



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTS NEW RULES ON SOCIAL SECURITY RIGHTS OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

The European Parliament in Brussels has recently adopted new rules granting the same social security rights of European citizens to third country nationals and their families. The rule applies to third country nationals who have resided legally in a member state of the European Union and travelled to another EU member state.

The new rules adopted by the European Parliament extends Regulation 883/2004 and Regulation (EC) No. 987/2009 to nationals of third countries residing legally in the territory of a European member state. These Regulations provide that European citizens who have lived legally in a member state other than their own and who are in a cross border situation already have access to social security.

EU Member States like Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom chose not to be a party to the coordination provisions of third country nationals and therefore will continue to apply their existing rules. According to the British rapporteur Jean Lambert, this is a step backwards from the objective of simplifying the procedures, even though this is a vital component of Regulation 883/2004 and of the principle of equal treatment.

The European Parliament made no amendments to the new legislation in order to guarantee its swift implementation.

