

documents required to be produced for the application of the legislation of the other Party.

2. Any acts or documents of an official nature required to be produced for the application of this Agreement shall be exempt from any authentication by diplomatic or consular authorities and similar formalities.

#### Article XVI

For the application of this Agreement, the competent authorities of the Parties may communicate directly with one another in any of the official languages of either Party.

#### Article XVII

1. Any claim, notice or appeal concerning the determination or payment of a benefit under the legislation of one Party which should, for the purposes of that legislation, have been presented within a prescribed period to the competent authority of that Party, but which is presented within the same period to the authority of the other Party, shall be treated as if it had been presented to the competent authority of the first Party.
2. A claim for a benefit under the legislation of one Party shall be deemed to be a claim for the corresponding benefit under the legislation of the other Party, provided that the applicant:
  - (a) requests that it be considered as an application under the legislation of the other Party, or
  - (b) provides information at the time of application indicating that reckonable periods have been completed under the legislation of the other Party.

However, the applicant may request that the claim to the benefit under the legislation of the other Party be deferred.