

Article 17

(1) Consular officers and consular employees shall not be amenable to the jurisdiction of the judicial or administrative authorities of the receiving State in matters relating to the performance of their official duties.

(2) The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply in respect of civil action:

1. relating to private immovable property situated in the receiving State provided that it is not used on behalf of the sending State for purposes of the consular post;
2. relating to succession in which they act in their private capacities, and not on behalf of the sending State, as executors, administrators, heirs or legatees;
3. relating to any professional or commercial activities which they undertake in the receiving State outside their official functions;
4. arising out of contracts concluded by them in which they do not contract expressly or impliedly on behalf of the sending State;
5. relating to an action by third party for damage caused by an accident in the receiving State involving a vehicle, vessel or aircraft.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall also apply to the members of the service staff, if citizens of the sending State.

Article 18

(1) Members of the consular post may be summoned to appear as witnesses before the courts, tribunals or other competent organs with judicial powers of the receiving State. However, they are not obliged to give evidence on matters connected with the performance of their official functions.

(2) If a member of the consular post refuses to appear as a witness before the courts, tribunals or other competent organs with judicial powers of the receiving State, no coercive measures or penalties whatsoever may be imposed on him.

(3) The authorities referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, when requiring the evidence of a consular officer or consular employee, shall avoid interference with the performance of his functions. They may, when possible, take such evidence of the consular officer at his residence or at the consular post or accept a statement from him in writing.

(4) The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall also apply to the members of the family of a consular officer and consular employee, including those who are citizens of the receiving State or are permanently resident therein.

Article 19

(1) The sending State may waive the privileges and immunities granted to members of the consular post and members of their families in Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18. The waiver must always be in writing.

(2) The initiation of proceedings by a consular officer or a consular employee in a matter where he might enjoy immunity from jurisdiction shall preclude him from invoking immunity from jurisdiction in respect of any counter-claim directly connected with the principal claim.

(3) The waiver of immunity from jurisdiction in respect of civil or administrative proceedings shall not be held to imply waiver of immunity in respect of execution of the judgement for which a separate waiver shall be required.

Article 20

Members of the consular post and members of their families shall be exempt from any form of obligatory public service in the receiving State.

Article 21

Consular officers and consular employees and members of their families shall not be subject to the obligations arising from the laws and regulations of the receiving State concerning alien registration, residence permit and other similar regulations relating to foreigners.

Article 22

(1) The consular premises and the residence of the head of consular post which the sending State or any person acting on its behalf owns, takes on rent or lease, shall be exempt from all central, state or municipal dues and taxes whatsoever.

(2) The exemption from dues and taxes referred to in paragraph 1 shall not apply to:

1. such dues and taxes if, under the laws and regulations of the receiving State, they are payable by the person who contracted with the sending State or with the person acting on its behalf, and
2. indirect taxes of a kind which are normally incorporated in the price of goods or services.

(3) Exemption provided for in this Article shall not apply to charges and fees for specific services rendered.

Article 23

(1) Consular officers and consular employees and members of their families, if citizens of the sending State, shall be exempt from all central, state and municipal dues and taxes except:

1. indirect taxes of a kind which are normally incorporated in the price of goods or services;
2. dues and taxes on private immovable property situated in the receiving State, subject to the provisions of Article 22;
3. estate, succession or inheritance duties and duties on transfers levied by the receiving State subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article;
4. dues and taxes on private income having its source in the receiving State and any other tax of a similar nature;
5. charges levied for specific services rendered;
6. registration, court or record fees, mortgage dues and stamp duties, subject to the provisions of Article 22.

(2) Members of the service staff, if citizens of the sending State, shall be exempt from dues and taxes on the wages which they receive for their services.

(3) The receiving State shall not levy central, state or municipal estate, succession or inheritance duties and duties on transfers, on movable property of a deceased member of the consular post or one of the members of his family the presence of which in the receiving State was due solely to the presence there of the deceased as a member of the consular post or as a member of the family of a member of the consular post.

Article 24

(1) The receiving State shall, in accordance with its laws and regulations and on the basis of reciprocity, permit entry of and grant exemption from customs duties, taxes, and related charges other than charges for storage, cartage and similar services, on:

1. articles for the official use of the consular post;
2. articles for the personal use of a consular officer, or members of his family, including a motor vehicle. The articles intended for consumption shall not exceed the quantities necessary for direct use by the persons concerned.

(2) Consular employees, who are citizens of the sending State, and members of their families, shall enjoy exemptions