

## Veleposlanstvo Republike Hrvatske u Republici Turskoj Türkiye Cumhuriyeti'ndeki Hırvatistan Cumhuriyeti Büyükelçiliği Embassy of the Republic of Croatia to the Republic of Turkey

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ASSOCIATION OF TURKISH TRAVEL AGENCIES - TÜRSAB Esentepe Mh. Villa Cad. No:7 Şişli / Istanbul

Dear Sirs,

The Embassy of the Republic of Croatia would like to inform you, as well as all members of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TÜRSAB) about the possibility of accreditation of tourist agencies with the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Ankara and the Consulate-General of the Republic of Croatia in Istanbul for the year 2014, in order to facilitate visa application process for organized tourist groups.

Namely, current visa regime between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Turkey is in force 1 April 2013 onwards. The Republic of Croatia is committed to facilitate the process of issuing visas of Turkish nationals to the fullest extent possible, within the EU *acquis communautaire*. To that end, the Republic of Croatia decided that holders of diplomatic, official and special passports of the Republic of Turkey are exempt from visa requirements.

Having in mind the importance of cooperation between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Croatia we have developed system of accreditation of tourist agencies. The system of accreditation is described in Annex 8 of the Ordinance on Visas (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 7/2013) and regulates the procedure and conditions for accreditation of foreign travel agencies, tour operators, or other legal persons organising group tourist tours with Croatian Embassies and Consulates (procedure and conditions for accreditation of foreign travel agencies in Turkish and English are enclosed to this letter).

Foreign travel agencies accredited with an Embassy/Consulate-General may act as intermediaries in the lodging of applications and obtaining visas for aliens who, in an organised manner and as a group, are travelling to the Republic of Croatia for the purpose of a tourist visit. Tourist agencies from the Republic of Turkey are encouraged to start the process of accreditation for the year 2014 with the Embassy in Ankara and the Consulate-General in Istanbul, in the period between 15 January and 15 March 2014.

The Embassy of the Republic of Croatia would appreciate the assistance of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies in sharing this information amongst travel agencies.

We are looking forward for further cooperation.

Kind regards,

Dražen Hrastić