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**Switzerland
and
Colombia**

Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Colombia on mutual visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, official, special or service passports. Bogotá, 3 August 2016

Entry into force: *30 June 2017, in accordance with article 12*

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**Suisse
et
Colombie**

Accord entre la Confédération suisse et la République de Colombie relatif à l'exemption réciproque de l'obligation du visa pour les titulaires de passeports diplomatiques, officiels, spéciaux ou de service. Bogota, 3 août 2016

Entrée en vigueur : *30 juin 2017, conformément à l'article 12*

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AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

AND

THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

**ON MUTUAL VISA EXEMPTION FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC,
OFFICIAL, SPECIAL OR SERVICE PASSPORTS**

The Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Colombia (hereinafter referred to as the „Parties“),

Led by their common desire to facilitate travel between Switzerland and Colombia (hereinafter referred to as the "States") for holders of diplomatic, official, special or service passports,

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 holders of a valid diplomatic, official, special or service passport of either State when travelling to the territory of the other State.

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

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR STAFF

1. Holders of a valid diplomatic, official, special or service passport of either State who are members of a diplomatic mission, a consular post or a permanent mission of their respective State to an organization with which a Headquarters Agreement has been concluded, may enter the territory of the other State without a visa in order to take up their official functions. The sending State shall notify the receiving State in advance through diplomatic channels on the posting and function of the aforementioned persons and request the issuing of an official permit.
2. Family members of the persons specified in paragraph 1 who are nationals of the sending State and hold a valid diplomatic, official, special or service passport shall benefit from the same facilities insofar as they live in the same household and are recognised by the receiving State as family members entitled to stay with the person specified in paragraph 1.

3. Once the family members of the persons specified in paragraph 1 who hold a valid passport have entered the territory of the receiving State and after having received a document legalizing their stay, they can enter the territory of the receiving State without visa for the duration of the validity of the document granted to them.

Article 4

OTHER REASONS FOR TRAVELLING

1. Holders of a valid diplomatic, official, special or service passport of either State who are not referred to in Article 3 paragraph 1, may enter and stay for a period not exceeding 90 (ninety) days in any 180-day period or leave the territory of the other State without a visa, providing they do not take up any employment, be it self-employment or otherwise, in the other State.
2. 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.
3. The aforementioned does not affect the possibility for Switzerland or Colombia to extend the period of stay beyond 90 days in accordance with their respective national legislation.

Article 5

COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL LEGISLATION

1. Holders of a valid diplomatic, official, special or service passport of either State shall comply with the entry and stay regulations and the national legislation in the territory of the other State throughout the duration of their stay.
2. The passports specified in this Agreement shall meet the criteria of validity provided by the national legislation of the receiving State.

Article 6

REFUSAL OF ENTRY

The competent authorities of either Party reserve the right to deny entry into or stay in the territory of their State to holders of a valid diplomatic, official, special or service passport of the other State as specified in Articles 3 and 4 for reasons of protection of state security, public order, public health or other serious reasons.

Article 7

NOTIFICATION OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

1. The competent authorities of either Party shall exchange through diplomatic channels personalised samples of their respective passports within 30 (thirty) days from the date of the signing of this Agreement.
2. In case of introduction of new diplomatic, official, special or service passports or modification of the existing ones, the Parties shall convey to each other, through diplomatic channels, personalised samples of these new or modified passports together with all relevant information on their applicability, not later than 30 (thirty) days prior to their introduction date.

Article 8

LOSS OR DAMAGE OF A PASSPORT

In case of loss or damage of a valid diplomatic, official, special or service passport of either State while being on the territory of the other State, the diplomatic or consular mission of the sending State can send documents allowing the holder to return to his or her State. At the same time, the diplomatic or consular mission shall inform the receiving State about the incident through diplomatic channels.

Article 9

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. The competent authorities of the Parties shall consult each other on any difficulties arising from the application or interpretation of this Agreement.
2. The Parties shall resolve amicably through diplomatic channels by negotiation and consultation any disputes arising from the application or interpretation of this Agreement.

Article 10

AMENDMENTS

Any amendment or supplement of this Agreement shall be agreed upon between the Parties through diplomatic channels. They shall enter into force in accordance with the procedures for the entry into force of the Agreement itself and shall be part of its integrity.

Article 11

NON-AFFECTION CLAUSE

This Agreement shall not affect other obligations of the Parties arising under international agreements, in particular obligations arising from the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963.