

**MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND**

HEL7M0694-34

VERBAL NOTE

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs present their compliments to the Austrian Embassy in Helsinki and have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the latter's verbal note KONS/0304/2014 of October 13th 2014, which reads as follows:

"Finland will represent Austria in accordance with the Visa Code with regard to all types of Schengen visas at the following locations:

Country	Consulate
Russian Federation	St. Petersburg

Austria will represent Finland in accordance with the Visa Code with regard to all types of Schengen visas at the following locations:

Country	Consulate
Lebanon	Beirut
Turkey	Istanbul

Representation consists of:

- a. informing the public;
- b. issuing the visas when appropriate;
- c. refusing to issue the visa when appropriate and dealing with appeals, in accordance with the national law of the representing Member State.

1. Conditions of representation

- a. Visa applications will be assessed and visas issued in accordance with the procedures, conditions and criteria laid down in the Visa Code.
- b. Except in the cases specified in the Visa Code, a Member State cannot be held liable for activities performed on behalf of the other Member State.
- c. The visa fee (Art. 16 of the Visa Code) is for the representing Member State.
- d. The representing Member State may work with an external service provider at one or more locations, in accordance with and under the conditions stipulated by the Visa Code.

To
The Embassy of Austria
Helsinki

- e. The supporting documents submitted by the applicant may need to be translated into (one of) the working language(s) used by the consulate of the representing Member State.
- f. When applicable, prior consultation with other Member States (in accordance with Art. 22 of the Visa Code) will be carried out by the represented Member State, as specified in point 2.1.1.2 of the Schengen Consultation Network Technical Specifications (doc. 5124/2008). This procedure can be amended as soon as both parties have the legislation and technical conditions in place to enable the representing country to conduct these consultations.
- g. As applicable, notification of other Member States will be carried out by the representing country (in accordance with Art. 31 of the Visa Code).
- h. In the event of questions, in particular when related to the inviting party or sponsor, the representing Member State's consulate may contact the central and/or local contact point of the represented Member State. If an answer is not provided within seven calendar days, the representing Member State may assume that the represented Member State does not object to the visa being issued.
- i. The represented Member State undertakes to coordinate with the representing Member State in the recognition of travel documents issued by the country/countries where it is represented. The representing Member State will inform the represented Member State of the new travel documents issued by these countries and request specimens for the represented Member State.
- j. For each location where it is represented, the represented Member State's local (or central) contact point(s) may provide the consulate of the representing Member State a list of persons, companies and institutions that are of national importance to or are well known in the represented Member State. The representing Member State will facilitate the visa application process for parties in this category and grant them the same level of access for submission of applications as it does for parties in its own similar category. Facilitation may relate to the provision of access for submission of applications, the duration of a decision, leniency concerning supporting documents and the issuing of multiple entry visas with a period of validity ranging from six months to five years.
- k. On a yearly basis and upon request by the represented Member State, the representing Member State will provide statistical data for each location on visas issued and refused on behalf of the represented Member State.
- l. The particular implementation of this agreement may be reviewed on a yearly basis and in particular if the number of visa applications for the represented Member State is increasing.

2. Final provisions

This representation agreement between the Austrian Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland shall enter into force 14 days after the date of receipt of the reply note from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. This representation agreement will remain valid for an indefinite period, unless:

- it is amended by written mutual consent of both Member States;
- it is suspended in whole or in part by one of the Member States. This Member State will, if possible, notify the other Member State

accordingly, if possible at least 30 days in advance, stating the reason(s) for the suspension;

- one of the Member States terminates this agreement by giving written notice of termination to the other Member State. This agreement will cease to be valid 30 days after the date of such notification."

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs have the honour to inform the Austrian Embassy that it accepts the proposal contained in the Embassy's verbal note that the Note of the Austrian Embassy in Helsinki and this Note shall constitute an agreement between the Austrian Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland regarding the visa representation between these two countries, which enters into force 14 days after the date of receipt of this Note by the Austrian side.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Austrian Embassy the assurance of their highest consideration.

Helsinki, 16th October 2014

