Information on the Protection of Natural Persons

in Connection with the Processing of Personal Data for the Purpose of Issuing an Entry Visa to Italy and the Schengen Area

(General Data Protection Regulation / GDPR (EU) 2016/679, Art. 13)

The processing of personal data for the issuance of a visa for entry into Italy and the Schengen area is based on the principles of lawfulness, fairness, and transparency to protect the rights and fundamental freedoms of natural persons.
To this end, pursuant to Art. 13 of the GDPR, the following information is provided:

1. The Data Controller

The Data Controller is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) of the Italian Republic, which operates, in this specific case, through the Italian Economic, Trade and Cultural Promotion Office in Taipei (address: Rm. 1808-09, International Trade Bldg. Fl.18, n.333, Sec.1, Keelung Rd; phone +886 (0)2-23450320; email: visti.taipei@esteri.it, certified email: del.taipei@cert.esteri.it).

2. The Data Protection Officer

For questions or complaints regarding privacy, the data subject may contact the Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the MAECI (mailing address: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Piazzale della Farnesina 1, 00135 ROME; phone: 0039 06 36911 (switchboard); email: rpd@esteri.it ; certified email: rpd@cert.esteri.it).

3. Personal data processed

The personal data processed are those requested in the visa application form, as well as those contained in the European Visa Information System (VIS) and in the national database.

4. Purpose of processing

The personal data requested is necessary to assess the application for a visa to enter Italy and the Schengen Area by a citizen of a country that is not a member of the European Union, for whom a visa is required.

5. Legal bases for processing

The legal bases for processing are as follows: - EC Regulation No. 767/2008 of July 9, 2008, establishing the “Visa Information System (VIS)” for the exchange of data among Member States regarding visas for short-term stays (Schengen area); - EC Regulation No. 810/2009 of July 13, 2009, as amended, establishing the “Community Code on Visas” (Schengen Area); - Legislative Decree No. 286 of July 25, 1998; - Presidential Decree No. 394 of August 31, 1999; - Interministerial Decree No. 850 of May 11, 2011, regarding entry visas.

Pursuant to the aforementioned regulations, the provision of the data in question is mandatory for the examination of the visa application, and any refusal to provide the requested data renders it inadmissible.

6. Methods of Processing

Data processing, carried out by specifically designated personnel, will be performed both manually and automatically. In particular, with regard to short-stay visas, the data will be stored in the VIS, while for other types of visas, the data will be entered into the national database.

7. Transfer of Data to Third Parties

In accordance with European legislation on the "Schengen" area (specifically, Regulation (EC) No. 810/2009 of July 13, 2009), the data necessary for the issuance of short-stay visas will be made available to the competent Italian security authorities, as well as to the competent authorities of the European Union and other Member States. For all other types of visas, the data will be made available to the competent Italian security authorities.

8. Data retention period

Data will be stored in the VIS for a maximum period of five years. Upon expiration of this period, personal data relating to Schengen visas (short stays) issued by Italy will be transferred to the national archive. In this archive, the data will be retained indefinitely to meet various needs such as national security, the investigation of potential disputes, or research and study activities.

9. Rights of the Data Subject

The data subject may request access to and rectification of their personal data. Within the limits set forth by applicable law and without prejudice to any consequences for the outcome of the visa application, the data subject may also request the erasure of such data, as well as the restriction of processing or objection to processing. In particular, the data subject may request the erasure of their personal data entered in the VIS if they acquire citizenship of an EU Member State within five years of the decision to grant or refuse the entry visa, or if the competent administrative or judicial authority finally orders the annulment of the decision to refuse a visa. In such cases, the data subject must submit a specific request to the **Italian Economic, Trade and Cultural Promotion Office** in **Taipei**, copying the MAECI's DPO for information.

10. Complaints

If the data subject believes that their privacy rights have been violated, they may file a complaint with the DPO of the MAECI. Alternatively, they may contact the Italian Data Protection Authority (address: Piazza Venezia 11, 00187 ROME; phone: 0039 06 696771 (switchboard); email: protocollo@gpdp.it ; certified email: protocollo@pec.gpdp.it).

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