

**No. 19577**

---

**FRANCE  
and  
EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY**

**Agreement on social security. Signed at Paris on 18 May  
1979**

*Authentic text: French.*

*Registered by France on 20 February 1981.*

---

**FRANCE  
et  
AGENCE SPATIALE EUROPÉENNE**

**Accord de sécurité sociale. Signé à Paris le 18 mai 1979**

*Texte authentique : français.*

*Enregistré par la France le 20 février 1981.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

## AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

The Government of the French Republic, on the one hand, and

The European Space Research Organization, which was established by the Convention opened for signature at Paris on 14 June 1962<sup>2</sup> and which has operated since 31 May 1975 under the name of European Space Agency (hereinafter referred to as "the Agency"), on the other hand,

In view of the Agreement of 11 March 1965 between the Government of the French Republic and the European Space Vehicle Launcher Development Organization (ELDO) relating to the social security regulations applicable to personnel employed by that organization,<sup>3</sup>

In view of the Agreement of 8 October 1965 between the Government of the French Republic and the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) relating to the social security regulations applicable to personnel employed by that organization,<sup>4</sup>

In view of the Convention for the establishment of a European Space Agency opened for signature on 30 May 1975 and Resolution No. 1 attached to the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the establishment of a European Space Agency,<sup>5</sup>

In view of article 20 of the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the Agency,<sup>5</sup>

Considering that the Agency adopted a pension scheme on 23 November 1976,

Desiring to clarify the situation of staff members of the Agency as far as the French social security scheme is concerned,

Have agreed as follows:

### *Article 1.* INSURANCE AGAINST SICKNESS, MATERNITY AND DEATH

1. Staff members employed by the Agency who are covered by its staff rules are not subject to French legislation in respect of insurance against sickness, maternity and death.

The coverage of these risks shall be provided for such staff members by the Agency under the conditions of the specific regulations which it has established.

2. "Temporary employees" of the Agency who carry out their functions in French territory are subject to French legislation for these same risks.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 March 1980, i.e., the first day of the first month following the notifications (effected on 12 and 15 February 1980) by which the Parties informed each other of the completion of the required formalities, with retroactive effect from 1 January 1979, in accordance with article 7 (1) and (2).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 528, p. 33.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1306, No. I-21771.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, No. I-21772.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1297, No. I-21524.

*Article 2. FAMILY ALLOWANCES*

Staff members subject to the staff rules of the Agency, as well as "temporary employees" of the Agency shall, in respect of family allowances, be covered by the Agency's own regulations.

*Article 3. ACCIDENTS AT WORK AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES*

1. Staff members subject to the staff rules of the Agency shall be excluded from the provisions of volume IV of the Social Security Code for the prevention of and compensation for accidents at work and occupational diseases.

They shall be covered by the Agency's own regulations in that regard.

2. "Temporary employees" of the Agency who carry out their functions in French territory are subject to the provisions of French legislation in respect of these risks.

3. Pensions or compensation due to the victims of accidents at work or of occupational diseases, as well as to their dependants, as defined by French law, shall be continued and paid with increases and supplementary allowances where applicable, in their country of residence, to the staff members of the Agency who leave French territory.

*Article 4. DISABILITY AND OLD AGE INSURANCE — TEMPORARY PROVISIONS*

1. Staff members of the Agency as at 31 December 1978 who have joined the French scheme of voluntary disability and old age insurance may continue to contribute to this insurance, whether or not they are registered with the Agency's pension scheme.

2. Staff members as at 31 December 1978 who had not requested admission to the French scheme shall be permitted to do so as from the beginning of their employment with the Agency including, where applicable, any time spent working for the European Preparatory Commission for Space Research and the ELDO Preparatory Group, as well as time spent working in other co-ordinated organizations, and may apply for retroactive participation in the French scheme for the periods of time not covered under the pension scheme of the co-ordinated organizations, under the terms defined in article 5 (5) of this Agreement.

3. The persons concerned shall have a period of six months from the date of publication of the Agreement to exercise the option provided for in paragraph 2 of this article.

4. Contributions made to the French old age insurance scheme, whether compulsory or voluntary, in respect of periods of employment with co-ordinated organizations, shall be cancelled if the persons concerned so request within the six-month period following publication of the Agreement.

5. Contributions which are cancelled, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of this article, shall be reimbursed by the competent French insurer.

This reimbursement shall be made to the Agency in accordance with terms to be defined directly between the Director General of the Agency and the competent French authorities.

*Article 5.* DISABILITY AND OLD AGE INSURANCE — PERMANENT PROVISIONS

1. Staff members of the Agency covered by the staff rules and registered with the pension scheme who have been engaged after 1 January 1979 may not, as from that date, be admitted to the French scheme of voluntary disability and old age insurance.

2. Staff members engaged after 1 January 1979 other than those referred to in paragraph 1 of this article who are not registered with the French scheme and who are not covered under the Agency's pension scheme may, within a period of six months from the date on which they are engaged apply for admission to the French scheme of voluntary disability and old age insurance for the periods in which they are employed by the Agency.

3. "Temporary employees" of the Agency who carry out their functions in French territory shall be covered compulsorily by the French scheme of disability and old age insurance.

4. Staff members of the Agency and, where applicable, their dependants, registered with the French scheme of old age insurance, shall have within a period of six months from their departure from the Agency, the option of applying for retroactive participation in the French scheme of old age insurance for the period they were employed by the Agency, which would not entitle them to an old age pension under the Agency's pension scheme.

This option shall in no way affect the provisions set forth in paragraph 1 of this article.

5. The amount of the retroactive payments shall be calculated, for the whole of the period to which such payments relate, on the basis of the salary level of the posts held by the persons concerned immediately prior to their departure from the Agency, under the terms defined by French legislation for making retroactive payments to the voluntary old age insurance scheme in force at the time of the application.

6. The terms of these payments to social security agencies shall be decided directly between the Director General of the Agency and the competent French authorities.

7. Cash benefits paid in cases of permanent disability under the special regulations of the Agency may be accumulated with a pension acquired under the French voluntary insurance scheme.

8. Disability pensions and old age pensions, including, where applicable, increases and supplementary allowances, as defined by French social security legislation, due to staff members of the Agency or their dependants, shall be continued and paid in the country of their residence to those persons concerned who leave French territory.

*Article 6*

Problems arising out the implementation of this Agreement shall be settled directly between the competent French authorities and the Director General of the Agency.

*Article 7*

1. This Agreement shall take effect on 1 January 1979. Its provisions shall replace those of the Agreement signed on 8 October 1965 between France and the European Space Agency and of the Exchange of letters of 11 March 1965 between France and the European Space Vehicle Launcher Development Organization, which are hereby abrogated.

2. This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the first month following the notifications by which the Parties inform each other that the required formalities have been completed.

3. This Agreement is concluded for a period of one year from the date of its entry into force. It shall be automatically renewed from year to year unless notice of termination is given three months before the renewal date.

DONE at Paris on 18 May 1979 in duplicate in the French language. (Official translations into English and German may be made at the request of one of the Parties.)

For the Government  
of the French Republic:

[Signed]

CLAUDE CHAYET

For the European  
Space Agency:

[Signed]

GEORGES VAN REETH