

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1847/02
by Guido Bodrato (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Lack of coordination between the Community pension scheme and the Member States' pension schemes

By means of Council Regulation (EC) No 1606/98¹ of 29 June 1998, application of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71² on social security has been extended to schemes covering public employees.

Will the Commission say whether or not the employees of Community institutions can take advantage of Regulation (EC) No 1606/98 in order to secure, by means of the scheme for aggregating periods of pension contributions, entitlement to a pension based on the periods of pension contribution completed under the scheme of one of the Member States before taking up employment with a Community institution?

Is it not paradoxical that the Community lawmakers have not bothered to make specific provision for coordination between the Community pension scheme and the Member States' pension schemes with a view to safeguarding pension rights which have already been (or which are in the process of being) acquired under national law, within the spirit of Regulation (EC) No 1408/71?

Although it is the case that European civil servants can ask for contributions paid under a national pension scheme to be transferred to the Community pension scheme, it is also the case that many of them have not taken (and do not take) advantage of this opportunity, either because they are poorly informed or because they have little interest in an operation which, rightly or wrongly, is not thought to be advantageous.

Does the Commission not consider that the current system has shortcomings and that it should be improved so as to ensure that acquired pension rights are in all cases preserved?

¹ OJ L 209, 25.7.1998, p. 1.

² OJ L 149, 5.7.1971, p. 2.