



# Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy

## Lisbon, Portugal

MARCH 2008  
E-NEWSLETTER  
FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

### Notice

The Consular Section will be closed March 14 (internal meetings) and March 21 (Good Friday).

#### U.S. Embassy Lisbon

Av. das Forcas Armadas,  
Sete-Rios  
1600-081 Lisbon  
Tel: 21-727-3300

American Citizen Services  
Hours: Monday to Friday  
8 am—12 pm, 1:30—4 pm  
Tel: 21-727-2122  
E-mail: Conslisbon@state.gov

For emergencies concerning an American citizen, please call 21-727-3300. This line is answered 24 hours.

#### U.S. Consulate Ponta Delgada

Av. Principe do Monaco  
No. 6-2 F  
9500-237 Ponta Delgada  
Azores  
Tel: 296-282-216

American Citizen Services  
Hours: Monday to Friday  
9 am—12:30 pm, 1:30—5 pm  
E-mail:

#### U.S. Consular Agency Funchal

Rua da Alfandega, No. 10  
2nd Floor, Rooms A & B  
9000-059 Funchal  
Tel: 291-235-636

American Citizen Services  
Hours: Monday to Friday  
9 am—1 pm



## Welcome to our New Consul General

Last fall, Eugene Sweeney replaced Brian Oberle as Consul General for U.S. Embassy Lisbon. Mr. Oberle retired from the Foreign Service on Nov. 30, 2007.



Born and raised in Brockton, Massachusetts, Mr. Sweeney joined the US State Department's Foreign Service in 1983 shortly after getting his Bachelor's from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and Master's from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, both degrees in International Relations.

He has served with the State Department overseas in Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Italy, Israel and Kuwait, in addition to several Washington assignments. His most recent assignment prior to becoming Consul General in Lisbon was as Deputy Chief of Mission in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Sweeney looks forward to serving in Portugal for the next three years.

## Consular Officers to Visit Porto

On March 12, consular officers from the U.S. Embassy will visit Porto to provide consular services such as: renewing passports; registering births of U.S. citizens; notarizing documents for use in the U.S.; and registering citizens to vote in the U.S. Elections.

The consular staff will be available at the Douro Queen (a Douro Azul boat), docked at Cais de Gaia from 2 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday. Parking is available. We recommend that you make an appointment beforehand by calling the Consular Section at 21-727-2411 or 21-727-2416. We will be able to better assist you with the documents and fees needed.

For a listing of the current fees, please refer to the last page of this newsletter.

The consular staff will not be able to accept credit cards or provide change so please bring exact change, either in dollars or euros. You may also pay with a Portuguese postal money order.

We look forward to serving you in Porto.





## Are you registered to vote in the U.S. Elections?

The 2008 Presidential Election is quickly approaching. The Consular Section can assist you in registering to vote, updating your absentee voter status, and in answering any voter-related questions.

Under federal law, all U.S. citizens 18 years or older who are or will be residing outside the U.S. during an election period are eligible to vote absentee in any election for Federal office.

You may use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) form to register to vote, update your voting registration status, and request an absentee ballot. To download a copy of the FPCA or to find out more information about voting in federal elections, you may visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at: [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

You may also contact the American Citizen Services Unit for information and assistance by e-mail at: [VoteLisbon@state.gov](mailto:VoteLisbon@state.gov) or phone at: 21-770-2499.

The consular staff is available to hold voter registration drives in your community so please let us know if you are interested in a visit.

The General Election is November 4, 2008!

## U.S. TAX SEASON IS HERE

### VOLUNTEER TAX ASSISTANTS AT THE EMBASSY STARTING MARCH 6

Starting March 6, tax volunteers will be available every Thursday in the Consular Section to provide free help to citizens and Legal Permanent Residents with their tax forms.

The volunteers are trained by the Internal Revenue Service's program known as "VECTA" (Volunteer Embassy Consulate Tax Assistance). They can provide information on tax law and how to prepare basic tax returns for retirees and wage-earners making under \$35,000 annually. The volunteers will assist up to 30 people each Thursday, 15 in the morning (8:30 to noon) and 15 in the afternoon (1:30–4 p.m.). Appointments may be requested by e-mail at: [conslisbon@state.gov](mailto:conslisbon@state.gov), or phone at: 21-727-2499 or 21-770-2411.

**Note:** The IRS homepage, [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), provides useful information for taxpayers. In particular, the IRS Publication 54, *Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad* is a valuable resource for anyone living overseas or with income from a foreign source.

## Changes to Passport Fees and Regulations

Effective Feb. 1, 2008, new regulations extend the two-parent consent and personal appearance requirements to all minors under the age of 16. U.S. citizen minors under the age of 16 applying for a passport must appear personally **with their parents** to establish identity, proof of citizenship and proof of relationship. For parental application permission, both parents must appear together and sign, or one parent may appear to sign and submit the other parent's notarized statement, or one parent may appear, sign, and submit primary evidence of sole authority.

Passport fees also increased slightly. For adult applicants renewing a passport, the total fee will increase to \$75. For first-time applicants age 16 and over, the total fee will increase to \$100. The fee for minors under 16 years of age will be \$85.



PHONE LINE

Call the American Citizen Services Phone Line at anytime for more information about our services.

21-727-2122

## Get the latest information about “Bird Flu”

The best safeguard for your health and safety in the event of an avian influenza pandemic is information and preparation.

The U.S. Government and international health agencies are advising Americans living, working and/or traveling overseas on how best to prepare if there is an outbreak in your country. For a Fact sheet, a list of frequently asked questions, and the latest guidance for travelers, please visit: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health\\_1181.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health_1181.html)

## Register with the Embassy!

Please be sure to register your stay in Portugal — long or short — with the U.S. Embassy.

Registration at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the country you are visiting makes your presence and whereabouts known, in case it is necessary for a consular officer to contact you in an emergency. It also allows you to provide us with information regarding persons to contact in case of an emergency.

Any data you provide may be accessed only by State Department personnel and is released to others only with your express permission, pursuant to the provisions of the Privacy Act.

You may register your trip online at the following website: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

If you have already registered and your contact details have changed, please notify us by e-mail at: [conslisbon@state.gov](mailto:conslisbon@state.gov) and we will update your record.

You may also “de-register” your visit at the same site: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> when you leave a country permanently.

## Consular Fees

<b>Passport</b>	Adult Renewal	54.00 €	\$75.00
	Minor Renewal	61.00 €	\$85.00
	Before 16 years old	72.00 €	\$100.00
	Lost/Stolen	72.00 €	\$100.00
<b>Report of Birth Package</b>		108.00 €	\$150.00
<b>Consular Certificate</b>		22.00 €	\$30.00
<b>Notaries</b>	1st document	22.00 €	\$30.00
	2nd Document on	14.00 €	\$20.00