

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004559/25
to the Commission**

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(14 November 2025)

Subject: Unemployment benefit for cross-border workers

Unemployment insurance compensation for cross-border workers in European countries is governed by Regulation (EC) No 883/2004. Under that regulation, workers pay contributions in the country they work in, but receive benefits from the unemployment insurance fund in their country of residence.

However, according to the provisions of the regulation and of bilateral agreements, the country the contributions have been paid in does not systematically transfer those contributions to the fund that pays out the benefits. The toll on France is heavy. Once the small proportion of contributions has been retroceded, the amount remaining for it to pay at its own expense to workers who have contributed to a foreign insurance scheme and whose entitlements are calculated by that country is an estimated EUR 800 million a year.

1. Among the options for amending the regulation, is the Commission planning to simplify it by making the fund that receives the contributions the one that pays out the benefits, rather than creating a complex scheme that could be added to existing models?
2. Does it intend to abandon the project to collect data at EU level, in order to respect the principle of subsidiarity and the purely bilateral nature of such data, given that the current framework in this area is not problematic and does not need to be overhauled?

Supporters (¹)

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(15 January 2026)

In 2016, the Commission launched a proposal to revise Regulations (EC) No 883/2004 and No 987/2009 on the coordination of social security systems (¹). The legislative process is still ongoing.

With regard to the coordination of unemployment benefits for persons who reside in a Member State other than where they work (frontier or other cross-border workers), the Commission proposes to make the Member State of most recent employment competent for the payment of the benefit, provided that the unemployed person worked there for a sufficiently long period of time.

The proposed change would make the Member State that collected the social security contributions responsible for the payment of unemployment benefits.

Such change would address the concerns raised in the question of the Honourable Members regarding budgetary impact of the current regulation for some Member States.

Under the rules in Article 91 of Regulation (EC) 987/2009, currently in place, national authorities are required to compile national statistics on the application of the social security coordination Regulations, including on the coordination of unemployment benefits.

These data are collected and organised according to the plan and method defined by the Administrative Commission for the Coordination of Social Security Systems.

On the basis of these data, the Commission publishes annual statistical reports on intra-EU labour mobility and EU social security coordination (²). The Commission has not proposed amendments in relation to this general reporting obligation.

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Catherine Griset (Pfe), Jean-Paul Garraud (Pfe), Julien Leonardelli (Pfe).

(¹) COM(2016) 815 final — <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52016PC0815>.

(²) Facts and figures on intra-EU labour mobility and EU social security coordination — Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion — https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/moving-working-europe/facts-and-figures-intra-eu-labour-mobility-and-eu-social-security-coordination_en.