

INFO SENIOR



Information Bulletin from DG HR

APRIL-JUNE 2016

#10

In need of a carer?

The Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme (JSIS) covers the costs of **care services**. This mainly consists of home nursing care. What is the procedure?

Step 1: request **prior authorisation**, attaching these documents:

- a medical report specifying the illness, the duration of the service, and the nature and frequency of the treatment to be provided;
- the **form evaluating the degree of dependence**, also drawn up by the patient's doctor;
- the name of the company that will provide the carer;
- a declaration as to whether or not complementary financial assistance has been provided by a public, statutory and/or compulsory insurance scheme.

Send these documents, either by **JSIS online**, or by the traditional paper-based method to your Settlements Office with all the original copies of the necessary supporting documents.

Step 2: Request reimbursement. Once prior authorisation has been granted, you may engage a carer. Then enter a reimbursement request, attaching the detailed invoice (with dates, number of hours, and name of the carer(s)).

Reimbursement conditions: Authorisation will be granted if the services are deemed to be strictly necessary by the JSIS Medical Officer, who will evaluate them according to the degree of dependence of the insured person.

Reimbursement rate:

- temporary (maximum of 60 days) home carer: 80 % reimbursement, up to a ceiling of EUR 72 a day (100 % in the event of serious illness, up to a ceiling of EUR 90 a day)
- long-term home carer (more than 60 days): 80 % reimbursement (100 % in the event of serious illness) with a ceiling set according to the degree of dependence
- hospital-based carer: 80 % reimbursement, up to a ceiling of EUR 60 a day (100 % in the event of serious illness, up to a ceiling of EUR 75 a day).



Who to engage? Carers must be legally authorised to practise their profession. In countries where the profession of carer is not regulated and/or if it is impossible to find an officially approved carer, the patient's doctor must specify on the prescription the name of the person who will provide the services and declare that this person is properly qualified to do so. In the case of carers who are not attached to an official organisation or do not operate within an officially recognised private framework, proof of the contractual tie must be sent.

i PMO CONTACT ONLINE: : <https://ec.europa.eu/pmo/contact/fr>

PMO CONTACT : + 32 (2) 29 97777 (MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 9.30 A.M. TO 12.30 P.M.)

JSIS ONLINE: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/RCAM/?language=en>

Your pension file



The Commission, and more specifically the PMO, is responsible for the payment of pension rights to retired staff from all the institutions.

Establishment of entitlements is carried out by your institution of origin, with the exception of the Council, the Committee of the Regions, and the Court of Auditors. These three institutions have a service agreement with the PMO, stipulating that the establishment of entitlements is carried out by the Commission.

It is important that your file be kept up to date: address, landline and mobile numbers, email address, contact person, and language. Please contact your file handler if there are any changes.

i YOUR file handler, WHOSE NAME APPEARS AT THE TOP-LEFT OF YOUR PENSION STATEMENT.

Obtaining access to JSIS online



Do you wish to obtain access to **JSIS online** so as to manage your applications for reimbursement from your computer? You must have an ECAS account. There is a **10-step** procedure via PMO Contact online. If this seems too difficult for you, you can receive assistance by telephone. If you call, have your mobile phone and your email open near you. The PMO colleague will verify your identity before carrying

out the 10 steps with you!

To obtain access to **JSIS online**:

- ▶ **PMO CONTACT ONLINE:** <https://ec.europa.eu/pmo/contact/en>
- ▶ **IN BRUSSELS:** + 32 2 297 68 88 - + 32 2 297 68 89
- ▶ **IN ISPRA :** + 39 0332 78 30 30 – de 09 heures 30 à 12 heures 30
- ▶ **IN LUXEMBOURG :** + 352 4301 36100 – Florent.charton@ec.europa.eu

Have you lost access to your ECAS account?

- i SEND AN EMAIL TO:** EC-CENTRAL-HELPDESK@ec.europa.eu
- i JSIS ONLINE:** <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/RCAM/?language=en>

Tips for using JSIS Online

- Separate your claims for reimbursement for costs related to a **serious illness recognised by JSIS** (100 % reimbursement) from those related to other costs.
- Select the type of reimbursement request. Please tick the type of request which corresponds to your expenses: standard reimbursement or a reimbursement linked to a serious illness recognised by JSIS, or for **preventive medicine** purposes.
- To obtain a certificate of JSIS cover, click on 'My Certificates' under the first heading 'Create a request'. Then select the family member in question and click on the + button next to the desired certificate, choose the language, and click 'Send'. A message will tell you that the certificate will be ready in an hour. You then click on 'My available certificates' and finally on the PDF logo at the end of the line on the right to open it and print it. If you do not see the PDF logo, just widen your screen and it will appear.
- If some supporting documents, for example a medical report, are written in a language other than the three working languages (FR/EN/DE), it is preferable – where possible – to attach a translation in one of these three languages in order to speed up the processing of the file.



i JSIS ONLINE: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/RCAM/?language=en>

Social Services



If you are in difficulty and in need of assistance, contact Social Services.

i COMMISSION BRUSSELS : + 32 (0)2 295 90 98

HR-BXL-AIDE-PENSIONNES@ec.europa.eu

LUXEMBOURG : + + 352-4301-33948

HR-LUX-ASSISTANTS-SOCIAUX@ec.europa.eu

ISPRA : + 39-0332-785910

HR-PENSIONERS-ISPRA-SOCIAL-ASSISTANCE@ec.europa.eu

Join your former colleagues on the Yammer forum!



Yammer After EC is an internal social platform for discussion and information exchange in a secure environment, reserved for retired staff of the European institutions. Yammer After EC allows you to remain in contact with your former colleagues and other retired staff of the European institutions. You can go through the list of members to find people with whom you lost touch and contact them directly by leaving them a private message.

Yammer After EC facilitates the circulation of ideas and organises exchanges in the form of 'interest groups' which you can choose to join or not. Create one, take part in the discussion, and where appropriate add images, documents, links, hypertext, etc. to your message to support your argument, and seek the opinion of others. The experience of one person – for example concerning JSIS online – will be shared with others, and allows you to benefit from their expertise. **New major benefit:** You can access it from any computer and even from your telephone or tablet. To log on, enter only your PRIVATE email address (even if you are asked for your work address). **Join Yammer After EC!**

i www.yammer.com/afterec

Partnership with AIACE



Founded in 1969, **AIACE** (Association Internationale des Anciens de l'UE - International Association of Former Officials of the European Union) currently has some 10 500 members, who are former officials of all the institutions. It is made up of 15 national sections: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. A partnership agreement signed in 2008 with the Commission provides for annual financial aid to the Association to allow it to carry out social measures for the benefit of retired staff, and in particular retired staff in difficulty. The surveys carried out by the Commission every two years, in

conjunction with the other institutions, make it possible to identify people in difficulty, who are contacted by AIACE volunteers. Assistance can then take the form of home visits, sometimes to fill in sickness insurance forms, give some advice or simply chat over a coffee. AIACE social volunteers are organised by the Commission's social services and thus benefit from the social workers' well-informed and professional advice.

In addition to social care to people in difficulty, the 15 national sections organise various cultural and leisure activities all year round, making it possible to stay in contact with former colleagues. A **Congress** is organised every year by the International AIACE Office. It includes the statutory General Assembly and a series of activities including thematic workshops on pensions, sickness insurance and social services. It will take place in Trieste from 24 May to 30 May 2016. Anyone in receipt of an EU pension can be a member of the Association.

i **AIACE** – tel. + 32 (0) 2 295 29 60

www.aiace-europa.eu

CONGRESS WEBSITE: <http://aiace-assises-europa.eu/>

Home help



A financial contribution to cover some of the costs of **home help** for carrying out essential day-to-day household tasks can be obtained for a limited period. Assistance may be granted in the following circumstances:

- death of the former official or his or her spouse or partner;
- physical or mental illness of the recipient or his or her spouse or partner;
- convalescence after an accident;
- loss of independence by the recipient or a member of his or her family, provided that he or she is not staying in a medical or paramedical establishment;
- particularly difficult social situation, substantiated by a social worker in a detailed opinion.

The conditions are as follows:

- the net monthly family income (all income) of the applicant must be less than the basic salary of an official in grade AST 1/1, that is to say around EUR 2 800;
- the help does not consist of home medical or nursing care, which is reimbursed by the Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme;
- the help does not include heavy domestic work such as repairs, decorating or extensions to the family home;
- the help is provided directly to a recipient or to a member of his or her family;
- the need for the help has been proved by a detailed medical certificate or by a detailed opinion from a social worker;
- recipients must be in a position where they are unable to complete domestic tasks themselves or to have them done by a member of their family;
- the person providing the help is not a member of the recipient's family and is not related to any members of the recipient's family;
- the recipient of the help must comply with employment legislation in the country where the service is provided;
- the recipient must not be receiving any other official assistance of any kind for the same purpose.

i **BRUSSELS** Ms G. NELIS (+ 32 (0) 2959769)

LUXEMBOURG (+ 352 4301 33948)

ISPRA (+ 39 0332 785910).

Retired staff of an institution other than the Commission should contact the **social welfare unit within their institution**.

Help for a surviving spouse suffering from a serious illness or a disability.



A surviving spouse who has a serious or protracted illness or who is disabled may have their pension supplemented by **aid paid by the institution** under certain conditions.

If you think you are in this situation as a recipient of a survivor's pension you can submit an application to the institution's social welfare unit. The application must be accompanied by a detailed medical report, and where necessary, supporting documents from your doctor, identifying the serious or protracted illness or the disability and proposing palliative measures. The

social situation of the person concerned is also taken into account. The applicant must give details of his or her financial situation, based on supporting documents.

Before submitting an application, please first contact the social welfare unit of your institution, which will be able to give an initial opinion on whether you may be eligible.

i **SOCIAL WELFARE BRUSSELS** (+ 32 (0) 2959098)

LUXEMBOURG (+ 352 4301 33948)

ISPRA (+ 39 0332 785910)

Retired staff of an institution other than the Commission should contact the **social welfare unit within their institution**.

Would you like to publish an article or a book?



The Staff Regulations grant you the right to **freedom of expression** 'with due respect to the principles of loyalty and impartiality' (**Article 17a(1)**). As a former member of staff, you therefore have the right to publish or cause to be published, alone or with others, a text, such as an article or book concerning any matter that interests you, including European issues for example, with or without a connection to your past work. This also applies to speeches and any form of public or private communication, including blogs.

For a period of two years after you stop working, as the publication or the speech (including at the drafting/preparation stage) is equivalent to an outside activity (for example, as part of a contract with a publisher or an oral contribution to a public meeting), you must request prior authorisation from the Commission, in accordance with **Article 16(2)** of the Staff Regulations. At the end of the two years following your retirement, you no longer have to request prior authorisation.

Generally speaking, it should be noted that, after leaving their jobs, former staff members must still comply with a number of obligations. In particular, you must behave with integrity and discretion (**Article 16(1) of the Staff Regulations**) and you must refrain from any unauthorised disclosure of information received in the line of duty, unless that information has already been made public or is accessible to the public. When you leave the Commission you must sign a form to this effect, declaring that you are aware of your continuing obligations towards the Commission (under **Articles 16, 17 and 19 of the Staff Regulations**).

Thus every contribution, public statement, or publication on issues related to the European institutions or to European policies before and after the two-year period in question must clearly fall under your responsibility alone, and never appear as though it reflects the view of your former institution. The use of electronic means (blogs, Facebook, internet more generally) does not exempt you from complying with these obligations. **If in doubt, do not hesitate to contact DG HR's 'Ethics and Ombudsman' unit.**

i CONTACT : HR-ETHICS@ec.europa.eu

Tel. + 32 (0)2 29 87837/63848/64078

Health insurance to supplement JSIS



JSIS reimbursements, which are sometimes limited because of ceilings, excesses, exclusions, etc., can leave you with substantial costs to bear in the event of illness or hospitalisation. If you are sick or if you have an accident, some hospitals will not accept direct billing under the JSIS and require immediate payment. Top-up insurance can help you to avoid this type of situation.

It must be pointed out that some of these insurance policies are for colleagues currently in active employment or must be taken up before retirement or before the age of 67. Others require the completion of a medical questionnaire, which can result in a medical visit and the rejection of your application.

However, many health insurance policies to supplement JSIS may be taken out **up until the age of 70 or even 75**, without a medical questionnaire, but with a three-month waiting period.

Explanatory documents are available on request by email or by post.

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i SSFPE-SEPS (SENIORS OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE): + 32 (0) 475 472 470

info@sfpe-seps.be

29, RUE DE LA SCIENCE, 02/22 – 1049 BRUSSELS – BY APPOINTMENT..

A new Regulation on matters of succession came into force on 17 August 2015 (**Regulation (EU) No 650/2012**).

What is the purpose of this regulation?

- It provides legal certainty to beneficiaries of international successions, avoids conflicting decisions and simplifies proceedings. It thus makes it easier for beneficiaries in another EU country to enjoy the rights which have been granted or transferred to them by succession.
- It establishes EU-wide rules on jurisdiction and on the applicable law governing succession matters in the EU, as well as rules on recognition

and enforcement of decisions given in an EU country and the acceptance and the enforcement of formal legal documents issued in an EU country.

- It also introduces a European Certificate of Succession to be used by heirs, legatees, executors of wills or administrators of the estate to demonstrate their status and/or exercise their rights or powers in another EU country.
- It applies to all EU countries, except the UK, Ireland and Denmark, which will continue to apply their national law to international successions. The other EU countries will apply their national rules on recognition and enforcement to decisions given in these three countries.

The regulation applies to all civil aspects of the succession to the estates of deceased people. It does not apply to tax matters, customs, or administrative matters. Areas of civil law other than succession, such as matrimonial property regimes, gifts and pension plans are not covered by the regulation.

Jurisdiction and applicable law

- The courts of the EU country in which the deceased was usually living at the time of death will have jurisdiction to rule on the succession as a whole.
- As a rule, the law applicable to the succession is the law of the country in which the deceased was usually living at their time of death. It can be the law of either an EU or non-EU country.
- However, before their death, a person can instead choose that the applicable law should be the law of their country of nationality. If this person is a national of an EU country, the parties concerned by the succession may agree that the courts of that EU country should deal with the succession rather than the one in which the deceased was usually living.
- The same law applies to the whole succession, irrespective of either the type of assets (movable or immovable) concerned or the country of their location.

The applicable law will govern, for example:

- the determination of the beneficiaries and their respective shares
- the capacity to inherit
- the powers of the heirs, the executors of the wills and the administrators of the estate
- the liability for the debts under the succession
- the sharing-out of the estate.

European Certificate of Succession

- The European Certificate of Succession (ECS) is an optional document issued by the authority dealing with the succession.
- Once issued, the ECS will be recognised in all EU countries without any special procedure being required.

i SOURCE : EUR-LEX – Regulation (EU) No 650/2012

LECTURE ON SUCCESSION BY MR J BUEKENHOUDT, LEGAL ADVISER AT THE COMMISSION, AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ON MY INTRACOMM: <http://europa.eu/!FH44jH>

FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION: WELCOME OFFICE BRUSSELS: + 32 (0)2 296 66 00
HR-BXL-LEGAL-ADVISER@ec.europa.eu

'Espace Seniors' and Senior Contact in Brussels



If you live in Brussels or are passing through, the 'Espace Seniors' (senior citizens' centre) is at your disposal. Located on the ground floor of 29 rue de la Science in Brussels, it is both a meeting place and information point for retired staff. On one side of the corridor there is a comfortable and inviting lounge area where you can relax and perhaps meet up with some of your former colleagues. On the other side of the corridor is an IT area equipped with four computers with access to the My Intracomm intranet and a secure internet connection. A printer, two telephones, a scanner and a shredder are also at your disposal. The scanner is very useful for retired staff using JSIS online who do not have a scanner at home. This area is exclusively for pensioners from the Institutions who can come and go as they please and use all of the available equipment.

Sickness Insurance Senior Contact

A representative of the sickness insurance scheme will be available to retired staff every day of the week without an appointment (see below for times). They will be on hand to answer all of your questions about the JSIS and to follow up your individual requests. However, they cannot help you finalise requests for medical reimbursements.

i **ESPACE SENIORS** – 29, rue de la Science – 00/31 et 00/35

Open from Monday to Friday, 8.30 a.m. to 5.45 p.m.

SENIOR CONTACT – 29, rue de la Science, 00/36

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. – Tuesday and Thursday from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PENSIONER'S PASS, PLEASE CONTACT THE RECEPTION DESK..

You're travelling – What documents should you bring?



If you are an EU national you do not need to show your national ID card or passport when you are travelling from one border-free **Schengen EU country** to another. The border-free Schengen area includes: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Even if you don't need a passport for border checks within the Schengen area, it is still always highly recommended to take a passport or ID card with you, so you can prove

your identity if needed (if stopped by police, boarding a plane, etc.). Schengen EU countries have the possibility of adopting national rules obliging you to hold or carry papers and documents when you are present on their territory. Driving licences or bank cards are not accepted as valid travel documents or proof of identity.

Under Schengen rules, in extenuating circumstances, where a threat to public policy or national security has been identified Member States are permitted to reintroduce temporary border controls. You must still show a valid ID card or passport when travelling to or from Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom. Though part of the EU, these countries do not belong to the border-free Schengen area. Before travelling, check what documents you must have to travel outside your home country and to enter the non-Schengen EU country you plan to visit.

Source: **Your Europe**.

Eurobarometer

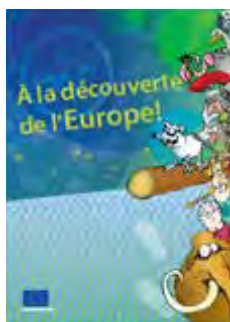


Since 1973, the European Commission has regularly monitored public opinion in the Member States through **Eurobarometer**. This monitoring provides valuable assistance in the preparation, formulation and assessment of its work. Through surveys and studies, it deals with a great many issues of European interest that are directly relevant to citizens: European integration, the social situation, health, culture, information technology, the environment, the euro, defence, etc.

Each survey is made up of around 1 000 face-to-face interviews per country. Qualitative studies examine in depth the motivations, feelings and reactions of selected social groups about a given subject or concept, by listening to and analysing the way they express themselves in discussion groups and open-ended interviews. Examples of studies conducted in 2015 by Eurobarometer include: 'Quality of life in European cities', 'Businesses' attitude toward corruption in the EU', 'Climate change', 'Internationalisation of European SMEs', 'Food waste and date marking', 'Discrimination in the EU'.

i Eurobarometer site

Introduce your grandchildren to Europe



Let's explore Europe!

This 44-page book, for children aged 9 to 12, tells the story of Europe in clear and simple terms. It contains a number of interesting facts and many brightly coloured illustrations. It also gives a dynamic overview of Europe, explaining what the European Union is and how it works.

Europe, a journal for young people

Who governs Europe? What does the European Union mean for citizens in their daily lives? What direction is our continent going in a globalised world? What will the Europe of tomorrow look like? All these questions and more are discussed in this journal, which is targeted at young people aged 13 to 18. It gives them the chance to read, learn about, and debate the topics addressed in an interactive way.

These two publications '**Let's Discover Europe**' and '**Europe, a journal for young people**' are free and available in the 24 EU languages. They can be downloaded or ordered in paper version on the EU bookshop site.

Comics & Co.

Europe can also be explained in pictures. A selection of comics illustrates the main issues, policies and activities of the European Union. They include: 'Partners' on development policy, 'All u need is space' on research in the space field, 'Jump start' on employment policy, 'Hidden disaster' on humanitarian aid, or 'Seven lives' telling the story of the paths taken by seven beneficiaries of the European Social Fund.

i **ORIGINATING SERVICE: EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATION**
EU BOOKSHOP : <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/home/>