

Social Security Co-ordination and Social Security Reforms

SSCSSR(2009)3SC3FINREP

3rd MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

5th June 2009

Hotel Sürmeli Efes, Kusadasi
Turkey

MEETING REPORT

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the draft agenda

Mr Halûk ŞAHİN opened the meeting with his welcoming speech. He welcomed the participants in Turkey and wished them a pleasant stay and to have a successful meeting. He also presented the progress of the SSCSSR Programme in Turkey, in the context of participation to the Summer Schools, Speaking Days and training events on pensions, health care and IT. While stressing the importance Turkey attaches to the Programme, he also presented some updated information regarding the social security reform in his country.

Ms Verena TAYLOR welcomed the participants on behalf of the Council of Europe. She also presented the overview of the recent developments in particular referring to the 1st Conference of Ministers responsible for social security, last meeting of the Steering Committee on Social Security (CS-SS) and new ratifications of relevant CoE legal instruments.

According to Article 7 of its Terms of Reference, the Committee appointed Ms Snježana BALOKOVIĆ to chair the meeting.

The draft (annotated) agenda of the meeting was adopted without discussion.

Ms Snježana BALOKOVIĆ greeted the representatives, Secretariat and Academic staff and informed the Committee about some changes in its composition. Mr Nenad RAKIĆ has been appointed as a representative from Serbia, and Ms Ana STIJEPOVIĆ has been appointed as a deputy representative from Montenegro. She also informed the Committee that Mr Aleksandar DINIĆ will be present at the meeting as *ad hoc* representative from Serbia.

2. Statement by the Secretariat

(a) Report of the 2nd meeting of the RSC

Mr Sixto MOLINA presented the draft report of the 2nd meeting of the Committee and opened the floor for discussion.

Mr Halûk ŞAHİN reiterated his previously made proposal on deleting all the reference to the Beneficiary Parties in article 3 of the draft related to the results of the 1st Regional Summer School on Social Security Coordination held in August-September 2008 in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina with a view to ensuring the consistency between the report and the “Evaluation of the Summer School” as the latter does not have such a reference. He stressed as well that detailed information of this kind should either take place either in the evaluation report of the event or in the report prepared for monitoring purpose.

Dr. Šerifa GODINJAK supported this proposal.

The Committee decided to amend the draft as proposed by the representative of Turkey and adopted the Report of the 2nd meeting of the Committee.

(b) Speaking Days

Mr Alexander KOSTANYAN informed the Committee about the Speaking Days implemented since its last meeting. 4 reports were presented in the working file and are available on the Programme’s web page. 2 rounds of Speaking Days have taken place between Serbia and Croatia

with total number of 404 personal cases. 1 round of Speaking Days between Bosnia and Herzegovina and “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” took place with 21 cases and 1 round of closed Speaking Days between Albania and Turkey was organised. All the meeting have been conducted in a very good and positive atmosphere. Besides the cases solved on the spot, the delegations highly appreciated the opportunity to meet and discuss all issues related to their activities, coordination, and bilateral agreements.

He informed the Committee that Speaking Days between Serbia and Montenegro originally planned to take place in June 2009 have been postponed due to the request from Serbia and it’s acceptance by Montenegro and the Secretariat.

He also informed the Committee about the proposal to organise additional Speaking Days between Serbia and “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” in Niš (Serbia) to make it available for those citizens residing in the area. The Secretariat will organise this activity in October 2009.

(c) Reports on meetings held by the Secretariat

Mr Sixto MOLINA informed the Committee about external organisations taking part in the activities of the Programme. The European Network of Agricultural Social Protection (ENASP), The High National School of Social Security and ILO have been present at the Summer Schools. The German government contributed to the High Level Meeting on Social Security Coordination to be held in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) later in June 2009. The Secretariat has discussed the possible cooperation on pension reforms with the Dutch Central Bank.

Mr Alexander KOSTANYAN informed the Committee about the meeting with the Pensions Education Center (PEC), a foundation established by Swiss experts on pension systems.

Mr Sixto MOLINA informed the Committee about the Information meeting with the representatives of the Permanent Representations of the Beneficiary Parties at the Council of Europe organised by the Secretariat in Strasbourg on 6 February 2009. He also referred to the visibility meetings organised in all the Beneficiary Parties except for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey.

Mr Pascal HERRY expressed the appreciation on behalf of the European Commission with regard to the visibility meetings organised by the Secretariat.

Dr. Šerifa GODINJAK informed the Committee about the National Working Group established in Bosnia and Herzegovina to follow the work of the SSCSSR.

3. Training Activities

(a) Pensions

Dr. Danny PIETERS presented some information about social security workshops organised within the Programme. He also presented the communication from the academic staff regarding the topics of the next seminar on pensions and invited the committee to take a position on a number of issues with this regard, in particular, to define the focus areas for the next seminar.

Mr Halûk ŞAHİN supported the proposal by Dr. Pieters and invited the pension seminar to take place in Turkey. He pointed out as well that the issue of “adverse impact of informal employment on pension entitlements and pension systems” should also be dealt with during the workshop.

Ms Irena RISTESKA, Dr. Šerifa GODINJAK and Mr Mentor Morina supported the topics proposed by Dr. Pieters as the most suitable for the Region.

The Committee discussed the proposal presented by Dr. Pieters and accepted it. The topic selected is: “*The tension between health care as a human right of all persons and the organisation of the coverage via social insurance*”.

(b) Summer School

Mr Sixto MOLINA presented the draft evaluation report of the Second Summer School on Social Security Coordination. After obtaining the results of the final examinations, the report will be finalised and published.

4. Communication from the European Commission

Mr Pascal HERRY expressed his satisfaction with the current state of the Programme implementation and informed the Committee about his meeting with the monitors. He emphasised the added value of the monitoring exercise. He also informed the Committee about the main principles and procedures of IPA funded national and regional programmes.

5. Communication from the ILO

Mr Kenichi HIROSE informed the Committee about recent activities of the ILO on social security in the Region.

6. Future activities

(a) Flexibility Clause

Mr Sixto MOLINA informed the Committee about activities proposed by Beneficiary Parties during the visibility meetings held by the Secretariat in February – May 2009.

Ms Ana STIJEPOVIĆ proposed to hold Speaking Days between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina in November 2009. This proposal was supported by Dr. Šerifa GODINJAK.

The Secretariat will consider the possibility of the organisation of this event according to its availability and will inform the Beneficiary Parties involved in case it becomes possible to organise this event in 2009.

(b) Activities in the Action Plan

Mr Alexander KOSTANYAN informed the Committee about the activities to be implemented by the end of 2009. Two rounds of Speaking Days are scheduled in October - November 2009 (between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia in Sarajevo and between “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia” in Niš), a Study visit to Strasbourg and Brussels is planned for mid October 2009, a Health Care Seminar is scheduled in November 2009 to take place in Belgrade (as the Secretariat has informed the Committee at its 2nd meeting).

7. Date and place of the next meeting

Ms Ana STIJEPOVIĆ invited the Committee to hold its next meeting in Montenegro.

Ms Irena RISTESKA invited the Committee to hold its next meeting in her country.

The Committee decided to hold its fourth meeting on 10 December 2009 in Montenegro. The Committee also decided to hold its fifth meeting in June 2010 in “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”.



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SSCSSR(2009)3RSC1DRAFTPROG

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5 June 2009

Hotel Sürmeli Efes, Izmir
Turkey

AGENDA

Working language: English

- I. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA**
- II. STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT**
 - (a) Report of the 2nd meeting of the RSC**
 - (b) Speaking Days**
 - (c) Reports on meetings held by the Secretariat**
- III. TRAINING ACTIVITIES**
 - (a) Pensions**
 - (b) Summer School**
- IV. COMMUNICATION FROM THE EC**
- V. COMMUNICATION FROM THE ILO**
- VI. FUTURE ACTIVITIES**
 - (a) Flexibility Clause**
 - (b) Activities in the Action Plan**
- VII. OTHER BUSINESS**
- VIII. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**



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5th June 2009

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Turkey

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ALBANIA

Ms Diana BEQIRI

Head of Pension Sector

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Dr Šerifa GODINJAK

Head of the Unit for European Integration and International Co-operation

Department for Health

Ministry of Civil Affairs

CROATIA

Ms Snježana BALOKOVIĆ

Head of the Department for Bilateral Cooperation in the Area of Social Security

Directorate for Pension and Invalidity Insurance

Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship

MONTENEGRO

Ms Ana STIJEPOVIĆ

Senior Adviser

Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare

SERBIA

Mr Aleksandar DINIĆ

Representative *ad hoc*

Co-ordinator in the Department for Implementation of International agreements

Republican Fund of Pension and Disability Insurance

“THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA”

Ms Irena RISTESKA

Head of Pension and Disability Insurance Unit

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

TURKEY

Mr Halûk ŞAHİN

Expert

General Directorate of External Relations and Services for Workers Abroad

Ministry of Labour and Social Security

KOSOVO¹

Mr Mentor MORINA

Head of Budgetary Analyses and Poverty Evaluation

Department of Social Welfare

Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

EXPERTS

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Katholieke Universiteit Leuven/European Institute of Social Security (EISS)

Prof. Dr. Paul SCHOUKENS

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven/European Institute of Social Security (EISS)

OBSERVERS

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Mr Kenichi HIROSE

Senior Specialist in Social Security

ILO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SRO-Budapest)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Mr Pascal HERRY

Programme Manager

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DG Enlargement, European Commission

Mr Numan ÖZCAN

Sector Manager

Social Policy and Employment

Delegation of the European Commission to Turkey

SECRETARIAT

Council of Europe – DG III Social Cohesion

Ms Verena TAYLOR

Head of the Social Policy Department

Directorate General of Social Cohesion

Mr Sixto MOLINA

Co-ordinator of Co-operation and Technical Assistance Programmes

Manager of the Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms' Programme

Central Division

Directorate General III - Social Cohesion

Mr Alexander KOSTANYAN

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Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms

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Ms Tatjana KOSTOVSKA

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