

IP4



Fourth Meeting of the Intersessional Process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

Bucharest, Romania, 29 August – 2 September 2022

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

I. General

1. The fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4) is scheduled to be held from 29 August to 2 September 2022 at the Conference Center Romexpo, in Bucharest, Romania. The meeting will be preceded by regional and stakeholder consultations as well as technical briefings from 27 to 28 August 2022.
2. To make a positive contribution towards comprehensive climate neutrality, SAICM is committed to organizing and implementing sustainable, environmentally friendly and carbon-neutral meetings, including for this fourth meeting.

II. Venue and Schedule

3. The event will be convened at the Conference Center Romexpo (*Figure 1*) that will be carrying out its daily activities during the event. Access to the venue will be possible through two security gates. The address of the venue is:

Name of the venue: Conference Center Romexpo

Street: Bd. Mărăști no. 65-67, sector 1,

<https://goo.gl/maps/A78M9iCwsBpD569q9>

Post code, City, Country: 32-3, cod 011465, Bucharest - Romania

Telephone: +40 21 207.70.00

Email: romexpo@romexpo.ro

Web page: <https://www.romexpo.ro/en/>



Figure 1: Conference Center Romexpo, Bd. Mărăști no. 65-67, sector 1, Po Box 32-3, Postal code 011465, Bucharest

III. Registration

4. Participants are invited to register for the meeting from 9:00 a.m. on Friday, 26 August 2022 until 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 2 September 2022. In order to ensure easy access to the venue, we strongly recommend that all participants carry an ID card/passport and confirmation of registration in hand.

5. Participants should register online by 20 July 2022 by using the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1001926/> to facilitate the issuance of badges at the meeting venue and compilation of the list of participants. Participants are also highly encouraged to upload identification photos in the registration system in advance to speed up the registration process.

6. For identification and security reasons, all participants are requested to wear their meeting badges at all times in the Conference Center Romexpo complex. The loss of a meeting badge should be communicated immediately to the SAICM secretariat so it may be reissued.

IV. Meeting documents and Language

7. Please note that the meeting will be a paper smart meeting and participants are kindly advised to bring their own laptop, as copies of meeting documents will not be printed or distributed. The meeting will be held in English and meeting documents will be in English.

8. Documentation will be published as soon as available at:
[Fourth Intersessional meeting \(saicm.org\)](http://saicm.org)

V. Transport

9. Participants should make their own transportation arrangements from *Henri Coandă International Airport* to their respective hotels. Metered taxi and bus services are readily available at the airport. Detailed information about the airports may be found at <http://www.bucharestairports.ro/en/>

10. Situated 16.5 km North of the Bucharest city centre, the Henri Coandă International Airport is the largest airport in Romania, serving 67 external destinations and 9 domestic destinations.

11. *Ways to get to Bucharest from the Henri Coandă International Airport:*

- i. *Express bus with 24/7 schedule*, has stops right outside the arrival and departure terminals: 780 Express line, towards Bucharest North Railway Station (main railway station) and 783 Express line, towards the city centre. A one-way trip on the express line costs 3.5 lei (0.75 Euro); tickets or rechargeable cards can be purchased at the bus stop.
- ii. *Taxi*. Inside the airport there are touch screen terminals for taxi orders (Figure 2), should customers prefer a particular company. Licensed taxis are available for passengers arriving at Henri Coandă International Airport at the terminal exit and accept passengers in order of arrival. Prices: a trip to Bucharest is around 10 - 15 Euros, depending on distance (taxi charge about 1.69 - 3.50 lei per kilometre, 0.4 - 0.8 Euro)
- iii. *Car rental*. There are several rent-a-car companies in the Henri Coandă International Airport, some of them 24/7. Prices are similar to other EU states. The trip by car or by bus to the city takes 30 – 50 minutes, depending on traffic.
- iv. *Train* from the airport to Bucharest Central Station that has connectivity to the metro.
<https://www.cfrcalatori.ro/en/bucuresti-nord-railway-station-henri-coanda-airport/>



Figure 2: Touch screen terminals present at the Henri Coandă International Airport to order a taxi

12. Getting around Bucharest:

- i. Bucharest public transport: Trams, buses and trolleybuses. Operating hours: 05.00 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. Various cards available in main stations. Express bus 24/7 schedule, Taxis. In Bucharest, prices vary from 1.69 - 3.50 lei/km (0.4 - 0.8 Euro). For more information, please consult: http://www.stbsa.ro/mobile/eng/index_en.php
- ii. The subway/metro. The 'Metro' is the fastest way around the Romanian capital, with central stations close to the main institutions and points of interest and the price for one trip is 3 lei (0,61 euro). Operating hours are from 05.00 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. Access cards may be purchased at the stations from metro personnel or from touch screen terminals. You can pay with credit card or with local currency. For more information, please consult: http://www.metrorex.ro/first_page_p1352-2
- iii. Rent-a-car. Several local and international car rental companies function in Romania, with prices starting at 20 Euros per day.
- iv. Uber. In Bucharest Uber is highly used, it is safe and at a reasonable price.

VI. Visa Requirements

13. A passport is required for traveling to Romania. Travellers are urged to seek information on visa requirements for their nationality prior to travel. Please check and confirm requirements on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://evisa.mae.ro/home>

14. Conditions that should be met in order to be allowed entry to Romania, including the use of a Schengen visa, can be consulted at: <http://www.mae.ro/en/node/30320> (Further details can be found in Annex II)

15. Citizens of the European Union (EU) or the European Economic Area (EEA) may enter Romania at any border checkpoint where they must present a valid identity document – passport or other identity document acknowledged by the Romanian authorities.

16. EU/EEA citizens may enter and stay in Romania in keeping with the right of free movement and residence granted under the Romanian legislation, according to European provisions. For a stay in Romania longer than 90 days, a registration certificate must be obtained from the Romanian Immigration Office.

17. Citizens of other states (states not in the EU/EEA) must have an entry visa to enter Romania.

18. To apply for an appropriate entry visa to Romania, participants are required to contact their respective Romanian Embassy/Consulate-General for accurate information regarding visa application procedures and required documents.

19. Participants who apply for a visa outside their country of residence or who reside in a country where there is no Romanian Embassy/Consulate/Consulate General should check for the location(s) where it is possible to apply for a Romanian visa. Please note that certain nationalities, for security reasons, are not allowed to apply for a visa except at the Romanian Embassy/Consulate-General which has jurisdiction over the concerned territory. Please also consult <http://evisa.mae.ro/NeedVisa> to see specific requirements. Please note that applicants must possess a valid passport of at least six months and must be in possession of a valid return ticket with date of departure within 15 days of the date of entry.

VII. Accommodation

20. Participants are advised to book well in advance and should consider staying in a hotel within walking distance from the Conference Center Romexpo to avoid traffic and help reduce CO₂ footprints.

21. The following list provides hotels at walking distance from the Conference Center Romexpo. Information on additional hotels is provided in Annex I.

Name of the hotel	Address	Website
Pullman Bucharest World Trade Center	10 Montreal Piața, Bucharest	Pullman Bucharest - Guest Reservations
Crowne Plaza Bucharest	Bulevardul Poligrafiei 1, Bucharest	(cpbucharest.ro)
Ramada by Wyndham Bucharest Parc	Strada Parcului, Bucharest	(wyndhamhotels.com)
Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Bucharest Convention Center	Strada Parcului, Bucharest	(wyndhamhotels.com)
Monte Carlo Palace Suites	Strada Băiculești 29, Bucharest	https://monte-carlo-palace-apart-hotel-bucharest.hotelmix.ro/
Complex Herăstrău	Șoseaua Nordului 7- 9, Bucharest	www.herastrau.ro/ro/
Arc de Triomphe Hotel	Strada Clucerului 19, Bucharest	www.hotelarcdetriomphe.ro/
Lagom Hotel	Strada Maior Câmpeanu Alexandru 8A, Bucharest	www.lagom-hotel.ro/

22. Rooms are available to participants on a first-come, first-serve basis. Hotels should be notified of any cancellations, postponements, or other changes at least 48 hours in advance.

23. All participants are responsible for paying their own hotel accommodation.

24. Before departure from Bucharest, participants should settle directly with the respective hotels all accounts, including room charges and other expenses, such as for local and long-distance telephone calls, Internet use, laundry, room and hotel transportation services, mini-bar items, as well as restaurant and bar services.

VII. Financial & administrative arrangements including Daily subsistence allowance (DSA) (only if applicable)

25. Participants whose travel is sponsored by UNEP, will be provided with a daily subsistence allowance (DSA) at prevailing United Nations rates. In order to facilitate the payment of the

subsistence allowance, eligible participants are requested to submit copies of their passport and boarding pass(es) to the SAICM secretariat.

26. Any participant unable to stay for the entire duration of the meeting are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible after arrival, so that the subsistence allowance may be adjusted accordingly.

27. In cases where participation costs are borne by the UNEP, UNEP will provide only travel and DSA as expressed and will not assume responsibility for any other expenditures, including the following:

- (i) All expenses in the home country incidental to travel abroad, including expenditure for visa, medical examination, inoculations and other such miscellaneous items and internal travel to and from the airport of arrival and departure in the home country.
- (ii) Salary and related allowances for the participants during the period of the meeting.
- (iii) Costs incurred by participants in respect of travel insurance, accident insurance, medical bills, or hospitalization fees in connection with attending the meeting.
- (iv) Compensation in the event of death or disability of participants in connection with attending the meeting.
- (v) Any loss of or damage to personal property of participants while attending the meeting or losses or damages claimed by third parties as a result of any negligence on the part of the participants.
- (vi) Any other expenses of a personal nature, not directly related to the purpose of the meeting.

28. DSA for this meeting will be provided through cash cards. These cards are rechargeable multiple times within their validity written below the card number. Funded participants are, therefore, advised to keep the cash card in safe custody for future use. Should a funded participant already have a cash card issued in USD, please inform the SAICM Secretariat by giving the number of the cash card already in your possession and bring it with you to receive your DSA payment. The cash card number must correspond to a card issued in USD in order for it to be usable. These cash cards should be kept away from smart phones to avoid any damage to the magnetic tape.

VIII. Harassment free Meeting

29. The organizations of the United Nations system are committed to enabling events at which everyone can participate in an inclusive, respectful, and safe environment. UN system events are guided by the highest ethical and professional standards, and all participants are expected to behave with integrity and respect towards all participants attending or involved with any UN system event.

30. Prohibited conduct includes:

- (a) Harassment: any improper or unwelcome conduct that might be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another person. Harassment in any form because of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, physical appearance, ethnicity, race, national origin, political affiliation, age, religion, or any other reason is prohibited.
- (b) Sexual harassment: any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation. Sexual harassment may involve any conduct of a verbal, nonverbal or physical nature, including written and electronic communications, and may occur between persons of the same or different genders

31. Further information on the Code of Conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN system events may be consulted at:

<https://www.un.org/en/content/codeofconduct/>

IX. Travel Advisory

32. Overall security risk in Romania is low. Crimes, such as robbery, mugging, pickpocketing, credit card and internet fraud, and confidence tricks, games or schemes remain among the most common crimes affecting foreigners in Romania.

33. Travelers should be aware that while major streets in larger cities and major inter-city roads in Romania are generally in fair to good condition, many secondary roads are poorly maintained, unpaved, badly lighted, narrow, and lacking marked lanes, and therefore should be avoided.

X. Personal Security Advice

34. *Crime*: While most crimes in Romania are non-violent and non-confrontational, crimes do occur where individuals may be injured. Reports of sexual assault are uncommon; however, to be safe, please be vigilant, especially at night. Crimes against tourists/foreigners, such as robbery, mugging, pick pocketing, and confidence tricks, games or schemes remain a problem. Organized groups of thieves and pickpockets, sometimes including minors, operate in train stations and on trains, subways, and buses. Credit card and Internet fraud remain among the most common crimes affecting foreigners in Romania. Try to use ATMs located inside banks and check for any evidence of tampering with the machine before use. While an increasing number of businesses accept credit cards, you may wish to use cash for goods and services rendered due to the risk of credit card fraud.

35. *Civil unrest*: Prior police consent is required for public demonstrations. Occurrences of strikes and public demonstrations in Romania may take place, especially in Bucharest. To date, protests have remained peaceful; however, even demonstrations that are meant to be peaceful may become violent and unpredictable. Meeting participants should avoid any potential protest encountered if at all possible. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and pay attention to the local news media to stay informed.

36. *Traffic*: Traffic accidents are arguably the single most dangerous threat in Romania.
37. *Natural disasters*: Romania is situated in a seismically active region and has a history of devastating earthquakes, with the greatest risk in Bucharest. Mountainous areas of the country can be subject to torrential rains and flash floods, especially in the spring and summer months. Winter storms are severe and icy streets and sidewalks may be hazardous. While responsibility for caring for disaster victims, including foreigners, rests with Romanian authorities, disaster preparedness is also a personal responsibility.

XI. Foreign currency declaration and other currency issues

38. The official Romanian currency is the New Romanian Leu (RON), with its subdivision “ban”; for sums higher than 1 leu, the plural “lei” is used. The equivalent of 1 Leu (RON) is: 1 Leu = 0.21 € and 1 Leu = 0.23 US\$. Please keep in mind that the exchange rates vary on a daily basis so for more information go to <https://www.bnr.ro/Exchange-rates-1224.aspx> . Foreign currencies may be exchanged at banks or authorized exchange offices (called “casa de schimb valutar”). International airports and larger hotels also offer currency exchange services. International financial systems, such as Visa and Mastercard, are widely used. Most stores accept contactless cards or NFC payments. Cash exchange offices usually do not charge a commission or fee. ATM machines are available at main banks and at airports and shopping centres. Some ATMs allow the withdrawal of foreign currency.

39. Persons travelling to Romania must declare and present to the customs authorities the goods in their possession and their personal luggage. Goods may be declared in writing and verbally. Goods that are to be marketed are subject to the customs regime. For personal goods no customs duties are levied.

40. For further details visit the websites of:

- National Customs Authority - <http://www.customs.ro/en/>
- Romania Police Border - <https://www.politiadefrontiera.ro/en/main/home.html>

41. In Romania all types of credit cards that are valid in the European Union are accepted. Credit cards may be used at retailers or service providers where signs indicate the cards accepted, and at any ATM. ATMs dispense Lei, the national currency.

42. Any person who brings or takes an aggregate amount of foreign currency exceeding US\$12.000/10.000 € or its equivalent into local currency, shall declare the amount of currency to a Customs Official. Failure to make such a declaration or making any false declaration to a Customs official is considered a criminal offence.

43. Currency exchange facilities are available at hotels throughout Bucharest. Bank hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with no lunch break, from Monday to Friday.

XII. Health and Vaccination

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, P.O. Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Geneva office: International Environment House
11-13 Chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
saicm.chemicals@un.org www.unep.org

44. Health and travel insurances are accepted in medical facilities in Romania, provided payment is confirmed first by the foreign insurance company. Insurance companies in Romaniasell health insurances for the duration of the stay in the territory of the Romanian State. For further info please visit the website of the National Health Insurance House - <http://www.cnas.ro/default/index/index/lang/EN>

45. Participants are strongly encouraged to subscribe to a travel or health insurance plan which is valid in Romania, in order to cover any medical bills or hospitalization fees incurred.

46. Health emergencies - many pharmacies in Bucharest have late working hours, until 8 or 9 p.m.

47. Addresses of the main hospitals in Bucharest:

- a. The Emergency University Hospital: Splaiul Independenței nr.169, Tel: +40 21 / 318.0523
- b. The Floreasca Emergency Hospital: Calea Floreasca nr.8, Tel: +40 21 / 599.2300

XIII. Electricity

48. The electric power in Romania is 220V running at 50Hz and the power sockets are of type F (Figure 3). Delegates are strongly encouraged to carry their own adapters for use with laptops and other electrical appliances as neither the **SAICM secretariat** nor the **Host Government** will be able to provide these. In case of need, adapters may be purchased from shops in the city dealing in electronic and electrical items.

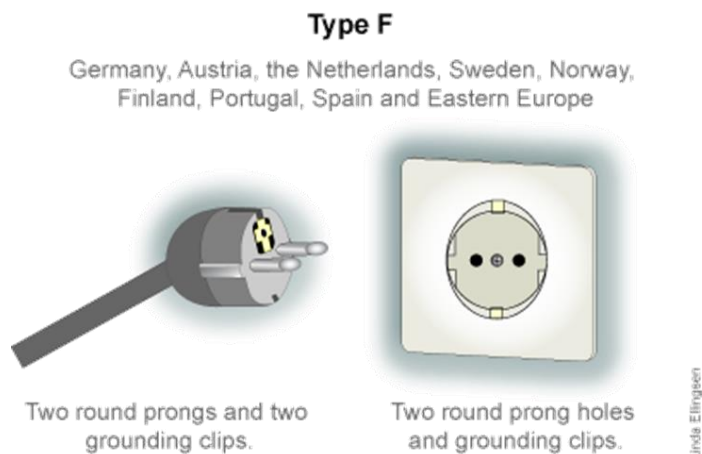


Figure 3: Power sockets type F

XIV. Catering Services

49. Catering services are available at the meeting venue.

50. This event intends to be paper smart and as green as possible. It is therefore encouraged that all participants generate as little waste as possible, including unnecessary paper and plastic.

XV. Other Facilities Available

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, P.O. Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Geneva office: International Environment House
 11-13 Chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
saicm.chemicals@un.org. www.unep.org

51. Banking services are available inside the location. One bank and various ATMs are available. Also, other banks are available close to the meeting venue.

52. Prayer and meditation rooms may be found in the premises of the meeting venue.

XVI. Internet Services

53. Romania has one of the fastest internet connections in the world. Nearly every hotel, bar or public place provides free Wi-Fi. 4G is available mostly everywhere, except very remote areas.

54. Free wireless internet access is available in all conference and meeting rooms. No password is required.

XVII. Gender Related Issues

55. In Romania, the issue of equal opportunities is regulated by a special law, Law 229/2015 for amending and completing Law no. 202 of 2002 on equal opportunities and treatment between women and men. In addition to the general provisions, the law presents the areas in which the measures are applied to promote equal opportunities and treatment between women and men and to eliminate all forms of discrimination based on gender. These areas are work, education, health, culture, politics, decision-making and other areas regulated by special laws. According to Eurostat, the salary difference between women and men in Romania is 3.5%, by far the lowest gap in the member states of the European Union.

XVIII. Time Zone

56. Romania follows the Greenwich Mean Time, (GMT; UTC +02:00), one hour ahead of Paris/Geneva.

XIX. Weather

57. August is a moderately hot month in Bucharest, Romania, with average temperature varying between 15°C (59°F) and 28.5°C (83.3°F).

XX. Safety and Security

58. Unique emergency telephone number for Ambulance Services, Police and Fire Brigade is 112.

59. Useful Phone Numbers:

- Prefix for Romania: +40 - for further info go to:
www.tourismguide.ro/x/prefixe
- Border Police – Info Line 021.9590 - for further info go to:
<http://www.politiadefrontiera.ro/en/main/home.html>
- Bucharest Otopeni Airport – for further info go to:
<http://www.bucharestairports.ro/en/>;

- Bucharest Băneasa Airport – for further info go to:
<http://www.bucharestairports.ro/baneasa/en/>;
- Railways Information (Bucharest) – for further info go to:
<https://www.cfrcalatori.ro/en/>;

60. For more information you can also access the following websites:

- Ministry of Internal Affairs:
<https://www.mai.gov.ro/en/>
- Ministry of Health:
<http://www.ms.gov.ro/>
- General Inspectorate for Immigration (ORI):
<http://igi.mai.gov.ro/en>
- General Inspectorate of the Romanian Border Police:
<https://www.politiadefrontiera.ro/en/main/home.html>
- National Customs Authority:
<http://www.customs.ro/en/>
- Single National Emergency Calls System:
<https://www.sts.ro/en/112-emergency-call-service>
- Mobile Emergency, Resuscitation and Extrication Service (SMURD):
<http://www.smurd.ro/>

Annex I - List of hotels

List of additional hotels in Bucharest:

Name of the hotel	Address	Website
Hotel IBIS București Palatul Parlamentului	Str. Izvor, Nr. 82-84, sector 5, Bucharest	https://ibis-palatul-parlamentului-hotel-bucharest.hotelmix.ro/
Hotel PARLIAMENT	Strada Izvor 106, București Bucharest	Parliament Hotel Bucharest (parliament-hotel.ro)
Hotel VENEZIA	Str. Pompiliu Eliade, Nr. 2, Sector 1, Bucharest	http://www.hotelvenezia.ro/
Hotel CIȘMIGIU	Bulevardul Regina Elisabeta nr.38, Bucharest	https://www.hotelcismigiu.ro/en/
Hotel CAPITOL	Calea Victoriei nr.29, Bucharest	https://hotelcapitol.ro/en/
Hotel RAMADA MAJESTIC	Calea Victoriei nr.38-40, Bucharest	https://www.ramadamajestic.ro/en/en-home/
Hotel NOVOTEL	Calea Victoriei nr.37B, Bucharest	Hotel in Bucharest - Novotel Bucharest City Centre - ALL (accor.com)
Hotel INTERCONTINENTAL	Bulevardul Nicolae Bălcescu nr.4, Bucharest	https://intercontinentalbucharest.h-rez.com/contact.htm
Grand Hotel CONTINENTAL	Calea Victoriei nr.56, Bucharest	https://grand-hotel-continental-bucuresti.continentalhotels.ro/en
Hotel TRIANON	Strada Grigore Cobălcescu nr.9, Bucharest	http://www.hoteltrianon.ro/en/
Hotel HILTON GARDEN INN Bucharest OLD TOWN	Strada Doamnei nr.12, Bucharest	https://www.hiltonhotels.com/ro_ROMANIA/hilton-garden-inn-bucharest-old-town/
Hotel ATHENE PALACE HILTON Bucharest	Strada Episcopiei nr.1-3, Bucharest	Bucharest Hotels & Event Venues Athenee Palace Hilton Bucharest
JW MARIOT Bucharest GRAND HOTEL	Calea 13 Septembrie nr.90, Bucharest	https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/buhro-jw-marriott-bucharest-grand-hotel/overview/
PRINCE REZIDENCE Hotel	Strada Principatele Unite nr.42, Bucharest	https://www.princeresidence.ro/
Hotel GRAND PIER BOUTIQUE	Corp C, Calea Șerban Vodă NR.22-24, Bucharest	https://grandpierboutique.ro/
Hotel MERCURE Bucharest UNIRII	28th, Bulevardul Mircea Vodă, Bucharest	https://www.rinhotels.ro/rin-central-hotel/
Hotel CENTRAL	Strada Ion Brezoianu nr.13, Bucharest	http://www.centralhotel.ro/

Annex II – Information on Visa requirements

The following information is provided at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs [website](#) (accessed on 20 July 2022):

- The list of countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when traveling to Romania can be found [here](#).
- The list of countries whose nationals are exempted from the Romanian visa requirement can be found [here](#).
- List of third states whose nationals, holders of diplomatic, service/official and special passports are exempt from the visa requirement in order to enter Romania can be found [here](#).
- Categories of third-state nationals also exempt from the requirement to be in possession of a Romanian short-stay visa are:
 - *Holders of biometric passports*, nationals of the following states:
 - the Republic of Moldova;
 - the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
 - the Republic of Serbia, except for the passports issued by the Serbian Coordination Division (in Serbian: Koordinaciona uprava);
 - the Republic of Montenegro (the non-biometric passports issued by this state are no longer valid);
 - the Georgia
 - the Ukraine
 - *Holders of Schengen visas with two or multiple entries, national visas or residence permits issued by Schengen Member States.*

Starting July 11, 2014, in keeping with the provisions of Decision No 565/2014/EU, Romania acknowledges as being equivalent to its own national visas, for transit and for stays up to 90 days per period of 180 days the following:

 - The two or multiple entry short-stay visa issued by a Schengen member state;
 - The limited territorial validity visa issued by a Schengen member state;
 - The short-stay visa issued by Bulgaria, Cyprus or Croatia;
 - The long-stay visa issued by a Schengen member state;
 - The long-stay visa issued by Bulgaria, Cyprus or Croatia;
 - The residence permit issued by a Schengen member state;
 - The residence permit issued by Bulgaria, Cyprus or Croatia
 - The long-term resident's EC residence permit (the validity of which is of 5 years or more) issued by a member state of the European Union.