

2. The assistance referred to in paragraph 1 shall be provided free of charge, subject to any arrangement reached between the competent authorities for the reimbursement of certain types of expenses.

3. Any information about a person which is transmitted in accordance with this Agreement to a competent authority shall be protected in the same manner as information obtained under the social security laws of that Party and shall be disclosed only in the manner permitted by the laws of that Party.

4. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 be construed so as to impose on the competent authority of a Party the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws or the administrative practice of that or the other Party; or
- (b) to supply particulars which are not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administrative practice of that or the other Party.

ARTICLE 17

Administrative Arrangements

The competent authorities of the Parties shall make whatever administrative arrangements are necessary from time to time to implement this Agreement.