

**U.S. Embassy Sarajevo
Consular Section
American Community Newsletter**

Vol. 2, Issue 1



January 2009

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Contact Information and Operating Hours

Address: Alipašina 43, 71000 Sarajevo

American Citizen Services Hours: Monday-Friday 14:00-15:30 and Friday 8:00-10:30
It is always preferable to call for an appointment!

Non-Immigrant Visa Hours: By appointment through **Visa Information Service** at
(387) 33 295 375

Immigrant Visa Hours: By appointment only

Tel: (387) 33 445 700 ACS Ext. 2210, 2337
NIV Ext. 2241
IV Ext. 2453

Fax: (387) 33 221 837

E-mail: rws@state.gov (for registration)

E-mail: IVConsularSarajevo@state.gov (for immigrant visa questions)



American Citizens Townhall Meeting

Thursday, February 19, 2009

5:30-7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 5:00 p.m.)

American Embassy Sarajevo, Consular Section

Dear Fellow American,

The U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo cordially invites you to attend the American Citizens Townhall Meeting to be held on **Thursday, February 19, 2009** from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Waiting Room of the Consular Section of the Embassy.

For this event, representatives of different sections of the Embassy will be available to talk to you about issues that may be of interest to you, such as security concerns, medical issues, political issues and the forthcoming relocation of the Embassy. Tax brochures and forms will be available, as well as passport and registration forms. You will be able to schedule appointments for consular services, update your registration and volunteer to serve as a warden. In addition, the Federal Benefits Officer from the Regional Federal Benefits Unit in the American Embassy Zagreb will be present and available to answer any question regarding Social Security or Veterans' Affairs.

U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina Charles English will give welcoming remarks.

Other participants will include:

- Representative of the Regional Security Office
- Political/Economic Office
- USAID
- Public Diplomacy
- Nurse Practitioner
- Martina Delija, Federal Benefits Specialist, U.S. Embassy Zagreb

American snacks and drinks will be provided.

This event is open to all U.S. citizens residing in BiH. All visitors will need to bring a U.S. passport. The doors will open at 5:00. Please allow extra time for security screening on arrival. Cell phones and any electronic equipment will need to be checked in the guards' desk.

To expedite your check in at the Embassy, please confirm your attendance by e-mail at rws@state.gov or by phone at (033) 445-700 x 2210 or 2337.

We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Daniel H. Gershator
Consul



Tax Assistance

The IRS office that covers a large portion of Europe, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is able to provide taxpayer assistance to American citizens living abroad and foreign citizens with U.S. tax obligations is located in the **U.S. Embassy Paris**. They have a team of tax specialists who answer telephone and email inquiries and assist with preparation of returns.

Contact information for IRS Paris:

Fax: +33 1 43 12 23 03

Phone: +33 1 43 12 25 55

E-mail: irs.paris@irs.gov

Internet: www.irs.gov or <http://france.usembassy.gov/irs.html>

If you don't have Internet access, the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo can print out the tax form you need (from: www.irs.gov – e.g., 1040 for overseas filers, extension forms, etc.)

IRS Publication 54, Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad is a valuable resource for anyone living abroad or with income from a foreign source. This can be found on the IRS website as well.

International tax assistance in the U.S.

The IRS office in Philadelphia is the principal office responsible for providing international tax assistance, such as answering questions related to tax law, foreign tax issues, and notices and bills. This office is open Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. (American) Eastern Standard Time and may be contacted by:

Phone: +1 (215) 516-2000

Fax: +1 (215) 516-2555

Email: www.irs.gov/help/page/0,,id=133197,00.html

Mail: Internal Revenue Service P.O. Box 920, Bensalem, PA 19020 USA

Unresolved Tax Problems

If you have tried to resolve a tax problem but it has not been resolved in a timely manner or if an IRS action is causing you a significant hardship, you should contact the International Taxpayer Advocate by:

Phone: +1 (877) 777-4778 or +1 (787) 622-8940

Fax: +1 (787) 622-8933

Mail: Internal Revenue Service

Attn: Taxpayer Advocate Office

San Patricio Office Building, Room 2007 Tabonuco Street

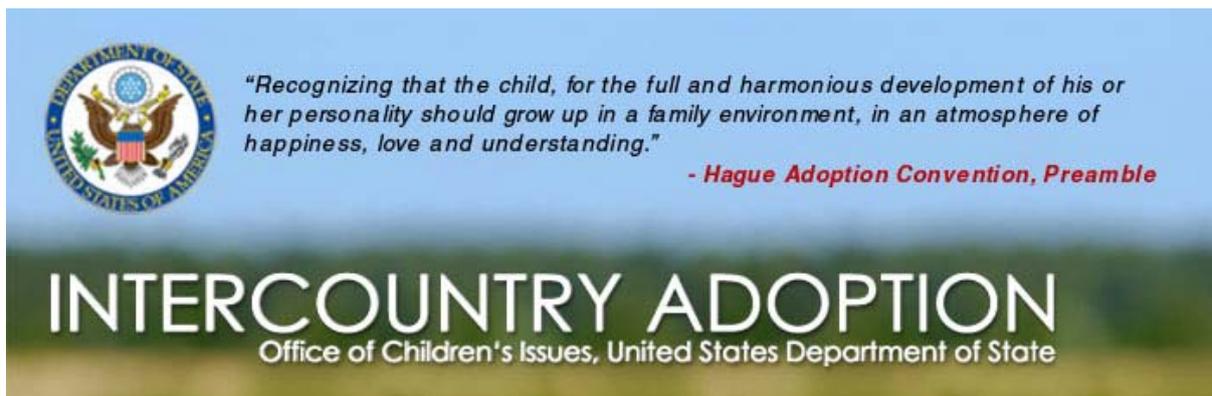
Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00966

Securing America's Borders



For citizens of Visa Waiver countries traveling to the U.S.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced implementation of the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), which began to accept voluntary ESTA applications starting on August 1, 2008. ESTA is a new fully automated, electronic system for screening passengers before they begin travel to the United States under the Visa Waiver Program. ESTA applications may be submitted at any time prior to travel to the United States, and VWP travelers are encouraged to apply for authorization as soon as they begin to plan a trip to the United States. **It is anticipated that ESTA will become mandatory for VWP travelers from current VWP member countries on January 12, 2009 and for VWP travelers from newly admitted VWP countries in mid-November 2008. Learn more about [ESTA](#) on the DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website. Review the [Interim Final Rule](#) on the DHS main website. You can also learn more about it at http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html**



State Department Launches New Adoption Website

Each year, thousands of Americans adopt a child from overseas. State Department's Office of Children's Issues has launched a new website: Adoption.State.Gov (<http://adoption.state.gov>) to provide Americans with the information they need to adopt children from around the world. The new Adoption website features Country Specific Information about procedures related to the Hague Adoption Convention and the new I-800 process in an easy-to-navigate format. How does the adoption process work? Who can adopt? Where do Americans adopt from? To learn the answers these questions and more, visit the State Department's newest website.

REGISTRATION WITH THE EMBASSY

If you would like to update your registration with the Embassy, please fax or e-mail us the Registration Form (available also at <http://sarajevo.usembassy.gov>). Americans registering for the first time should come to the Consular Section in person to present their passport. If you live far away from Sarajevo, you can fax (033 221 837) or e-mail (rws@state.gov) the form and a copy of your passport biographic data page to us, and come to the Consular Section later for the full registration.

To receive Warden Messages by e-mail you need to be registered with the Embassy !



Important Security Announcement

When visiting the Embassy, please remember not to bring mobile phones or any electronic devices, such as Blackberries, iPods, or PDAs, as they are not allowed within the Embassy.



We also strongly advise that you do not bring large bags, such as backpacks, suitcases or packages to the interview as there are no storage facilities on Embassy grounds.



Embassy Closures:

- **January 19 (Monday):** **Martin Luther King's Jr. Birthday**
- **February 16 (Monday):** **Washington's Birthday**
- **March 1 (Sunday):** **BiH Independence Day**
- **April 13 (Monday):** **Easter Monday**

There is always an Embassy duty officer available to assist U.S. citizens with serious emergencies. The duty officer can be reached at (033) 445 700.
