

No. 8364

**FINLAND
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Consular Convention (with Protocol). Signed at Moscow,
on 24 January 1966**

Official texts: Finnish and Russian.

Registered by Finland on 7 November 1966.

**FINLANDE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Convention consulaire (avec Protocole). Signée à Moscou, le
24 janvier 1966**

Textes officiels finnois et russe.

Enregistrée par la Finlande le 7 novembre 1966.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 8364. CONSULAR CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS. SIGNED AT MOSCOW, ON 24 JANUARY 1966

The President of the Republic of Finland and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Endeavouring to strengthen further the friendly relations existing between the two countries and

Desiring to develop consular relations between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

Have decided to conclude a Consular Convention and for that purpose have appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

The President of the Republic of Finland : Veli Helenius, Chief of the Administrative Division of the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics : Oleg Nikolaevich Khlestov, Chief of the Treaty-Legal Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR,

who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

PART I

ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULATES, APPOINTMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF CONSULS,
CONSULAR STAFF

Article 1

1. Each Contracting Party shall be entitled to establish consulates in the territory of the other Contracting Party in accordance with this Convention.
2. The Contracting Parties shall reach agreement in each individual case with regard to the establishment of the consulate, its classification, its seat and the consular district.

¹ Came into force on 14 October 1966, thirty days after the exchange of the instruments of ratification which took place at Helsinki, on 15 September 1966, in accordance with article 35 (1).

Article 2

Before appointing a consul, the Contracting Party concerned shall obtain, through the diplomatic channel, the consent of the other Contracting Party to such appointment.

Article 3

1. The diplomatic mission of the sending State shall present to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving country the consular commission setting forth the consul's surname, given name and rank, the consular district for which he will be responsible, and his duty station.

2. The consul may not enter upon his duties until the receiving State has recognized him in that capacity. Such recognition shall be granted in the form of an exequatur issued after the consular commission has been presented.

3. After the consul has been recognized, the authorities of the receiving country shall make the necessary arrangements to enable the consul to perform his duties and to enjoy the rights, privileges and immunities to which he is entitled under this Convention and under the laws of the receiving country.

Article 4

1. In the event of the consul's absence, illness or death, the sending State may authorize an employee of its diplomatic mission or a consular officer of the consulate concerned or of another consulate to take temporary charge of the consulate. Such person's name shall be communicated beforehand to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the receiving country.

2. A person authorized to take temporary charge of a consulate shall enjoy the rights, privileges and immunities accorded to consuls by this Convention.

Article 5

For the purposes of this Convention :

1. The term "consulate" means a consulate-general, consulate or vice-consulate;

2. The term "consul" means a consul-general, consul or vice-consul who is in charge of a consulate;

3. The term "consular officers" means persons, including those in charge of a consulate, who perform consular functions;

4. The term "consular employees" means all other persons employed in the consulate who are not covered by paragraphs 2 and 3 above, including auxiliary personnel.

Article 6

Consuls and consular officers shall be nationals of the sending State.

PART II

RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Article 7

1. Consular officers and those consular employees who are nationals of the sending State shall enjoy immunity from the jurisdiction of the receiving country except in the cases provided for in article 31 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, signed on 18 April 1961.¹

2. Members of the family of a consular officer or consular employee who reside with him and are nationals of the sending State shall enjoy immunity from the jurisdiction of the receiving country to the same extent as the consular officer or consular employee concerned.

3. The sending State may waive, in respect of the persons referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, the immunity provided for in this article. Explicit notification of such waivers shall be given in all cases.

Article 8

Consuls shall be entitled to affix to consulate buildings shields bearing the coat-of-arms of the sending State and an inscription designating the consulate. They may also fly the flag of the sending State from the said buildings and on the means of conveyance used by them.

Article 9

Consular officers and consular employees and members of their families residing with them who are nationals of the sending State shall be exempt from all direct taxes and charges. The aforementioned persons shall also be exempt from taxes and charges on movable property belonging to them.

Article 10

Immovable property situated in the territory of the receiving country whose owner or tenant is the sending State or a person acting on its behalf and which is intended for consulate premises or for the living quarters of consular officers

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 500, p. 95.

and consular employees and the members of their families shall be exempt from taxes and charges in the receiving country.

The exemption from taxes and charges shall also apply to movable property owned, held or used by the sending State which is employed for consular purposes.

The said exemption shall not apply to fees paid for specific services.

Article 11

All articles, including automobiles, imported for the official use of a consulate shall be exempt from all customs duties in the receiving country on the same basis as articles intended for the diplomatic mission of the sending State.

Article 12

Subject to reciprocity, consular officers and consular employees and members of their families who are nationals of the sending State shall enjoy the same exemptions with regard to customs duties as corresponding categories of the staff of diplomatic missions and members of their families.

Article 13

1. Consular officers and consular employees shall give evidence in court if requested to do so by a court of the receiving country. No measures may be taken to compel a consular officer or a consular employee who is a national of the sending State to appear in court as a witness or to make a deposition.

If a consular officer or consular employee is unable to appear in court owing to the exigencies of his service or for reasons deemed to be valid under the law of the receiving country, he shall so notify the court and shall make a deposition in the premises of the consulate or at his residence.

2. Consular officers and consular employees shall not be required to take an oath.

3. Consular officers and consular employees may refuse to give evidence concerning matters connected with their official duties.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 above shall also apply in proceedings conducted by administrative authorities.

5. The provisions of this article shall also apply *mutatis mutandis* to members of the families of consular officers and consular employees who reside with them and are nationals of the sending State.