

MARIANNE THYSSEN
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, **18 NOV. 2019**

Dear Minister,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 17 September 2019 in which you outline Denmark's position regarding the revision of the EU rules on the coordination of social security systems.

In your letter, you explain that the Danish priorities remain unchanged. In particular, you express your support for the Commission's original proposal on the qualifying period for aggregation of unemployment benefits.

The current rules do not specify a qualifying period for aggregation of unemployment benefits. This gives rise to legal uncertainty. In practice, the length of the qualifying period varies from Member State to Member State, with some countries applying a qualifying period of several months, and others a period of just one day.

The Commission's proposal sought to remedy the uncertainty that exists under the current rules by introducing, among other things, a minimum qualifying period of three months. In other words, the Commission proposed clearer rules that ensured a genuine link between the unemployed person and the labour market of the Member State paying the benefits.

The Council's general approach of June 2018 and the provisional agreement reached in March 2019 introduce a minimum qualifying period of one month. While this is lower than the Commission had proposed, it nonetheless constitutes an improvement compared to the current situation: it provides a clearer rule on the qualifying period for aggregation of unemployment benefits and a genuine link between the unemployed person and the labour market of the Member State paying the benefits.

In your letter, you stress the need to achieve, with respect to the revision of the EU rules on the coordination of social security systems, an agreement of high quality supported by a broad majority.

Mr Peter Hummelgaard Thomsen
Minister for Employment
Holmens Kanal 20
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The European Commission is continuing to work closely with the co-legislators to achieve such an agreement. I am glad to note that the most recent negotiations have been constructive and that the co-legislators have agreed to use the provisional agreement reached in March 2019 as the basis to finalise the file. I am convinced that we will soon be able to provide our citizens with modernized rules that are fair, clear and enforceable.

Yours sincerely,



Marianne Thyssen