

No. 24361

BULGARIA
and
BENIN

**Agreement on the abolition of visas (with annex). Signed at
Sofia on 8 September 1978**

Authentic texts: Bulgarian and French.

Registered by Bulgaria on 10 October 1986.

BULGARIE
et
BÉNIN

**Accord portant suppression des visas (avec annexe). Signé à
Sofia le 8 septembre 1978**

Textes authentiques : bulgare et français.

Enregistré par la Bulgarie le 10 octobre 1986.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN ON THE ABOLITION OF VISAS

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of the People's Republic of Benin,

Desiring to develop the relations between their two countries and to simplify on a reciprocal basis the formalities relating to the entry and stay of their nationals, have decided to conclude this Agreement on the abolition of visas.

The Contracting Parties have for this purpose appointed as their plenipotentiaries:

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria: Mr. Andrei Loukanov, Deputy Chairman, Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria;

The Government of the People's Republic of Benin: Mr. Simon Ogouma, Member of the Political Bureau, Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of the People's Republic of Benin,

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

Article 1. Nationals of either Contracting Party who are in possession of a valid passport may, without a visa, enter the territory of the other Contracting Party, pass through that territory in transit or stay there for a period of up to three months.

The documents with which nationals of the two Contracting Parties may travel are listed in the annex to this Agreement.

Article 2. Nationals of one of the Contracting Parties who are already in the territory of the other Contracting Party and who are forced, for unforeseen reasons, to remain there for a period of more than three months shall be obliged to request the local authorities to grant an extension of their stay.

Such extension shall be granted free of charge. It may not exceed the period of validity of the passport and must not be for a longer period than six months after the date of entry into the territory of the receiving country.

Article 3. The following persons shall be exempt from the entry-exit visa requirement for the entire duration of their mission:

- Diplomatic personnel, consular officials and their families as well as persons in their employ;
- Administrative and technical personnel of diplomatic missions, consular employees and their families, as well as persons in their employ;
- Officials of and experts from international organizations;

¹ Came into force on 12 February 1979, i.e., 30 days after the date of receipt of the last of the notifications confirming its approval, in accordance with article 11.

- Members of an official mission as well as persons providing scientific, technical and cultural assistance on a permanent basis and members of their families, as well as persons in their employ;
- Service personnel of diplomatic missions or consular offices.

Article 4. Nationals of one of the Contracting Parties who have their residence in the territory of the other Contracting Party may leave and re-enter that territory in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the country of residence.

Article 5. Nationals of one of the Contracting Parties may enter and leave the territory of the other Contracting Party at any frontier crossing point open for international passenger traffic.

Article 6. Each Contracting Party shall be obliged, during the stay provided for under this Agreement, to ensure the freedom of movement in its territory of nationals of the other Contracting Party under the conditions provided for in its domestic legislation.

During their stay, nationals of either Contracting Party shall be obliged to observe the laws of the receiving country.

Article 7. Each Contracting Party reserves the right to refuse entry or permission to stay in its territory to undesirable persons who are nationals of the other Contracting Party.

Article 8. Nationals of either Contracting Party who, during their stay in the territory of the other Contracting Party, lose their passports must report the loss to the competent local authorities immediately. The same shall apply in cases in which a passport has been destroyed or is no longer in the possession of the holder, irrespective of the reason.

In such cases, the diplomatic or consular mission of the State to which such nationals belong shall issue them another travel document, enabling them to return to their country. This new document shall be provided with an exit visa issued free of charge by the competent local authorities.

Article 9. Each Contracting Party may, for reasons of security or public safety and public order, temporarily suspend the implementation of certain provisions of this Agreement.

Such temporary suspension and its termination shall be notified to the other Contracting Party immediately, through the diplomatic channel.

Article 10. The provisions of this Agreement shall not apply to nationals of either Contracting Party wishing to take up residence in the territory of the other Contracting Party.

Article 11. This Agreement is subject to approval by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties and shall enter into force thirty days after the receipt of the second note indicating such approval.

Article 12. This Agreement is concluded for a period of one year, renewable automatically until it is denounced by one of the Contracting Parties.

Such denunciation must be notified to the Government of the other Contracting Party through the diplomatic channel at least three months in advance.

CONCLUDED on 8 September 1978 in Sofia in two original copies in the Bulgarian and French languages, both copies being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the People's Republic of Bulgaria:

[ANDREI LOUKANOV]

For the Government
of the People's Republic of Benin:

[SIMON OGOUMA]

ANNEX TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BENIN ON THE ABOLITION OF VISAS

The travel documents referred to in article 1 of the Agreement are:

A. In respect of nationals of the People's Republic of Bulgaria:

- Diplomatic passport;
- Service passport;
- Ordinary passport;
- Seaman's passport.

B. In respect of nationals of the People's Republic of Benin:

- Diplomatic passport;
 - Service passport;
 - Ordinary passport.
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