

Declaration by Bulgaria pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the coordination of social security systems for the reference year ending on 31 December 2021.

I. DECLARATIONS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 1(L) OF REGULATION (EC) NO 883/2004 AND THE DATE FROM WHICH THE REGULATION WILL APPLY

None

II. LEGISLATION AND SCHEMES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 3 OF REGULATION (EC) NO 883/2004 AND THE DATE FROM WHICH THE REGULATION WILL APPLY

Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 applies to the legislation listed below from 1 May 2010 (the date of its entry into force).

1. Sickness benefits

(i) Benefits in kind

The Health Act, in force as from 1 January 2005: medical aid in emergency cases; intensive care for persons without health insurance; preventive examinations and tests and obstetric care for all women without health insurance, regardless of the manner of birth chosen, within the scope of and by a procedure determined by an ordinance of the Minister of Health; inpatient psychiatric care; comprehensive outpatient monitoring of uninsured persons with mental health conditions; treatment with methadone substitution and maintenance programmes and outpatient psychiatric rehabilitation programmes; provision of blood and blood products; transplantation of organs, tissues and cells; mandatory treatment and/or mandatory isolation; provision of medical activities for patients with infectious diseases according to a list established by a regulation of the Minister for Health, including for the prevention of epidemiological risk; comprehensive outpatient monitoring of uninsured persons with dermatovenereological diseases; provision of medical activities for patients with non-specific lung diseases according to a list established by a regulation of the Minister for Health; expert examinations on the type and degree of disability and permanent incapacity for work; payment for medical treatment under the conditions and procedure established by the Minister for Health; ensuring the sustainability of medical activities and specialised care provided to specific persons in implementation of projects and programmes funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds or other international financial institutions and donors, according to a list established by a regulation of the Minister for Health; assisted reproduction; vaccines for compulsory immunisation and re-immunisation, vaccines for special indications and in emergency situations, specific serums, immunoglobulins and other bioproducts related to the prevention of communicable diseases, as well as the technical devices for their application; the full range of anti-epidemic activities; access to healthcare activities within the framework of national, regional and municipal health programmes. There is a right to payment for medical

and other treatment services in Bulgaria or abroad for illnesses for which no other financing mechanisms are provided under the state budget, municipal budgets or the National Health Insurance Fund budget, or which cannot be insured in Bulgaria, subject to prior approval. In such cases, persons up to the age of 18 are entitled to medical care outside the scope of compulsory health insurance, which also includes payment from the State budget for medical devices, highly specialised devices/appliances for individual use, dietary foods for special medical purposes, medicinal products not included in the list under Article 262(1) of the Medicinal Products in Human Medicine Act. Any treatment for oncological and oncohematological disease commenced before the age of 18 continues to be paid for after the patient reaches the age of 18 until the end of the treatment.

The Health Insurance Act, in force as from 1 January 1999: within the scope of the compulsory health insurance.

Regulation No 2 of 2019 on the medical and other services referred to in Article 82(1a) and (3) of the Health Act and the conditions and procedure for their approval, use and payment, in force as from 1 April. 2019;

Regulation No 9 of 2019 establishing the cover package guaranteed by the National Health Insurance Fund budget, in force as from 13 December 2019.

(ii) Cash benefits

The Social Security Code, in force as from 1 January 2000: cash benefits for short-term incapacity and occupational rehabilitation.

2. Maternity and equivalent paternity benefits

(i) Benefits in kind

The Health Act, in force as from 1 January 2005: maternity benefits in kind for uninsured pregnant women;

The Health Insurance Act, in force as from 1 January 1999: maternity benefits in kind, within the scope of the compulsory health insurance.

(ii) Cash benefits

The Social Security Code, in force as from 1 January 2000: cash benefits for occupational rehabilitation necessitated by pregnancy, breastfeeding or IVF treatment, cash benefits for pregnancy and childbirth, cash benefits for those raising children up to the age of two and cash benefits for the adoption of children up to the age of five, cash benefits in the event of non-use

of maternity and childbirth leave and of the additional paid leave for raising children up to the age of two, paternity cash benefits.

3. Invalidity benefits

(i) Benefits in kind

The Health Act, in force as from 1 January 2005: invalidity benefits in kind, outside the scope of the compulsory health insurance.

The Health Insurance Act, in force as from 1 January 1999: invalidity benefits in kind, within the scope of compulsory health insurance.

The Integration of Persons with Disabilities Act, in force as from 1 January 2019: non-contributory sickness benefits in kind, provided to disabled persons with a view to integrating them into society.

(ii) Cash benefits

The Social Security Code, in force as from 1 January 2000: from the state social security system - pension for invalidity due to illness and cash benefits for invalidity due to illness where the insured person lacks the necessary number of contributory years for the granting of a pension for invalidity due to illness; grants for prevention and rehabilitation and cash grants for specialised equipment relating to a disability; social invalidity pension.

The Integration of Persons with Disabilities Act, in force as from 1 January 2019: non-contributory sickness cash benefits, provided to disabled persons with a view to integrating them into society - monthly financial support.

4. Old-age benefits

(i) Benefits in kind

The Health Act, in force as from 1 January 2005: benefits in kind, outside the scope of the compulsory health insurance.

The Health Insurance Act, in force as from 1 January 1999: benefits in kind, within the scope of compulsory health insurance;

(ii) Cash benefits

The Social Security Code, in force as from 1 January 2000: cash benefits provided by the state social security system, contributory old-age pension; contributory reduced-rate old-age pension; supplementary lifelong old-age pension provided by the compulsory additional social security scheme.

5. Survivor's benefits

(i) Benefits in kind

None

(ii) Cash benefits

The Social Security Code, in force as from 1 January 2000: cash benefits: survivor's pension provided by the state social security system, survivor's pension provided by the compulsory additional social security scheme, as well as a supplement deriving from the pension or accumulated pensions of the deceased spouse provided by the state social security system.

6. Benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases

(i) Benefits in kind

The Health Act, in force as from 1 January 2005: benefits in kind, outside the scope of the compulsory health insurance.

The Health Insurance Act, in force as from 1 January 1999: benefits in kind, within the scope of compulsory health insurance;

(ii) Cash benefits

The Social Security Code, in force as from 1 January 2000:

1. cash benefits for short-term incapacity as a result of accidents at work or occupational diseases, treatment at a sanatorium, urgent medical examinations, tests and/or treatments;
2. cash benefits for occupational rehabilitation in case of short-term incapacity as a result of accidents at work or occupational diseases;
3. cash grants for prevention and rehabilitation;
4. invalidity pensions related to accidents at work and occupational diseases;
5. cash grants for specialised equipment relating to a disability.

7. Death grants

Cash benefits

The Social Security Code, in force as from 1 January 2000: lump-sum grant on the death of an insured person to the spouse, children and parents.

8. Unemployment benefits

(i) Benefits in kind

None

(ii) Cash benefits

The Social Security Code, in force as from 1 January 2000: cash benefits provided by the state social security system.

The Employment Promotion Act, in force as from 1 January 2002: conditions for registering as an unemployed person and for maintaining registration at the Employment Agency, as part of the conditions for receiving unemployment benefits.

9. Pre-retirement benefits

Cash benefits

None

10. Family benefits

(i) Benefits in kind

The Family Allowances Act, in force as from 1 April 2002.

(ii) Cash benefits

The Family Allowances Act, in force as from 1 April 2002, amended as of 1 January 2019, with the exception of lump-sum family allowances and monthly allowances for a child without entitlement to a survivor's pension from a deceased parent in accordance with Article 8f.

- Monthly family allowances:

- monthly allowance for raising a child up to the age of one;

- monthly allowance for raising a child until graduation from high school, but not after the age of 20;
- monthly allowance for raising a child with a permanent disability.

11. Special non-contributory cash benefits

Special non-contributory cash benefits intended to provide a minimum subsistence income pursuant to Article 70(2)(a)(i) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004

Cash benefits

The Social Security Code, in force as from 1 January 2000: social old-age pension pursuant to Annex X of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004.

Special non-contributory cash benefits intended to provide a specific protection for the disabled, closely linked to the said person's social environment pursuant to Article 70(2)(a)(i) of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004

Cash benefits

III. CONVENTIONS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 8(2) OF REGULATION (EC) NO 883/2004 AND THE DATE FROM WHICH THE REGULATION WILL APPLY

Treaty between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Federal Republic of Germany for cooperation to combat cross-border fraud concerning employment benefits and social security contributions, undeclared employment and illegal cross-border temporary employment, in force as from 1 July 2010.

IV. MINIMUM BENEFITS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 58 OF REGULATION (EC) NO 883/2004 & THE DATE FROM WHICH THE REGULATION WILL APPLY

Minimum old-age pension: BGN 300 from 1 January 2021 to 24 December 2021, and BGN 370 as from 25 December 2021, determined each year in accordance with the State Social Insurance Budget Act.

V. POSSIBILITY FOR ANY CATEGORY OF SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS TO BE COVERED BY AN UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS SYSTEM (ARTICLE

**65A(1) OF REGULATION (EC) NO 883/2004) AND LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE WHERE APPLICABLE**

The legislation of the Republic of Bulgaria does not provide any possibility for any category of self-employed persons to be covered by the unemployment benefits system included within the scope of the State social security system.