

AGREEMENT**between the European Community and the Republic of Seychelles on the short-stay visa waiver**

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, hereinafter referred to as 'the Community', and

THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES, hereinafter referred to as 'Seychelles',

hereinafter referred to jointly as 'the Contracting Parties';

WITH A VIEW TO further developing friendly relations between the Contracting Parties and desiring to facilitate travel by ensuring visa-free entry and short stay for their citizens,

HAVING REGARD TO Council Regulation (EC) No 1932/2006 of 21 December 2006, amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement ⁽¹⁾ by, inter alia, transferring six third countries, including Seychelles to the list of third countries whose nationals are exempt from the visa requirement for short stays in the Member States of the European Union (EU),

BEARING IN MIND that Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1932/2006 states that for these six countries, the exemption from the visa requirement is to be applied only from the date of entry into force of an agreement on visa exemptions which is to be concluded by the European Community with the country in question,

RECOGNISING that the citizens of all Member States are exempted from the visa requirement when travelling to Seychelles for a period of up to one month, which can be extended for a period up to three months,

DESIRING to safeguard the principle of equal treatment of all EU citizens,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that persons travelling for the purpose of carrying out a paid activity during their short stay are not covered by this Agreement and therefore for this category the relevant rules of Community law and national law of the Member States and the national law of Seychelles on the visa obligation or exemption and on the access to employment continue to apply,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Protocol on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland and the Protocol integrating the Schengen *acquis* into the framework of the European Union, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community and confirming that the provisions of this agreement do not apply to the United Kingdom and Ireland,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1***Purpose**

This Agreement provides for visa-free travel for the citizens of the European Union and for the citizens of Seychelles when travelling to the territory of the other Contracting Party for a maximum period of three months during a six months period.

*Article 2***Definitions**

For the purpose of this Agreement:

- (a) 'Member State' shall mean any Member State of the European Union, with the exception of the United Kingdom and Ireland;
- (b) 'a citizen of the European Union' shall mean a national of a Member State as defined in point (a);
- (c) 'a citizen of Seychelles' shall mean any person who holds the citizenship of Seychelles;
- (d) 'Schengen area' shall mean the area without internal borders comprising the territories of the Member States as defined in point (a) applying the Schengen *acquis* in full.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 405, 30.12.2006, p. 23.

Article 3

Scope of application

1. The citizens of the European Union holding a valid ordinary, diplomatic or service/official passport issued by a Member State may enter and stay without a visa in the territory of Seychelles for the period of stay as defined in Article 4(1).

The citizens of Seychelles holding a valid ordinary, diplomatic or service/official passport issued by Seychelles may enter and stay without a visa in the territory of the Member States for the period of stay as defined in Article 4(2).

2. Paragraph 1 does not apply to persons travelling for the purpose of carrying out a paid activity.

For this category of persons, each Member State individually may decide to impose the visa requirement on the citizens of Seychelles or to withdraw it according to Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 539/2001.

For this category of persons, Seychelles may decide on the visa requirement or the visa waiver for the citizens of each Member State individually in accordance with its national law.

3. The visa waiver provided by this Agreement shall apply without prejudice to the laws of the Contracting Parties relating to the conditions of entry and short stay. The Member States and Seychelles reserve the right to refuse entry into and short stay in their territories if one or more of these conditions are not met.

4. The visa waiver applies regardless of the mode of transport used to cross the borders of the Contracting Parties.

5. Issues not covered by this Agreement shall be governed by Community law, national law of the Member States or by national law of Seychelles.

Article 4

Duration of stay

1. The citizens of the European Union may stay in the territory of Seychelles for a maximum period of three months during a six months period following the date of first entry into the territory of the country.

2. The citizens of Seychelles may stay in the Schengen area for a maximum period of three months during a six months

period following the date of first entry into the territory of any Member State fully applying the Schengen *acquis*. This period of three months during a period of six months shall be calculated independently of any stay in a Member State which does not yet apply the Schengen *acquis* in full.

The citizens of Seychelles may stay for a maximum period of three months during a six months period following the date of first entry in the territory of each of the Member States that do not yet apply the Schengen *acquis* in full, independently of the period of stay calculated for the Schengen area.

3. This Agreement does not affect the possibility for Seychelles and the Member States to extend the period of stay beyond three months in accordance with national law and Community law.

Article 5

Territorial application

1. As regards the French Republic, the provisions of this Agreement shall apply only to the European territory of the French Republic.

2. As regards the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the provisions of this Agreement shall apply only to the European territory of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Article 6

Joint Committee for the management of the Agreement

1. The Contracting Parties shall set up a Joint Committee of experts (hereinafter referred to as the Committee), composed of representatives of the European Community and representatives of Seychelles. The Community shall be represented by the European Commission.

2. The Committee shall have, inter alia, the following tasks:

(a) monitoring the implementation of this Agreement;

(b) suggesting amendments or additions to this Agreement;

(c) settling disputes arising from the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Agreement.

3. The Committee shall be convened whenever necessary at the request of one of the Contracting Parties.

4. The Committee shall establish its rules of procedure.

*Article 7***Relation between this Agreement and existing bilateral visa waiver agreements between the Member States and Seychelles**

This Agreement shall take precedence over the provisions of any bilateral agreements or arrangements concluded between individual Member States and Seychelles, in so far as their provisions cover issues falling within the scope of this Agreement.

*Article 8***Final provisions**

1. This Agreement shall be ratified or approved by the Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective internal procedures and shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which the Contracting Parties notify each other that the procedures referred to above have been completed.

2. This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period of time, unless terminated in accordance with paragraph 5.

3. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement of the Contracting Parties. Amendments shall enter into force after the Contracting Parties have notified each other of the completion of their internal procedures necessary for this purpose.

4. Each Contracting Party may suspend in whole or in part this Agreement, in particular, for reasons of public policy, protection of national security or protection of public health, illegal immigration or the reintroduction of the visa requirement by either Contracting Party. The decision on suspension shall be notified to the other Contracting Party not later than 2 months before its entry into force. The Contracting Party that has suspended the application of this Agreement shall immediately inform the other Contracting Party once the reasons for suspension no longer exist.

5. Each Contracting Party may terminate this Agreement by giving written notice to the other Party. This Agreement shall cease to be in force 90 days after the date of such notification.

6. Seychelles may suspend or terminate this Agreement only in respect of all the Member States.

7. The Community may suspend or terminate this Agreement only in respect of all of its Member States.

Done at Brussels, in duplicate, on 28 May 2009 in the Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish languages, each of these texts being equally authentic.

За Европейската общност
 Por la Comunidad Europea
 Za Evropské společenství
 For Det Europæiske Fællesskab
 Für die Europäische Gemeinschaft
 Euroopa Ühenduse nimel
 Για την Ευρωπαϊκή Κοινότητα
 For the European Community
 Pour la Communauté européenne
 Per la Comunità europea
 Eiropas Kopienas vārdā
 Europos bendrijos vardu
 Az Európai Közösség részéről
 Għall-Komunità Ewropea
 Voor de Europese Gemeenschap
 W imieniu Wspólnoty Europejskiej
 Pela Comunidade Europeia
 Pentru Comunitatea Europeană
 Za Európske spoločenstvo
 Za Evropsko skupnost
 Euroopan yhteisön puolesta
 För Europeiska gemenskapen

За Република Сейшели
 Por la República de Seychelles
 Za Seychelskou republiku
 For Republikken Seychellerne
 Für die Republik Seychellen
 Seišelli Vabariigi nimel
 Για τη Δημοκρατία των Σεϋχελών
 For the Republic of Seychelles
 Pour la République des Seychelles
 Per la Repubblica delle Seychelles
 Seišela Salu Republikas vārdā
 Seišelių Respublikos vardu
 A Seychelle Köztársaság részéről
 Għar-Repubblika tas-Seychelles
 Voor de Republiek der Seychellen
 W imieniu Republiki Seszeli
 Pela República das Seicheles
 Pentru Republica Seychelles
 Za Seychelskú republiku
 Za Republiko Sejšeli
 Seychellien tasavallan puolesta
 För Republiken Seychellernas

JOINT DECLARATION WITH REGARD TO ICELAND, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN

The Contracting Parties take note of the close relationship between the European Community and Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, particularly by virtue of the Agreements of 18 May 1999 and 26 October 2004 concerning the association of these countries with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*.

In such circumstances it is desirable that the authorities of Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, on the one hand, and Seychelles, on the other hand, conclude, without delay, bilateral agreements on the short-stay visa waiver in similar terms as this Agreement.

JOINT DECLARATION ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE CATEGORY OF PERSONS TRAVELLING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT A PAID ACTIVITY AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 3(2) OF THIS AGREEMENT

Desiring to ensure a common interpretation, the Contracting Parties agree that, for the purpose of this Agreement, the category of persons carrying out a paid activity covers persons entering for the purpose of carrying out a gainful occupation/remunerated activity in the territory of the other Contracting Party as an employee or as a service provider.

This category should not cover:

- business persons, i.e. persons travelling for the purpose of business deliberation (without being employed in the country of the other Contracting Party),
- sports persons and artists performing an activity on an ad-hoc basis,
- journalists sent by the media of their country of residence, and
- intra-corporate trainees.

The implementation of this Declaration shall be monitored by the Joint Committee within its responsibility under Article 6 of this Agreement, which may propose modifications when, on the basis of the experiences of the Contracting Parties, it considers it necessary.

JOINT DECLARATION ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS DURING A SIX MONTHS PERIOD FOLLOWING THE DATE OF FIRST ENTRY AS SET OUT IN ARTICLE 4 OF THIS AGREEMENT

The Contracting Parties agree that the maximum period of three months during a six months period following the date of first entry into the territory of Seychelles or the Schengen area as provided by Article 4 of this Agreement means either a continuous visit or several consecutive visits, the duration of which does not exceed three months in any six months period in total.

JOINT DECLARATION ON THE INFORMATION OF THE CITIZENS ABOUT THE VISA WAIVER AGREEMENT

Recognising the importance of transparency for the citizens of the European Union and Seychelles, the Contracting Parties agree to ensure full dissemination of information about the content and consequences of the visa waiver agreement and related issues, such as the entry conditions.
