

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0404/02

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to the Commission

Subject: Italian citizens with Belgian pensions

Italian citizens who have worked in Belgium and have returned Italy with an invalidity and/or retirement pension awarded by the Belgian authorities have to face long delays and go through lengthy formalities before they receive their cheques.

The Belgian bank responsible for payments sends a bank transfer to the Italian central post office in Rome.

From Rome, the post office cheques are then sent to various localities throughout Italy, resulting in significant delays in payments and increasing the risk of pensioners being robbed when they have to collect their money from the post office.

Will the Commission:

- ensure that Italian pensioners are treated in the same way as pensioners from Portugal, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg and even Morocco, by allowing them to receive their pension payments directly from the Belgian bank concerned;
- intervene without delay to ensure the equal treatment of all European pensioners, thus preventing discrimination against Italian citizens?