



English translation of Circular 2/2021, of 12/02/2021 from the Directorate-General for Social Security

Areas of interest: International Instruments for the Coordination of Social Security Systems

Subject: Withdrawal Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom – Part II – Citizens' Rights – Title III – social security coordination

I. Statement of reasons

Circular No 5 of 30/12/2020 of this Directorate-General provided information on Title III (Social Security Coordination) of Part II (Citizens' Rights) of the Withdrawal Agreement of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

In the meantime, the European Union and the United Kingdom have reached an agreement on the future relationship, the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, which incorporates a Protocol on Social Security Coordination and has been in provisional application since 1 January 2021. General information on this Agreement was made available on [the Social Security Portal](#).

However, some provisions of the same Agreement make it necessary to complement the information made available through the aforementioned Circular in particular with regard to the forms and documents issued and to be issued by the competent institutions.

II. Release of information

Article SSCI.75 of the Protocol on the Coordination of Social Security of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom provides that during a provisional period, the expiry of which will be defined by the Specialised Committee on Social Security Coordination set up by the Agreement, all forms and documents issued by the competent institutions in the format used immediately before the entry into force of the Protocol shall be valid for the purposes of its application and may also continue to be used for the exchange of information between the competent institutions. All forms and documents issued before and during that provisional period shall be valid until their expiry date or cancellation.



In accordance with the same Article SSCI.75, these forms and documents include the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and all portable documents attesting to a person's social security situation.

Therefore, for persons covered by the Withdrawal Agreement, unlike in paragraphs 28 to 31 of the aforementioned Circular, EHICs issued before 1/01/2021 shall remain valid until the end of their validity period, and there is no need to issue the Provisional Replacement Certificate, except in situations where, for justified reasons, the issuance of the EHIC is not possible.

Regarding the situations covered by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the abovementioned information available in the Social Security Portal remains valid and the EHIC and all portable documents attesting to a person's social security situation can continue to be issued in the format approved under Regulations (EC) No 883/2004 and No 987/2009.

Detailed information on the Trade and Cooperation Agreement and its Protocol on Social Security Coordination will be shared as soon as possible.