# Table of contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviations and acronyms</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction – General Context</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Overview of the Belgian institutional structure</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Overview of diplomatic presence in Belgium</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Accreditation, Commencement of Functions and Termination of Functions of a Diplomatic Agent</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Agrément for the head of mission</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Appointment of other diplomatic agents</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Multiple or joint accreditation</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Notification of appointment and arrival</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Passport and visa</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Presentation of credentials and commencement of functions</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Order of precedence</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Identity card and proof of diplomatic status</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Private residence</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Absence of the head of mission</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Termination of functions and departure</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Mission to the European Union</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II Relations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other Belgian Authorities and the Belgian Public</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs as preferred point of contact</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Internal organisation of the Protocol Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Use of languages in relations with the authorities and the Belgian public</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III The Premises of the Diplomatic Mission</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Definition</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Acquisition</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Inviolability and protection</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Flag and emblem</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Asylum and refuge</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Elections 52
7. Taxation 52
8. Tenant disputes 52
9. Mission to the European Union 53

IV Other Property of the Diplomatic Mission 55
1. Property on the premises of the mission and means of transport of the mission 55
2. Archives and documents 55
3. Bank accounts 55
4. Mission to the European Union 58

V The Communications of the Diplomatic Mission 59
1. General principle 59
2. Radio transmitters and antennae 60
3. Official correspondence 61
4. Diplomatic bag 61
5. Freedom of movement and travel 63
6. Mission to the European Union 63

VI The Private Residence of the Diplomatic Agent 65
1. Administrative formalities 65
2. Inviolability and protection 65
3. Flag and emblem 66
4. Taxation 66
5. Tenant disputes 66
6. Mission to the European Union 67

VII Inviolability and Immunities of the Diplomatic Agent 69
1. Inviolability of the person 70
2. Immunity from jurisdiction 71
3. Immunity from execution 78
4. Mission to the European Union 79

VIII Customs Exemptions 81
1. Exemptions for the diplomatic mission 81
2. Exemptions for the diplomatic agent 83
3. Mission to the European Union 84

IX Tax Exemptions 85
1. Exemptions for the diplomatic mission 85
2. Exemptions for the diplomatic agent 90
3. Mission to the European Union 93
# Table of contents

## X The Family of the Diplomatic Agent
1. Administrative formalities and identity cards 95
2. Privileges and immunities 100
3. Practise of an activity for personal profit 102
4. Invitations for short stay in Belgium 105
5. Mission to the European Union 106

## XI Members of the Administrative and Technical Staff of the Mission
1. Belgian nationals and permanent residents in Belgium 109
2. Appointment 111
3. Administrative formalities and identity cards 111
4. Private residence 112
5. Inviolability and immunities 113
6. Tax and customs exemptions 113
7. Social security 114
8. Employment law disputes with the sending State 115
9. Mission to the European Union 120

## XII Members of the Service Staff of the Mission
1. Belgian nationals and permanent residents in Belgium 123
2. Appointment 124
3. Administrative formalities and identity cards 124
4. Private residence 126
5. Inviolability and immunities 126
6. Tax and customs exemptions 126
7. Social security 126
8. Employment law disputes with the sending State 127
9. Mission to the European Union 127

## XIII Private Domestic Employees
1. Belgian nationals and permanent residents in Belgium 129
2. Recruitment and employment contract 130
3. Administrative formalities and identity cards 132
4. Private residence 133
5. Inviolability and immunities 133
6. Tax and customs exemptions 133
7. Social security 133
8. Employment law disputes with the employer 134
9. Mission to the European Union 136

## XIV Motor Vehicles
1. Acquisition and registration 137
2. Taxation 138
3. Inviolability 138
4. Flag and emblem 138
5. Respect for road traffic rules and offences 139
6. Parking spaces 142
7. Mission to the European Union 143

XV Firearms 145

Annexes 147
Annex I. Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 149
Annex II. Chronological Table of the Circular Notes of the Protocol Directorate 163

Thematic Index 165