2. Unless otherwise required by the laws and regulations of a Contracting State, information about an individual which is transmitted in accordance with this Agreement to that Contracting State by the other Contracting State shall be used exclusively for the purpose of implementing this Agreement. Such information 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 18

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, competent institution or liaison agency 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, competent institution or liaison agency 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, competent institution or liaison agency 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, competent institution or liaison agency of the other Contracting State without delay.

Article 19

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

Article 20

Any disagreement regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by consultation between the Contracting States.

Article 21

Article 4 shall not affect the provisions on complementary periods for Japanese nationals on the basis of domicile outside the territory of Japan under the legislation of Japan.

Article 22

In applying paragraphs 1 and 4 of Article 7 and paragraph (a) of Article 13, in the case of persons whose detachment or self-employment referred to in those paragraphs commenced prior to the entry into force of this Agreement, the period of such detachment or self-employment shall be considered to begin on the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 23

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the month in which the Contracting States shall have completed an exchange of diplomatic notes informing each other that their respective constitutional requirements necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled.

Article 24

1. This Agreement shall remain in force for an indefinite period. Either Contracting State may give to the other Contracting State, through diplomatic channels, written notice of termination of this Agreement. In that event, this Agreement shall remain in force until the last day of the twelfth month following the month in which the termination was notified.

2. When either Contracting State gives notice of termination of this Agreement to the other Contracting State, both Contracting States shall consult with each other in order to solve the issues which may arise from the termination of this Agreement.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done at Rome, on February 6, 2009, in duplicate in the English language.

For Japan:

Hiroyasu Ando

For the Italian Republic:

S. G. Craxi