

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1752/05
by Ingo Schmitt (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Transfer of pension entitlements acquired in one Member State to another

Hitherto it has been impossible in practice for workers changing jobs to transfer pension entitlements acquired in one Member State to another.

For example, entitlements acquired by German or Dutch workers through the payment of contributions during a period of employment in Belgium or France cannot, following their return to their home country, be added to existing or future entitlements in that country. As things stand, the entitlements acquired in this way lapse.

Given the ever greater degree of flexibility demanded of European workers, this represents a practical obstacle for workers seeking access to the labour market of the other Member States.

Does the failure to recognise pension or social security entitlements acquired in another Member State not violate workers' right to freedom of movement?

Regardless of whether this practice of not recognising pension entitlements does or does not represent a breach of the Treaties, does the Commission intend to take measures designed to enable workers changing jobs to transfer pension and/or social security entitlements from one Member State to another or to facilitate such transfers?

Has the Commission already dealt with a similar case in which a worker was able to secure the recognition and/or transfer of his or her pension entitlements?