

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003238/20
to the Commission
Jan-Christoph Oetjen (Renew)
(28 May 2020)**

Subject: Problems with the A1 certificate

The ease with which workers can cross borders within the EU has strengthened the internal market and bound Member States closer together and strengthened them. The introduction of the A1 certificate is intended to counteract undeclared work and prevent social dumping. While both must be a goal of internal market policy, the great advantages of the internal market are now being disrupted in individual cases because of the time it takes to process and issue the A1 certificate — it can take several weeks. Short-term business trips within the European Union are therefore difficult to arrange.

With a digital solution, the waiting time for issuing an A1 certificate can be reduced to around 24 hours and the automation of the response can be increased to around 80%, as the Belgian system has shown.

1. Is the Commission aware of the current problem with issuing A1 certificates at short notice?
2. Is it considering introducing a Europe-wide harmonised online reporting platform as a sensible and feasible solution?
3. What further steps is the Commission planning to take to tackle undeclared work and social dumping in an unbureaucratic and sensible manner?

**Answer given by Mr Schmit on behalf of the European Commission
(22 July 2020)**

1. The Commission is aware that competent institutions are not always able to issue the PD A1 before the start of the activity in another Member State, especially in cases where the employer or the self-employed person informs the competent institution of such activity at very short notice. In the context of the ongoing revision of Regulations (EC) No 883/2004 and 987/2009 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission stands ready to assist co-legislators in finding practical solutions for a balanced agreement as soon as possible and is ready to explore further ways of improving the functioning and the digitisation of the coordination of social security systems ⁽²⁾.
2. The Commission also recalls that regulation (EU) 2018/1724 establishing the single digital gateway ⁽³⁾ facilitates online access to administrative procedures for citizens and businesses active in another Member State. This should also apply in the context of the PD A1. By 12 December 2023 at the latest, Member States should ensure that requests for the determination of applicable legislation can be accessed and completed fully online, and that the institution transmits the decision to the citizen via digital means.
3. Tackling undeclared work is primarily a national competence. The EU encourages cooperation between Member States through the European Platform tackling undeclared work ⁽⁴⁾, which takes social protection needs and administrative burdens into consideration. The Platform will be integrated into the European Labour Authority to reinforce its work.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52016PC0815>

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the coordination of social security systems *OJ L 166, 30.4.2004, p. 1* and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems *OJ L 284, 30.10.2009, p. 1-42*.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, to procedures and to assistance and problem-solving services and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012, *OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 1-38*.

⁽⁴⁾ The Commission adopted on 2 April 2020 a report which provides more information on the Platform's activities and impact: Commission report on the implementation of Decision (EU) 2016/344 establishing a European Platform for enhancing cooperation in tackling undeclared work, COM(2020) 129 final.