



SUMMARIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TREATIES

The summaries available hereunder are designed to meet a practical need, that of supplying the public at large with concise descriptions of the Council of Europe treaties. The summaries are necessarily short and can therefore only give a first introduction to the main features of each treaty.

Subject-matter: **REFUGEES**

European Interim Agreement on Social Security Schemes relating to Old Age, Invalidity and Survivors (ETS No. 12) and its Protocol (ETS No. 12A), open for signature, in Paris, on 11 December 1953.

Entry into force: 1 July 1954.

The Agreement concerns social security schemes relating respectively to old age, invalidity and survivors. It provides for nationals of any one of the Parties to be entitled to receive the benefit of the laws and regulations of any other Party, under the same conditions as if person were a national of the latter, provided that certain conditions of residence are fulfilled.

The Protocol ¹ extends the provisions of the Agreement to refugees.

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European Interim Agreement on Social Security other than Schemes for Old Age, Invalidity and Survivors (ETS No. 13) and its Protocol (ETS No. 13A), open for signature, in Paris, on 11 December 1953.

Entry into force: 1 July 1954.

The Agreement concerns social security schemes other than schemes provided by European Interim Agreement on Social Security Schemes relating to Old Age, Invalidity and Survivors (ETS No. 12). It provides for nationals of any one of the Parties to be entitled to receive the benefit of the laws and regulations of any other Party, under the same conditions as if person were a national of the latter, providing that certain conditions of residence are fulfilled.

The Protocol ² extends the provisions of the Agreement to refugees.

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European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance (ETS No. 14) and its Protocol (ETS No. 14A), open for signature, in Paris, on 11 December 1953.

Entry into force: 1 July 1954.

Under this Convention, Parties undertake to ensure that the nationals of other Parties, who are lawfully present in their territory and who are without sufficient resources, are entitled to the same social and medical assistance as their own nationals.

The Protocol ³ extends the provisions of the Agreement to refugees.

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¹ Protocol to the European Interim Agreement on Social Security Schemes relating to Old Age, Invalidity and Survivors (ETS No. 12A), open for signature, in Paris, on 11 December 1953.

² Protocol to the European Interim Agreement on Social Security other than Schemes for Old Age, Invalidity and Survivors (ETS No. 13A), open for signature, in Paris, on 11 December 1953.

³ Protocol to the European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance (ETS No. 14A), open for signature, in Paris, on 11 December 1953.

European Agreement on the Abolition of Visas for Refugees ([ETS No. 31](#)), open for signature, in Strasbourg, on 20 April 1959.

Entry into force: 4 September 1960.

The Agreement aims to facilitate travel for refugees residing in territory of Parties. To this end, it provides that refugees may enter without visas on the territory of all Parties for a maximum of 3 months but does not apply to persons in paid employment. It sets out also that the refugees shall be re-admitted at any time to the territory of the Party by whose authorities a travel document was issued, at the simple request of the other Party.

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Protocol to the European Convention on Consular Functions concerning the Protection of Refugees ([ETS No. 61A](#)), open for signature, in Paris, on 11 December 1967.

Entry into force: The Protocol will enter into force following the fifth ratification.

The Protocol sets out provisions concerning refugees in the meaning of Article 48 of the Convention (ETS No. 61).

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European Agreement on Transfer of Responsibility for Refugees ([ETS No. 107](#)), open for signature, in Strasbourg, on 16 October 1980.

Entry into force: 1 December 1980.

The Agreement aims to secure the adoption of standard rules to determine which State is to assume the responsibility for a refugee, in particular in connection with the issue of travel documents. The Agreement lays down, among other things, the conditions in which responsibility for issuing a travel document is transferred from one Party to another when a refugee changes his/her place of residence.