

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND
ON THE SHORT-STAY VISA WAIVER
FOR HOLDERS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA,
hereinafter referred to as "China", and

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND, hereinafter
referred to as "Iceland",

hereinafter referred to jointly as the "Contracting Parties", and separately as
the "Contracting Party",

WITH A VIEW to further developing friendly relations between the Contracting
Parties and continuing to strengthen close ties between the Contracting Parties,

DESIRING to facilitate travel by ensuring visa-free entry and short stay for
holders of diplomatic passports and to safeguard the principles of equality and
reciprocity,

CONSIDERING the close relationship between Iceland and the European Union,
particularly by virtue of the Agreement concluded on 18 May 1999 by the
Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of
Norway concerning the latter's association with the implementation,
application and development of the Schengen *acquis*,

HAVING REGARD to the Agreement between the People's Republic of China
and the European Union on the short-stay visa waiver for holders of diplomatic
passports,

REFERRING to a Joint Declaration to that Agreement with regard to Iceland,
Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

Purpose

This Agreement provides for visa-free travel for the citizens of either Contracting Party, holders of a valid diplomatic passport, when travelling to the territory of the other Contracting Party for a maximum period of 90 days in any 180-day period.

ARTICLE 2

Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement:

- (a) "a citizen of China" shall mean any person who holds the Chinese nationality;
- (b) "a citizen of Iceland" shall mean any person who holds the Icelandic nationality;
- (c) "Schengen area" shall mean the area without internal borders comprising the territories applying the Schengen *acquis* in full.

ARTICLE 3

Scope of application

1. Citizens of Iceland holding a valid diplomatic passport issued by Iceland may enter and stay without a visa in the territory of China for the period of stay as defined in Article 4(1).

Citizens of China holding a valid diplomatic passport issued by China may enter and stay without a visa in the territory of Iceland for the period of stay as defined in Article 4(2).

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

3. The citizens of Iceland benefiting from this Agreement shall comply with the laws and regulations in force in the territory of China during their stay.

The citizens of China benefiting from this Agreement shall comply with the laws and regulations in force in the territory of Iceland during their stay.

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 the national laws of the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 4

Duration of stay

1. Citizens of Iceland holding a valid diplomatic passport issued by Iceland may stay in the territory of China for a maximum period of 90 days in any 180-day period.

2. Citizens of China holding a valid diplomatic passport issued by China may stay in the territory of Iceland for a maximum period of 90 days in any 180-day period.

For citizens of China, the determination of the maximum period of 90 days in any 180-day period shall include any stay in other States applying the Schengen acquis in full.

3. This Agreement does not affect the possibility for the Contracting Parties to extend the period of stay beyond 90 days in accordance with their respective national laws.

ARTICLE 5

Visits by high officials

Officials at or above vice ministerial level of the central government and officers of or above the rank of major general of the armed forces of China shall inform the competent authorities of Iceland through diplomatic channels before their travel to the latter's territory for official purposes.

Officials at or above ministerial level of the government of Iceland shall inform the competent authorities of China through diplomatic channels before their travel to the latter's territory for official purposes.

ARTICLE 6

Joint Consultations

Joint consultations shall be held when and whenever necessary at the request of one of the Contracting Parties to discuss the application of this Agreement, including to settle any disputes arising from the application or interpretation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 7

Exchange of specimens

1. The Contracting Parties shall exchange, through diplomatic channels, specimens of their valid diplomatic passports no later than 90 days after the date of signature of this Agreement.

2. In case of introduction of new diplomatic passports or modification of the existing ones, the Contracting Parties shall convey to each other, through diplomatic channels, specimens of these new or modified passports, accompanied by detailed information on their specifications and applicability, not later than 90 days prior to its application.

ARTICLE 8

Final provisions

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date of the later of the two notifications by which the Contracting Parties notify each other that the respective internal procedures necessary for that purpose have been completed.

This Agreement shall be applied on a provisional basis as from the third day following the date of signature hereof.

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

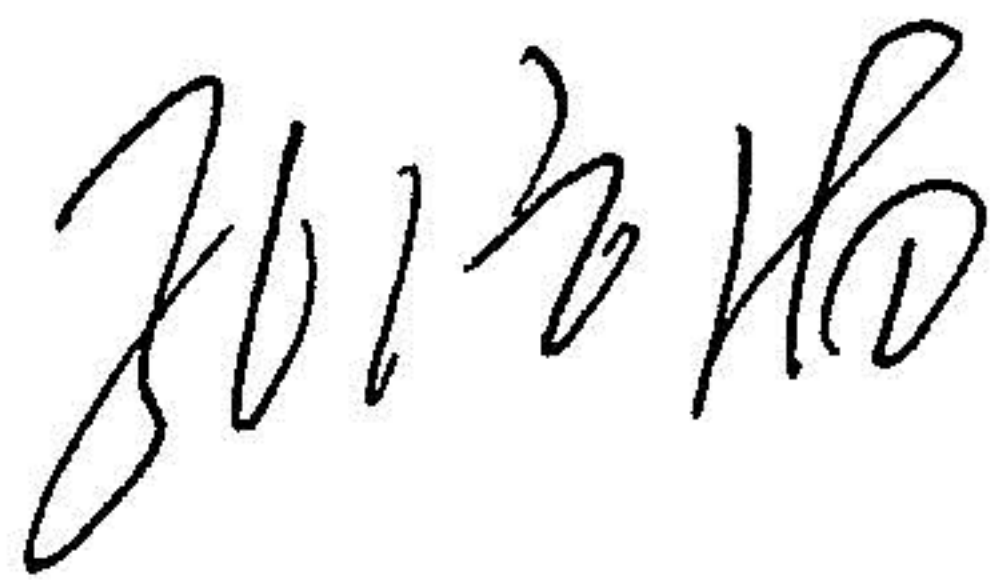
3. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement of the Contracting Parties. Amendments shall enter into force after the Contracting Parties have notified each other of the completion of their internal procedures necessary for this purpose.

4. Each Contracting Party may suspend in whole or in part this Agreement, in particular, for reasons of public policy, the protection of national security or the protection of public health, illegal immigration or upon 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 two months before its planned entry into force. A Contracting Party that has suspended the application of this Agreement shall immediately inform the other Contracting Party should the reasons for that suspension cease to exist and shall lift that suspension.

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 thereafter.

Done in Beijing on February 15, 2017 in duplicate in the Chinese, Icelandic and English languages, each text being equally authentic. In case of divergence between authentic language versions, the English language version shall prevail.

For the Government of the
People's Republic of China



For the Government of the
Republic of Iceland



**JOINT DECLARATION ON THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PERIOD OF
90 DAYS IN ANY 180-DAY PERIOD AS SET OUT IN ARTICLE 4
OF THIS AGREEMENT**

The Contracting Parties understand that the maximum period of 90 days in any 180-day period as provided for by Article 4 of this Agreement means either a continuous visit or several consecutive visits, the total duration of which does not exceed 90 days in any 180-day period.

The notion of "any" implies the application of a moving 180-day reference period, looking backwards at each day of the stay into the last 180-day period, in order to verify if the 90 days in any 180-day period requirement continues to be fulfilled. *Inter alia*, it means that an absence for an uninterrupted period of 90 days allows for a new stay for up to 90 days.
