



Kurzinformation

Honorary consuls of the Federal Republic of Germany

Honorary consuls are part of Germany's diplomatic network. As of 2024, there are about 350 honorary consuls all over the world. The Law on Consular Officers, their functions and powers ([Gesetz über die Konsularbeamten, ihre Aufgaben und Befugnisse](#) (Konsulargesetz, KonsG)) of 1974 forms the legal basis of their service. Unlike career diplomats, honorary consuls do not need to be German citizens.

Honorary consuls are honorary public servants, meaning that they perform their duties without any remuneration. It is partly for this reason that honorary consuls are usually economically successful, locally well-connected persons who can provide the basic practical requirements for honorary consular services (such as office space), by themselves. Hardware and software necessary to perform certain services are provided by the Foreign Office, but these services are not offered by all honorary consulates. For example, not every honorary consulate offers the issuing or extension of a passport to German citizens who are resident in the area. Therefore, the secure hardware and software necessary for these services is not provided and the honorary consul is primarily charged with representing Germany on a local level and providing emergency support to German and EU citizens.

Certain consular services (e.g., registering and forwarding the request of a German national to be issued a passport) require the payment of a fee. Should the fees not be sufficient to cover the honorary consul's expenses for rendering the specific service, he or she can be paid a lump sum by the Foreign Office (KonsG §25a (2)). Should an honorary consul incur extraordinary, objectively necessary costs in the course of performing his or her duties, he or she can be recompensed (KonsG §25a (3)). For example, if a German citizen needs emergency funds after being the victim of a robbery, any financial aid given by the honorary consul will be reimbursed by the Foreign Office.
