

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Decree-Law nº 28/2000

of the 13th March

One of the objectives of the XIV Constitutional Government Programme consists in introducing mechanisms to simplify acts of certification, by accepting alternative methods of assigning the probative value to documents.

The fast pace of modern life requires innovative solutions to be found to resolve the problem of accessing services which certify photocopies as well as providing such services quickly.

Therefore, within this framework, the authority to certify photocopies is hereby granted to entities which fulfill the requirements to allow individuals to easily access this service, for it to be provided quickly, notwithstanding the assurance of the accuracy and exactness of the acts performed.

The organisations which represent the employees from registrars and notary offices were consulted, as well as entities which represent professional associations for consumers, chambers of commerce and industry, which support the Action Protocol signed with the Government with the aim of simplifying and reducing the bureaucracy involved in performing notary services.

Therefore:

Pursuant to Article 198 (1) a) of the Constitution, the Government hereby decrees, as General Law of the Republic, the following:

Article 1

1—The conformity of photocopies may be certified providing the original documents are presented for such purpose to parish councils and the national post office body CTT – Correios de Portugal, S.A.

2—The aforementioned entities may extract photocopies from the originals submitted to them for certification.

3—If they wish, chambers' of commerce of industries recognised pursuant to Decree-Law 244/92 of the 29th December, lawyers and solicitors may also perform the acts listed above.

4—In undertaking the powers foreseen above, the following must be printed or written on the document: the declaration of conformity with the original, place and date of where the act takes place and the name of the person

certifying the document, as well as the professional stamp or any other identifying mark of the entity which provides certification
5—Photocopies certified in accordance with the previous paragraphs have the same probative value as the originals.

Article 2

1—The entities mentioned in the previous Article stipulate the price to be charged for the certification of photocopies, however, as it constitutes revenue, it cannot exceed the price set on the list in force at notary offices.

2—Where customer service is provided, the price list for the extraction of photocopies and certification of photocopies must be affixed in a clearly visible place.

Article 3

This law enters into force on 1st May 2000.

Seen and approved by the Council of Ministers of 21st January 2000. —*António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres— Fernando Manuel dos Santos Gomes—Joaquim Augusto Nunes Pina Moura—Joaquim Augusto Nunes Pina Moura— António Luís Santos Costa—Alberto de Sousa Martins.*

Promulgated on 28th February 2000.

Let it be published.

The President of the Republic, JORGE SAMPAIO.

Approved on 2nd March 2000.

The Prime Minister, *António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres.*