

EN

P-002036/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.7.2026)

1. Article 65(3a)¹ of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 provides that the unemployed person² who does not wish to become or remain available to the employment services of the Member State of last activity and decides to seek work in the Member State of residence, and who has previously worked, been self-employed or been insured there, can claim unemployment benefits from the Member State of residence after his or her entitlement to benefits from the Member State of last activity ends. The Member State of residence must then provide benefits according to its legislation, but the entitlement period will be reduced by the time they already received benefits from the Member State of last activity.

2. The unemployed person who receives unemployment benefits from the Member State of last activity shall register to the employment services of that Member State. Article 65(4) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 provides the person concerned with the possibility to additionally register to the employment services of the Member State of residence³. Furthermore, Article 56a of Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 introduces the possibility for two or more Member States to agree on measures to facilitate the job-seeking activities of unemployed persons who reside in a Member State other than the competent one.

3. In case the unemployed person does not wish to become or remain available to the employment services of the Member State of last activity, for example due to distance from his/her place of residence, he/she can make him/herself available only to the employment services of the Member State of residence in order to seek work there, pursuant to Article 65(3) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004.

¹ All provisions referred to in this reply refer to the text of the provisional agreement reached on 22 April 2026 in respect of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2004/883/oj/eng> and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/987/oj/eng>.

² Article 65 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 applies to unemployed persons who, during his or her last activity as an employed or self-employed person, resided in a Member State other than the competent one.

³ As such the person may be subject to measures to support the job-seeking activities available in that country, in addition to measures available in the Member State of last activity.