

**Question for written answer E-008827/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Ria Oomen-Ruijten (PPE)

Subject: Medical care outside the EU

A Netherlands national who is drawing a pension from the Netherlands lives in France. The Netherlands national has compulsory care insurance in the Netherlands. In France, he is entitled to care at the expense of the Netherlands because he lives in France (through the CPAM – Caisse Primaire d'Assurance Maladie). If this person goes on holiday to a country outside the EU and has to seek medical care, problems arise. Neither the Dutch nor the French authority is prepared to cover the cost. The CPAM is only prepared to reimburse medical costs incurred in France. It considers that costs incurred in other countries, inside or outside the EU, should be paid by the Netherlands. The Dutch CVZ is only prepared to meet the cost of medical care received in an EU Member State. It says that medical costs incurred outside the EU should be reimbursed by the CPAM. If the person concerned takes out medical insurance, this does not solve the problem: the insurance company will only pay up if the body responsible for the underlying insurance does so first – i.e. the CPAM or CVZ. This problem arises where the Netherlands has not concluded a social security agreement with other countries.

1. If a pensioner living in France visits a Member State with which the Netherlands has concluded a social security agreement, must the Netherlands (the country which pays the pension) reimburse the costs?
2. If a pensioner living in France visits a Member State with which the Netherlands has not concluded a social security agreement, must the Netherlands (the country which pays the pension) reimburse the costs on the basis of the 'worldwide cover' principle?
3. If the answer to question 1 and/or 2 is 'yes', how – administratively – must the costs be reimbursed? Must the individual declare the costs to his country of residence (France) or to the country from which he draws his pension (the Netherlands)?
4. If the answer to question 1 and/or 2 is 'no', must the costs be reimbursed by the French health insurer, in accordance with French law?