

Agreement

**between the Government of the Sultanate of Oman
and the Government of the Republic of Malta on the Mutual
Exemption from Visas for Holders of Diplomatic, Service and Special
Passports**

The Government of the Sultanate of Oman and the Government of the Republic of Malta, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties";

Desirous of promoting their bilateral relations;

Considering the interest in strengthening the existing friendly relationship and with a view to facilitate the travel of nationals of both countries;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The provisions of this Agreement shall apply to holders of any of the following passports:

- 1 - Valid diplomatic, service, or special passports of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman.
- 2 - Valid diplomatic passports of the Government of the Republic of Malta.

Article 2

- 1 - Nationals of the state of the Parties holding any of the passports mentioned in Article (1) shall be exempt from the visa requirement to enter, transit through, stay in, or leave the territory of the other Party for up to ninety (90) days (in one or several periods) within any six (6) month period, beginning from the first date of arrival (or the day of first entry into the Schengen Area for nationals of

the Sultanate of Oman). The exercise of paid activities, which require a work permit under the national legislation of the Parties, is not permitted.

- 2 - Nationals of the states of the Parties referred to in the preceding paragraph, who intend to stay longer than ninety (90) days in the territory of the other Party, shall go through the necessary visa application procedures prior to the expiration of the ninety (90) day period with the competent authorities of the other Party.

Article 3

- 1 - This Agreement does not relieve members of diplomatic missions, consular posts, or on permanent missions for their respective country in international organizations located in the territory of the other Party, as well as their family members, who are holders of any of the passports referred to in Article (1), from the requirement to obtain a visa for accreditation by the receiving state prior to their arrival.
- 2 - The above mentioned persons may, following accreditation, enter, transit through, stay in, or leave the territory of the other Party without a visa during the period of their assignment.

Article 4

Nationals of the state of either Party holding any of the passports mentioned in Article (1), may enter, transit through, or leave the territory of the other Party through all border crossing points open to international passengers' traffic.

Article 5

This Agreement shall not relieve the nationals of the state of either Party, holding any of the passports mentioned in Article (1), from the obligation to comply with the laws and regulations in force in the territory of the state of the other Party.

Article 6

This Agreement shall not affect the right of the competent authorities of either Party to refuse entry into, reduce the period of stay, or terminate it in respect of the persons mentioned in Article (1), or the persons who fail to meet the conditions for entry and stay under national and international law.

Article 7

- 1 - Each Party reserves the right to temporarily suspend the application of this Agreement, entirely or partially, on grounds of national security, public order, or public health, or if it is evident that there is an abuse of the rights in this Agreement.
- 2 - The Party who wishes to suspend the application of this Agreement shall notify the other Party, through diplomatic channels, no later than seventy two (72) hours before the start of this suspension and specify the reasons for suspension, and shall also notify the other Party at least seventy two (72) hours before the end of the suspension.
- 3 - The suspension of the application of this Agreement shall not affect the legal status of the nationals of the state of either Party located in the territory of the state of the other Party holding any of the passports mentioned in Article (1).

Article 8

- 1 - The Parties shall exchange samples of the passports mentioned in Article (1), through diplomatic channels, no later than thirty (30) days before the entry of this Agreement into force.
- 2 - Either Party must send to the other Party samples of the passports mentioned in Article (1) where there is change or modification, through diplomatic channels, no later than thirty (30) days before the entry of the new or modified passports into force.

- 3 - Each Party shall notify the other Party of any changes to its national legislation relevant to the passports mentioned in Article (1) no later than thirty (30) days before the entry of the regulations into force.
- 4 - In the case of loss, theft, damage, or invalidity of any of the passports referred to in Article (1) in the territory of the state of the other Party, the diplomatic or consular mission to which the holder of the passport belongs to shall provide the documents that enable the holder to return to the state of its Party. The diplomatic or consular mission shall notify the other Party of the incident without delay through diplomatic channels.

Article 9

The Parties may amend this Agreement by mutual agreement through additional protocols or exchanges of notes, which shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 10

Any disputes arising from the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Agreement shall be settled amicably by consultation or negotiation between the Parties through diplomatic channels.

Article 11

- 1 - This Agreement shall enter into force thirty (30) days from the date of the receipt of the last written notification, through diplomatic channels, by which the Parties inform each other that the national requirement for such entry into force have been fulfilled.
- 2 - This Agreement is applicable for an indefinite period of time. If either Party wishes to terminate this Agreement, it shall notify the other Party in writing

through diplomatic channels, and this Agreement shall cease to be effective after three (3) months from the date of the notification. This notification does not require the provision of legal ground.

Article 12

This Agreement shall not prejudice the rights and obligations provided in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 18 April 1961 and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963.

This Agreement was executed in Muscat on 29 May 2014, in two original copies, in English and Arabic languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail. Each Party shall retain a copy to act in accordance with this Agreement.

For the Government

of the Sultanate of Oman

H.E Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Albusaidi

Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs

For the Government

of the Republic of Malta

H.E DR. George W.Vella

Minister of Foreign Affairs