

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2234/03  
by Bartho Pronk (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Application for an old-age pension made from Greece

Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71<sup>1</sup> stipulates that applications for statutory pensions must be submitted to the social insurance agency of the Member State of residence. In other words, a person who has accumulated old-age pension rights in the Netherlands, but who, when reaching the age of 65, is resident in Greece, must submit his or her application for a Netherlands pension to the Greek social insurance agency, IKA. However, the application procedure via the IKA is lengthy – two-year waiting periods are common. Any entitlement to a Greek old-age pension has no bearing on the level of the pension to be awarded in the Netherlands.

1. Does the Commission share my view that the procedure outlined above is unnecessarily cumbersome and time-consuming and thus poses a threat to the financial security of retired persons?
2. In procedural terms, would it not be better if the application for an old-age pension could be submitted directly to the Netherlands social insurance agency, SVB? If so, why is this not possible? If not, what are the arguments against such a procedure?
3. To what extent does the Commission see this as a restriction on the free movement of workers?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 149, 5.7.1971, p. 2.