

EN  
E-000058/2019  
Answer given by Ms Thyssen  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(5.3.2019)

As the Commission indicated in its reply to written question E-001852/2017, under the European Union's social security coordination Regulations, mobile workers, who contribute in their Member State of employment in the same way to the system as local workers, are entitled to the same benefits, irrespective of the place of residence of the children concerned. This is an expression of the principle of equal treatment, which is at the heart of the Single Market.

The Commission analysed the Austrian legislation providing for indexation of family benefits and family tax reductions for children residing abroad, which applies as from 1 January 2019. Since the analysis confirmed that the legislation is not in line with the social security coordination Regulations, the Commission decided on 24 January 2019 to send a letter of formal notice to Austria, thereby formally opening an infringement procedure against that Member State. Austria has two months to reply.