Article 22
Transmission and Confidentiality of Information

1. The competent authorities or competent institutions of a Contracting State shall, in accordance with its laws and regulations, transmit to the competent authorities or competent institutions of the other Contracting State information about an individual collected under the legislation of that Contracting State insofar as that information is necessary for the implementation of this Agreement. Unless otherwise required by the laws and regulations of that other Contracting State, that information shall be used exclusively for the purpose of implementing this Agreement.

2. Upon the request of a competent authority or competent institution of a Contracting State, the competent authorities or competent institutions of the other Contracting State may transmit, in accordance with the legislation and other relevant laws and regulations of that other Contracting State, information about an individual other than that referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article collected under the legislation of that other Contracting State to the competent authorities or competent institutions of the first Contracting State insofar as it is necessary for the implementation of the legislation of that Contracting State. Unless otherwise required by the laws and regulations of the first Contracting State, that information shall be used exclusively for the purpose of implementing that legislation of that Contracting State.

3. Information referred to in paragraph 1 and 2 of this Article received by a Contracting State shall be governed by the laws and regulations of that Contracting State for the protection of confidentiality of personal data.

Article 23
Charges or Fees and Legalization

1. Insofar as the legislation and other relevant laws and regulations of a Contracting State contain provisions on an exemption or reduction of administrative charges or consular fees for documents to be submitted under the legislation of that Contracting State, those provisions shall also apply to documents to be submitted in the application of this Agreement and the legislation of the other Contracting State.

2. Documents which are presented for the purpose of this Agreement and the legislation of a Contracting State shall not require legalization or any other similar formality by diplomatic or consular authorities.

Article 24
Languages of Communication

1. In implementing this Agreement, the competent authorities and competent institutions of a Contracting State may not reject applications or any other documents for the reason that they are written in Japanese, Slovak or English language.

2. The competent authorities and competent institutions of the Contracting States may communicate directly with each other and with any concerned person wherever the person may reside whenever it is necessary to do so for the application of this Agreement or the legislation to which this Agreement applies. The communication may be in Japanese, Slovak or English language.

Article 25
Submission of Applications, Appeals and Declarations

1. When a written application for benefits, an appeal or any other declaration under the legislation of a Contracting State is submitted to a competent authority or competent institution of the other Contracting State which is competent to receive similar applications, appeals or declarations under the legislation of that other Contracting State, that application for benefits, appeal or declaration shall be deemed to be submitted on the same date to the competent authority or competent institution of the first Contracting State and shall be dealt with, according to the procedure and legislation of the first Contracting State.

2. The competent authority or competent institution of a Contracting State shall send the application for benefits, appeal or any other declaration submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article to the competent authority or competent institution of the other Contracting State without delay.

Article 26
Payment of Benefits

1. Payments of benefits under this Agreement may be made in the currency of either Contracting State.