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**Switzerland
and
Colombia**

Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Colombia on short-stay visa waiver for holders of ordinary passports. Bogota, 3 August 2016

Entry into force: *30 June 2017, in accordance with article 9*

Authentic texts: *English, German and Spanish*

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**Suisse
et
Colombie**

Accord entre la Confédération suisse et la République de Colombie concernant l'exemption de visa de court séjour pour les titulaires de passeports ordinaires. Bogota, 3 août 2016

Entrée en vigueur : *30 juin 2017, conformément à l'article 9*

Textes authentiques : *anglais, allemand et espagnol*

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AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

AND

THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

**ON SHORT-STAY VISA WAIVER FOR HOLDERS OF ORDINARY
PASSPORTS**

THE SWISS CONFEDERATION, hereinafter referred to as "Switzerland", and

THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA, hereinafter referred to as "Colombia",

Hereinafter referred to jointly as the "Contracting Parties",

WITH A VIEW to further developing friendly relations between them,

DESIRING to safeguard the principle of equal treatment and to facilitate travel for the holders of ordinary passports,

CONSIDERING the Agreement of 2 December 2015 between the European Union and Colombia on short-stay visa waiver,

HAVING REGARD to the Agreement of 26 October 2004 between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen Acquis,

IN THE INTEREST of strengthening mutual cooperation based on trust and solidarity;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

PURPOSE

This Agreement provides for visa-free travel for the nationals of Switzerland and for the nationals of Colombia holding a valid ordinary passport when travelling to the territory of the other Contracting Party for a maximum period of 90 days in any 180-day period.

ARTICLE 2

DEFINITIONS

The term "Schengen Acquis" shall mean all measures, as referred to in Protocol No 19 on the Schengen Acquis integrated into the framework of the European Union, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, aimed at ensuring the absence of checks on persons at internal borders, in conjunction with a common policy on checks at external borders and on visas, as well as directly related flanking measures to prevent and combat crime.

ARTICLE 3
SCOPE OF APPLICATION

1. Nationals of Colombia holding a valid ordinary passport issued by Colombia may enter and stay without a visa in the territory of Switzerland for the period of stay as defined in Article 4 paragraph 1.

Nationals of Switzerland holding a valid ordinary passport issued by Switzerland may enter and stay without a visa in the territory of Colombia for the period of stay as defined in Article 4 paragraph 2.

2. Paragraph 1 of this Article does not apply to persons travelling for the purpose of carrying out a gainful activity or a remunerated activity subject to authorisation according to the national legislation in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

In this respect, in particular the following activities shall not be considered as gainful activities or remunerated activities:

- Business meetings, including conferences, seminars or the negotiation of mandates and contracts;
 - Economic or scientific congresses;
 - Cultural, religious or sports events;
 - Courses and school teachings.
3. The passports specified in this Agreement shall meet the criteria of validity provided by the national legislation of the Contracting Parties.
 4. The visa waiver provided by this Agreement shall apply without prejudice to the legislation of the Contracting Parties relating to the conditions of entry and short stay. The Contracting Parties reserve the right to refuse entry into and short stay in their respective territories if one or more of these conditions are not met.
 5. The nationals of one Contracting Party benefitting from this Agreement shall comply with the national legislation in force in the territory of the other Contracting Party during their stay.
 6. The nationals of either Contracting Party may enter, transit and leave the territory of the other Contracting Party at all border-crossing points. The visa waiver applies regardless of the mode of transport used to cross the border-crossing points of the Contracting Parties.
 7. Issues not covered by this Agreement shall be governed by the national law of Switzerland and the national law of Colombia.

ARTICLE 4
DURATION OF STAY

1. Nationals of Colombia holding a valid ordinary passport issued by Colombia may stay in the territory of Switzerland for a maximum period of 90 days in any 180-day period.

When entering the territory of Switzerland after having transited through the territory of one or more States which fully apply the provisions of the Schengen Acquis concerning border crossing and visa, the date of the crossing of the external border limiting the area formed by the aforesaid States shall be considered as the first day of stay (not exceeding 90 days) on this area and the date of exit shall be considered as the last day of stay on this area.

2. Nationals of Switzerland holding a valid ordinary passport issued by Switzerland may stay in the territory of Colombia for a maximum period of 90 days in any 180-day period.
3. The period of 90 days in any 180-day period as mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall be calculated either on the basis of one continuous visit or of several consecutive visits, the duration of which may not exceed 90 days in any 180-day period in total.
4. This Agreement does not affect the possibility for the Contracting Parties to extend the period of stay beyond 90 days in accordance with their respective national legislation.

ARTICLE 5
MANAGEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT

Representatives of the Contracting Parties shall meet whenever necessary at the request of one of the Contracting Parties to discuss the implementation and application of this Agreement, and if deemed necessary, propose amendments to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 6
NON-AFFECTION CLAUSE

This Agreement shall be without prejudice to other rights, obligations and responsibilities of the Contracting Parties arising from International Law.