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Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms

REPORT ON THE 1ST CLOSED SPEAKING DAYS BEWTEEN MONTENEGRO AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

9th December, Podgorica, Montenegro

On 9th December 2009, upon the initiative of the Montenegrin Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the first round of closed speaking days between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina has been organised.

The event was organised in the premises of the Montenegrin Fund for pension and disability insurance.

During the meeting, both delegations agreed that the main difficulties have arisen due to the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina concluded the existing bilateral agreement on social insurance with Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (while Serbia and Montenegro were still part of one state). A new bilateral agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro will need to be concluded, but, until that happens, the old agreement is still valid and is causing a number of difficulties in the practical implementation of its provisions.

Article 42 is the most problematic one in the agreement and it refers to re-calculation of pensions.

The main issues that were discussed during the meeting were the following:

- payment of the beneficiary claimants;

- fostering the procedure upon article 42 (it was concluded that departments responsible for dealing with calculation of pensions in both countries need to update the calculation procedure);

- data searching in cases when the insured person has realised his/hers working periods in Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia;

- calculation of family (survivors) pensions.

Emphasis has also been put on the need of speeding up the procedure for confirming the working period completed in one of the states signatures of the agreement, notably when the information is needed by one of the contracting parties as a pre-condition for acquiring the right to pension.

Delegations have informed each other about the changes in their national legislation within the pension area and they have exchanged data about contact persons in both countries that will act as focal points in solving complicated issues and cases.

Both delegations have admitted that this type of meeting should have been organised much earlier, and strongly emphasised that they appreciate a lot the assistance of the SSCSSR programme in organising this first round of speaking days. It was suggested by the representatives of both countries that the next meeting on the same subject

should be organised already at the beginning of 2010. The SSCSSR Programme has been asked to assist again in the organisational part of the event.

Annex I

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DRAFT LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SPEAKING DAYS ON SOCIAL SECURITY CO-ORDINATION

between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina

9th December 2009

MONTENEGRO

Mr. Veselin VUKĆEVIC
Senior Adviser
Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare

Ms Marija KLIKOVAC
Adviser
Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare

Ms Snežana LAZOVIC
Head of the external insurance
Fund for Pension and Disability Insurance

Mr Darko SMOLOVIC
Coordinator of the external insurance
Fund for Pension and Disability Insurance

Mr Goran Kujović
Senior Advisor for implementation of the insurance
Fund for Pension and Disability Insurance

Ms Darka DZABASAN
Independent Advisor II
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Department for appellate (secondary) administrative procedure

Ms Danijela VUKCEVIC
Independent Advisor II
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Department for appellate (secondary) administrative procedure

BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA

Ms Lidija MARKOTA
Head of Division for Social Protection and Pensions
Department of Labour, Employment, Social Protections and Pensions
Ministry of Civil Affairs

Ms Gordana VOJVODIC
Adviser to the Director for Foreign Insurance Affairs
Federal Institute for Pension and Disability Insurance

Ms Hajra IBRANOVIC
Adviser to the Director for Foreign Insurance Affairs
Federal Institute for Pension and Disability Insurance

Ms Milena CVORO
Assistant Director – East Sarajevo Office
Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of Republika Srpska

Ms Zehra NOVO_OMANOVIC
Assistant Minister
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy F BiH

SECRETARIAT

Council of Europe – DG III Social Cohesion

Mr Sixto MOLINA
Co-ordinator of Co-operation and Technical Assistance Programmes
Central Division
Directorate General III - Social Cohesion

Mr Alexander KOSTANYAN
Regional Programme Co-ordinator
Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms
Regional Programme Office

Ms Tanja KALOVSKA
Programe Officer
Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms
Regional Programme Office

Ms Tatjana KOSTOVSKA
Programme Officer
Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms
Regional Programme Office

Mr Ivica IVANOVIC
Local Programme Officer
ul. Skopska 60
81000 Podgorica

Annex II

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DARFT PROGRAMME

CLOSED SPEAKING DAYS ON SOCIAL SECURITY CO-ORDINATION

between Montenegro and Bosnia Hercegovina

9th December 2009

Fund for Pension and Disability Insurance of Montenegro
Bulevar Ivana Crnojevića 64
20000 Podgorica
Montenegro

Wednesday , 9th December 2009

09:00 12:00	**–**	**Speaking days – morning session**
12:00 14:00	**–**	**Lunch at hotel "City "**
14:00 17:00	**–**	**Speaking days – afternoon session**
20:00 22 :00	**–**	**Dinner at Hotel "City"**