

4. Unless disclosure is required under the laws of a Contracting Party, any information about a person which is transmitted in accordance with this Agreement to that Contracting Party by the other Contracting Party is confidential and shall be used only for purposes of implementing this Agreement and the legislation to which this Agreement applies.

ARTICLE 19

Exemption or Reduction of Taxes, Dues, Fees and Charges

1. Any exemption from or reduction of taxes, legal dues, consular fees and administrative charges for which provision is made in the legislation of a Contracting 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 Contracting Party.
2. Any 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.

ARTICLE 20

Language of Communication

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

ARTICLE 21

Submitting Claims, Notices and Appeals

1. Claims, notices and appeals concerning eligibility for, or the amount of, a benefit under the legislation of a Contracting Party which should, for the purposes of that legislation, have been presented within a prescribed period to a competent 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.