



Making it easier to work and live anywhere in the EU

Simplified and modernised social security coordination rules for fair labour mobility

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#SocialSecurity

Social security supports and protects people in different social and economic situations, including:



sickness



invalidity



maternity/paternity



old-age



unemployment

The EU rules governing social security coordination, EU Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009, have been in place since 2010. These rules have now been revised to reflect changes in the labour market and national social security systems.

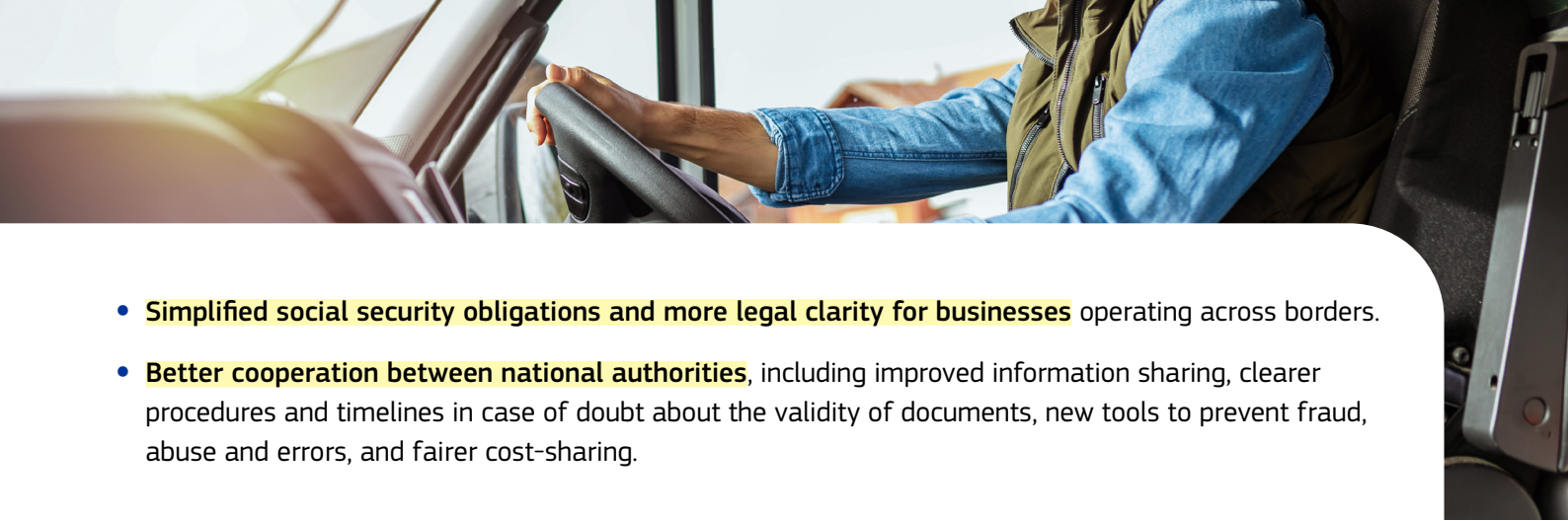
16 million

Europeans live or work in another EU country

Benefits of the new rules

The new rules simplify social security coordination for **everyone**: workers and others living abroad, businesses, and national administrations. They strengthen **fair labour mobility** and ensure **protection to workers**:

- **Stronger protection of social security rights** for people who work or live in another Member State, with coherent coordination of long-term care benefits, and new rules regarding family benefits. The rules also specify when Member States can limit access to social benefits for EU citizens who are neither working nor searching for a job.
- **Fairer labour mobility** with a new definition of fraud in social security coordination. Workers will have to be affiliated to social security in their home country for at least three months before being posted to another Member State. After 24 months of posting, there must be a break of at least two months before another posting. Postings must be notified before they happen, apart from business trips and short-term postings of a maximum of three days, in all sectors except the construction sector.
- **Better and fairer rules on unemployment benefits** and more time to seek work in another country while retaining the right to unemployment benefits.



- **Simplified social security obligations and more legal clarity for businesses** operating across borders.
- **Better cooperation between national authorities**, including improved information sharing, clearer procedures and timelines in case of doubt about the validity of documents, new tools to prevent fraud, abuse and errors, and fairer cost-sharing.

Key principles

- **One country only:** people are covered by the social security system of one country at a time and pay contribution in one country only.
- **Equal treatment:** people have the same rights and obligations as citizens of the country where they are covered.
- **Work and insurance history counts:** when people claim benefits, previous periods of insurance, work or residence in other countries are considered if necessary.
- **Receiving benefits abroad:** if people are entitled to a cash benefit, such as pensions or family benefits, they can generally also receive them even if they or their family live in another Member State.

Next steps

The new rules will come into effect after European Parliament and the Council of the European Union have formally adopted them and they have been published in the EU's official journal.

