid passport referred to in Article 1 of this Agreement in the territory of the other Party, he/she shall inform the competent authorities of the receiving Party. The diplomatic mission or consulate concerned shall issue a new passport or travel document to the aforementioned national and inform the competent authorities of the receiving Party.

Article 6

(1) This Agreement does not exempt citizens of either Party from the obligation to respect the laws and regulations of the other Party concerning the entry, stay and exit of foreigners.

(2) Both Parties reserve the right to refuse admission to or shorten the stay of persons considered undesirable or endangering public peace, order, health or national security.

Article 7

Either Party may suspend this Agreement, for reasons of public order, national security, public health, irregular immigration, conflicts of interests in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms or lack of cooperation in the area of readmission. The suspension as well as its termination shall be notified immediately to the other Party through diplomatic channels.

Article 8

Any dispute that may arise from the application and/or interpretation of this Agreement shall be settled through diplomatic channels and through consultations or negotiations.

Article 9

This Agreement may be amended by the mutual written consent of both Parties at any time. The amendments shall enter into force in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Article 10 (1) of this Agreement.

Article 10

(1) This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the receipt of the last written notification through diplomatic channels by which the Parties notify each other of the completion of their constitutional procedures for its entry into force.

(2) This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of 5 years from the date of its entry into force and shall be renewed automatically for similar period or periods, unless one of the Parties notifies the other in writing and through diplomatic channels about its intention to terminate it 6 months before its expiration date.

(3) The termination of the Agreement shall not affect the validity or the duration of any specific agreements, projects and activities made under this Agreement.

DONE at (place) on this (date) day of (month), in the year (year), in two originals, each in German, Arabic and English language, all texts being equally authentic.

In case of discrepancies in interpretation of the provisions of the present agreement, the English text shall prevail.

For the Austrian Federal Government:	For the Government of the State of Kuwait:
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