

No. 9872

**BULGARIA
and
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

Consular Convention. Signed at Berlin on 18 April 1958

Authentic texts: Bulgarian and German.

Registered by Bulgaria on 5 September 1969.

**BULGARIE
et
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE ALLEMANDE**

Convention consulaire. Signée à Berlin le 18 avril 1958

Textes authentiques: bulgare et allemand.

Enregistrée par la Bulgarie le 5 septembre 1969.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONSULAR CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND THE GERMAN DEMO-
CRATIC REPUBLIC

The Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the President of the German Democratic Republic, desiring to establish closer relations in the consular field as well as in other fields, have decided to conclude a Consular Convention and have for this purpose appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

The Presidium of the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria :

Mr. Karlo Lukanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

The President of the German Democratic Republic :

Dr. Lothar Bolz, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs,

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

I. ACCEPTANCE OF CONSULS

Article 1

Each Contracting Party shall accept in its territory consuls-general, consuls, and vice-consuls (hereinafter referred to as "consuls") from the other Party. The posts of the consuls to be appointed, and their consular districts, shall be determined by special agreements between the Contracting Parties.

Article 2

Before appointing a consul, the sending State shall obtain through the diplomatic channel the consent of the other Contracting Party to the appointment of the person in question.

Article 3

(1) Consuls appointed by each of the Contracting Parties may enter upon the performance of their duties as soon as they have been granted an exequatur. The consular district must be specified in the document of appointment (consular commission).

¹ Came into force on 17 October 1958 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Sofia, in accordance with article 26.

(2) Once the exequatur has been granted, the authorities of the receiving State shall take the necessary measures to enable the consul to perform his duties without hindrance and to enjoy the exemptions and privileges provided for under this Convention and under the laws of the receiving State.

Article 4

(1) The functions of a consul be terminated by his recall, by the revocation of his exequatur or by this death.

(2) If a consul is recalled or his exequatur is revoked, or if he dies, or if he is temporarily absent or unable for any other reason to perform his official duties, the sending State shall authorize a deputy to perform the duties of the consul after the competent authority of the receiving State has been notified of his official status.

(3) The deputy placed in temporary charge of a consulate shall enjoy all the rights, privileges and exemptions accorded to consuls under this Convention.

II. EXEMPTIONS AND PRIVILEGES OF CONSULS

Article 5

(1) The offices of consulates shall be inviolable. The authorities of the receiving State shall not take coercive action of any kind in the offices or residence of a consul, without the consul's consent.

(2) Consular archives shall be inviolable. Private papers shall not be kept in consular archives.

(3) Official correspondence shall be inviolable and shall not be subject to examination. This shall also apply to telegrams, telephone conversations and teletype and radio communications.

(4) In their communications with the authorities of the sending State, consuls shall be entitled to employ cyphers and to make use of diplomatic couriers. Consuls shall be charged at the same rate as diplomatic representatives for the use of public means of communication.

Article 6

Consuls shall be entitled to affix to consulate buildings the coat of arms of the sending State and an inscription designating the consulate. They may fly the flag of the sending State at consulate buildings, at their residence and on vehicles used by them for official purposes.

Article 7

Consuls and members of their staff who are nationals of the sending State shall be immune from the jurisdiction of the receiving State in respect of any act performed in their official capacity.

Article 8

Consuls and members of their staff may be required to give evidence before the competent authorities of the receiving State on any matter not connected with their official duties. If a consul is unable to appear, he shall be questioned at his residence or shall make a deposition in writing, in so far as this is permissible under the laws of the sending State. A summons addressed to a consul must not contain any threat of penalties or other coercive action in the event of failure to appear.

Article 9

(1) Consuls and members of their staff who are nationals of the sending State shall be exempt from military and other forms of service and from direct taxes. Immovable property belonging to the sending State and used for official or residential purposes shall be exempt from taxes.

(2) Land and buildings shall be exempt from use for military and other purposes, only if they are employed for official or residential purposes by consuls and members of their staff who are nationals of the sending State.

(3) Consuls and members of their staff who are nationals of the sending State shall be accorded, on the basis of reciprocity, the same exemptions with regard to customs duties as members of the staff of diplomatic missions.

Article 10

The provisions of article 9 shall apply also to the spouses and minor children of consuls living with them.

III. CONSULAR FUNCTIONS

Article 11

(1) Consuls shall, in their consular district, protect the rights and interests of the sending State and of its nationals and legal persons.

(2) In the performance of their official duties, consuls may apply to the authorities of their consular district and may make representations to the said authorities in the event of any violation of the rights and interests of the sending State or of its nationals or legal persons.