

authority or institution of that Contracting Party, but which are presented within the same period to an authority or institution of the other Contracting Party, shall be treated as if they had been presented to the competent authority or institution of the first Contracting Party. The date of presentation of claims, notices and appeals to the authority or institution of the other Contracting Party shall be deemed to be the date of their presentation to the competent authority or institution of the first Contracting Party.

2. Subject to the second sentence of this paragraph, a claim for a benefit under the legislation of a Contracting Party made after the date of entry into force of this Agreement shall be deemed to be a claim for the corresponding benefit under the legislation of the other Contracting Party, provided that the applicant at the time of application:
 - (a) requests that it be considered an application under the legislation of the other Contracting Party, or
 - (b) provides information indicating that creditable periods have been completed under the legislation of the other Contracting Party.

The preceding sentence shall not apply if the applicant requests that his or her claim to the benefit under the legislation of the other Contracting Party be delayed.

3. In any case to which paragraph 1 or 2 applies, the authority or institution to which the claim, notice or appeal has been submitted shall transmit it without delay to the authority or institution of the other Contracting Party.

ARTICLE XXIV

Payment of Benefits

1. The competent institution of a Contracting Party shall discharge its obligations under this Agreement in the currency of that Contracting Party.
2. Benefits shall be paid to beneficiaries free from any deduction for administrative expenses that may be incurred in paying the benefits.