

Statement from the Office of H.E. the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs

Today, during a meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Portuguese Communities Committee of the Portuguese Parliament, the Minister of Foreign Affairs was questioned by a Committee member about the reasons for the suspension of the activities of the Consular Section of the Portuguese Embassy in Tehran. The Minister replied by confirming the suspension, for security reasons, which he stated could not identify publicly. In order to ensure that there are no misinterpretations, it is important to clarify the following:

- a) The aforementioned security reasons are related to the working conditions of the Consular Section, that are being identified and corrected and that, once this process is concluded, will allow the resumption of its operations as soon as possible;
- b) The suspension of the activities of the Consular Section includes all activities, not only those specifically related to the issuing of visas for Iranian citizens (or for other countries covered by the Embassy) traveling to Portugal;
- (c) The suspension is a precautionary measure taken by the Portuguese authorities to improve the security of its Consular Section and does not result from an assessment of the general security conditions in the Republic of Iran or from any other institutional or political reasons;
- (d) The suspension is temporary and, for its duration, alternative measures will be sought to issue the documents necessary for the movement of people.

Lisbon, 16th July 2019

(Courtesy translation)