



EUROPEAN COMMISSION CONSULTATION ON “EU SOCIAL SECURITY COORDINATION”

On 17 July 2015, the Commission launched a public consultation open to all individuals and organisations that will run until **7th October 2015**. The main goal of this exercise is to gather views to better ensure the free movement of workers by improving EU rules to coordinate social security systems to counteract potential abuse or fraud.

Background

This consultation is part of the '*Labour Mobility Package*' which was announced in the Commission work programme 2015 (see in this regard, the Secretariat note of 14th January 2015). Indeed, the Commission aims to foster labour mobility (particularly in cases of long-term vacancies and skills mismatches) including across borders and to support the role of national authorities in fighting abuses and frauds.

Context

The first EU social security coordination rules were adopted in 1958. Since then, they were updated many times and their scope enlarged to include more social security benefits and more groups of mobile persons, including family members of workers and inactive persons. Today, the Commission is considering another update in order to ensure that the social security coordination rules respond to social, economic and political developments in EU countries.

The "EU social security coordination" provides rules to protect the rights of people moving within the EU, to ensure they do not lose their social security protection when moving to another EU country. Every social security system is different, for instance as regards the benefits that shall be provided, the conditions of eligibility, how these benefits are calculated and how much contributions should be paid. EU law, especially Regulations (EC) Nos 883/2004 and 987/2009 set out common rules and principles to coordinate social security rights acquired in diverse countries.

General overview of the Commission consultation

The document offers an overview of the main problems concerning the social security coordination in the EU. The Commission wishes to receive contributions on three different aspects of the “EU social security coordination”: **family benefits**, **unemployment benefits** and the rules on the **posting** of employed and self-employed workers. Stakeholders are invited to answer the 5 following questions:

- Are you aware of the European rules on cross-border payment of family benefits?
- Are you aware of the European rules on the aggregation of periods of insurance or (self-) employment for unemployment benefits?
- Are you aware of the European coordination rules on social security for posted employed and self-employed persons?
- Do you wish to raise other issue(s) regarding the cross-border coordination or payment of social security benefits?
- Do you have any comments in relation to this questionnaire and/or suggestions for future consultations on EU social security coordination rules?

Next steps

The outcomes of this consultation will contribute to the wider preparatory work for a possible revision of the EU rules on social security systems' coordination, namely the Regulations (EC) Nos 883/2004 and 987/2009. The Commission should then publish its '*Labour Mobility Package*' in December 2015.

Members will find herewith the Commission background document in English and German languages. EFCI Members who are interested to respond to the online consultation are kindly asked to forward their response to the Secretariat. The online questionnaire in all EU languages can be found here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=333&langId=en&consultId=16&visib=0&furtherConsult=yes>

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