



Danish position on a European Social Security Number

Free movement of persons is an asset for the EU. It brings benefits to business, societies as well as the individuals concerned.

Free movement is in some cases hampered by administrative barriers, lack of access to information etc.

At the same time there are some shortcomings in current EU-legislation that increase the risk of fraud and hinder the ability of authorities to ensure compliance/enforce regulation. These shortcomings discredit the principle of free movement and risk undermining public support for free movement.

Without prejudice to its final position the Danish government welcomes a discussion on how a European Social Security Number could provide tangible results for our citizens and businesses and increase efficiency by facilitating free movement while at the same time help in tackling the above mentioned challenges. It may be used for a range of purposes related to cross-border situations and not only for the sake of social security. It might help European businesses to handle administrative requirements more easily when they do business across borders or to attract and retain foreign labour.

It would be particularly useful if a European Social Security Number could help identifying the residence of EU citizens. To mention one very topical example in Denmark: We have a challenge ensuring continued repayment of student loans from EU citizens after they have left Denmark

For a social security number to fulfill these purposes it must be supported by the necessary digital infrastructure. Whether there should be a new central database at the EU-level or rather an EU-interface connected to national databases must be further explored. Account must be taken of existing structures and tools such as the Information system for the internal market (IMI), Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI), and a possible future Single Digital Gateway. It is of great importance that a possible European Social Security Number does not entail disproportionate administrative costs and as few adjustments of existing systems as possible.

Working optimally, it would for instance mean that when an EU-citizen registers in a Member State in accordance with the residence directive (for work, studies etc.) such information will be accessible for other Member State administrations. We believe that it would be an important step to increase trust and cooperation between Members in order to fight fraud and social dumping as well as to further unlock the untapped potential in the Single Market.

However, a European Social Security Number must be without prejudice to areas of national competence, national personal numbers and registration schemes.