

or about changes in their respective legislation in so far as these changes affect the application of this Agreement.

2. The assistance referred to in sub-paragraph 1(b) shall be provided free of charge, subject to any arrangement, concluded by the competent authorities of the Parties pursuant to Article XIX, for the reimbursement of certain types of expenses.
3. Unless disclosure is required under the laws of a Party, any information about a person which is transmitted in accordance with this Agreement to a Party by the other Party is confidential and shall be used only for purposes of implementing this Agreement and the legislation to which this Agreement applies.

Article XXI

Exemption or Reduction of Taxes, Dues, Fees or Charges

1. Any exemption from or reduction of taxes, legal dues, consular fees or administrative charges for which provision is made in the legislation of a Party in connection with the issuing of any certificate or document required to be produced for the application of that legislation shall be extended to certificates or documents required to be produced for the application of the legislation of the other Party.
2. Any document 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 formality.

Article XXII

Language of Communication

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

Article XXIII

Claims, Notices or Appeals

1. Any claim, notice or appeal concerning the determination or payment of a benefit under the legislation of a Party which should, for the purposes of that legislation, have been presented within a prescribed timeframe to a competent authority or institution of that Party, but which is presented within the same period to an authority or institution of the other Party, shall be treated as if it had been presented to the competent authority or institution of the first Party.
2. A claim for benefit under the legislation of a 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 Party, provided that the applicant, at the time of application, indicates that he or she has completed creditable periods under the legislation of the other Party. The preceding sentence, however, shall not apply if the applicant expressly requests that the