

**Article XVI*****Exchange of Information and Mutual Assistance***

1. The competent authorities and institutions responsible for the application of this Agreement:
  - (a) shall, to the extent permitted by the legislation which they administer, communicate to each other any information necessary for the application of this Agreement;
  - (b) shall lend their good offices and furnish assistance to one another with regard to the determination of entitlement to, or payment of, any benefit under this Agreement, or the legislation to which this Agreement applies, as if the matter involved the application of their own legislation; and
  - (c) shall communicate to each other, as soon as possible, all information about the measures taken by them for the application of this Agreement 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 subparagraph 1(b) shall be provided free of charge, subject to any provision contained in an administrative arrangement concluded pursuant to Article XV 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 that 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.