

No. 51575

**Netherlands
and
Switzerland**

Exchange of notes constituting an Agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Switzerland on the privileges and immunities of the Swiss liaison officers at Europol in The Hague (with attachment). The Hague, 11 January 2006 and 19 April 2006

Entry into force: *provisionally on 21 April 2006*

Authentic text: *English*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Netherlands, 23 December 2013*

**Pays-Bas
et
Suisse**

Échange de notes constituant un accord entre le Royaume des Pays-Bas et la Suisse relatif aux privilèges et immunités des officiers de liaison suisses auprès d'Europol à La Haye (avec annexe). La Haye, 11 janvier 2006 et 19 avril 2006

Entrée en vigueur : *provisoirement le 21 avril 2006*

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Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies : *Pays-Bas,
23 décembre 2013*

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EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND

The Hague, January 11th, 2006

Note no. 4 - 2006

The Embassy of Switzerland presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and has the honour to propose, with reference to the Co-operation Agreement between Switzerland and the European Police Office of 24 September 2004 (hereinafter "the Agreement"), and in view of Article 41, paragraph 2 of the Convention based on Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention, 26 July 1995), that the privileges and immunities necessary for the proper performance of the tasks of the liaison officers at Europol referred to in Article 14 and Annex III of the Agreement, be agreed upon as set out in the Attachment.

If this proposal is acceptable to the Ministry, the Embassy proposes that this note and the affirmative note of the Ministry shall constitute an Agreement between Switzerland and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which shall be applied provisionally from the day on which this affirmative note has been received by the Embassy, but not before the date the Agreement between Switzerland and the European Police Office of 24 September 2004 enters into force.

The Embassy of Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: mentioned Attachment

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Kingdom of the Netherlands
The Hague*

Attachment

1. Definitions

In this Agreement:

- a). "Liaison officer" means: any official stationed at Europol in accordance with Article 14 of the Agreement;
- b) "Government" means the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- c) "Host State authorities" means such State, municipal or other authorities of the Kingdom of the Netherlands as may be appropriate in the context of and in accordance with the laws and customs applicable in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- d) "Sending State" means Switzerland;
- e) "Archives of the liaison officer" means all records, correspondence, documents, manuscripts, computer and media data, photographs, films, video and sound recordings belonging to or held by the liaison officer, and any other similar material which in the unanimous opinion of the Sending State and the Government forms part of the archives of the liaison officer.

2. Privileges and immunities

1. Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, the liaison officer and members of his family who form part of his household and do not possess Dutch nationality, shall enjoy in and vis-à-vis the Kingdom of the Netherlands the same privileges and immunities as are conferred on members of the diplomatic staff by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961.

2. The immunity granted to persons mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article shall not extend to either:

- (i) civil action by a third party for damages, including personal injury or death, arising from a traffic accident caused by any such person; or
- (ii) criminal and civil jurisdiction over acts performed outside the course of their official duties.

3. The obligations of Sending States and their personnel that apply under the Vienna Convention to members of the diplomatic staff, shall apply to the persons referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. Entry, stay and departure

1. The Government shall facilitate, if necessary, the entry, stay and departure of the liaison officer and members of his family forming part of the household.

2. This Article shall not prevent the requirement of reasonable evidence to establish that persons claiming the treatment provided for under this Article come within the classes described in paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. Visas which may be required by persons referred to in this Article shall be granted without charge and as promptly as possible.

4. Employment

Members of the family forming part of the household of the liaison officer not having the nationality of an EU Member State shall be exempt from the obligation to obtain working permits for the duration of the secondment of the liaison officer.

5. Inviolability of archives

The archives of the liaison officer wherever located and by whomsoever held shall be inviolable.

6. Personal Protection

The Host State authorities shall, if so requested by the Sending State, take all reasonable steps in accordance with their national laws to ensure the necessary safety and protection of the liaison officer, as well as members of his family who form part of his household, whose security is endangered due to the performance of the tasks of the liaison officer at Europol.

7. Facilities and immunities in respect of communication

1. The Government shall permit the liaison officer to communicate freely and without a need for special permission, for all official purposes, and shall protect the right of the liaison officer to do so. The liaison officer shall have the right to use codes and to dispatch and receive official correspondence and other official communications by courier or in sealed bags which shall be subject to the same privileges and immunities as diplomatic couriers and bags.

2. The liaison officer shall, as far as may be compatible with the International Telecommunications Convention of 6 November 1982, for his official communications enjoy treatment not less favourable than that accorded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands to any international organisation or government, in the matter of priorities for communication by mail, cable, telegraph, telex, radio, television, telephone, fax, satellite, or other means.

8. Notification

1. The Sending State shall promptly notify the Government of the name of the liaison officer, his arrival and his final departure or the termination of his secondment as well as the arrival and final departure of the members of the family forming part of the household and, where appropriate, the fact that a person has ceased to form part of the household.

2. The Government shall issue to the liaison officer and members of his family forming part of the household, an identification card bearing the photograph of the holder. This card shall serve to identify the holder in relation to all Host State authorities.

9. Settlement of Disputes

1. Any dispute between the Sending State and the Government concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, or any question affecting the liaison officer or the relationship between the Sending State and the Government which is not settled amicably, shall be referred for final decision to a tribunal of three arbitrators, at the request of the Sending State or the Government. Each party shall appoint one arbitrator. The third, who shall be chairman of the tribunal, is to be chosen by the first two arbitrators.

2. If one of the parties fails to appoint an arbitrator within two months following a request from the other party to make such an appointment, the other party may request the President of the Court of Justice of the European Communities or in his absence the Vice-President, to make such an appointment.

3. Should the first two arbitrators fail to agree upon the third within two months following their appointment, either party may request the President of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, or in his absence the Vice-President, to make such appointment.