

Statement of interpretation on Article 12

This article, necessarily of a very general character because of the complexity of the matters dealt with, guarantees the effective exercise of the right to social security first by establishing the principle of the institution or the maintenance of a social security system (Paragraph 1), then by defining a minimum level for this system (Paragraph 2) and providing that it should be progressively brought up to a higher level (Paragraph 3) and, finally, by encouraging measures to ensure equality of treatment between the nationals of each Contracting Party with the nationals of the other Contracting Parties as well as the granting, maintenance and resumption of social security rights (Paragraph 4).

The first paragraph of this article has been accepted by the five states whose reports are the subject of these "Conclusions", while Paragraphs 2 and 3 have been accepted by only four of them (Denmark, Italy, Norway, Sweden) and Paragraph 4 by only three (Denmark, Italy, Norway).