

**PART I**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**ARTICLE 1**

**Definitions**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement:
  - (a) “competent authority” means, for Canada, the Minister or Ministers responsible for the application of the legislation of Canada specified in Article 2(1)(a); and, for Bulgaria, the Minister of Labour and Social Policy;
  - (b) “competent institution” means, for Canada, the competent authority; and, for Bulgaria, the institutions responsible for the application of the legislation specified in Article 2(1)(b) of this Agreement;
  - (c) “compliance verification” means, for a Party, the verification that the eligibility for and the payment of pensions are in conformity with the legislation of the relevant Party;
  - (d) “creditable period” means:

for Canada, a period of contribution used to acquire the right to a pension under the *Canada Pension Plan*; a period during which a disability pension is paid under that Plan; and a period of residence used to acquire the right to a pension under the *Old Age Security Act*; and,

for Bulgaria, any period of insurance and any other period recognized as equivalent to a period of insurance under the legislation of Bulgaria;
  - (e) “legislation” means, for a Party, the laws and regulations specified in Article 2 of this Agreement;
  - (f) “pension” means, for a Party, any cash benefit, pension or allowance provided for in the legislation of that Party and includes any supplements or increases applicable to that cash benefit, pension or allowance;
  - (g) “residence” means, for Canada, the meaning assigned to it in the applicable laws and regulations and, for Bulgaria, a person’s habitual place of residence.
2. Any term not defined in this Article has the meaning assigned to it in the applicable legislation.