Supplementary pension rights: safeguard for employed and self-employed persons moving within the Union

1997/0265(CNS) - 30/04/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Harald ETTL (PSE, A) on safeguarding supplementary pension rights, Parliament approved the proposal for a Directive but placed the proposal in the broader context of promoting free movement of employed and self-employed persons in the Union. Parliament stressed that the proposal should be regarded only as a first step towards a Community Regulation on supplementary pension schemes designed to eliminate obstacles to the mobility of workers. It called on the Council to adopt legislative measures to remedy the existing problems, particularly regarding qualifying periods and the transferability to other countries of acquired pension rights. Measures should also be taken to ensure that fair pension schemes existed for people opting to work part-time and those on short fixed-term contracts. Parliament stressed the mobility aspect and the need to seek Community solutions to the issue of taxation of contributions and of supplementary pension payments, as well as the need to avoid any double taxation. Parliament made some technical changes and changes of wording to the Commission's text, particularly regarding the definitions of 'supplementary pension', 'pension rights', 'worker' and 'posted worker'. It called on the Commission to submit a report on the implementation of the Directive within four years of its entry into force (rather than six, as proposed by the Commission).