Article 25
Headings

The headings of Parts, Chapters and Articles of this Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement.

PART V
TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 26
Transitional Provisions

1. This Agreement shall not establish any entitlement to benefits for any period prior to its entry into force.

2. In the implementation of this Agreement, periods of coverage completed before its entry into force as well as other legally relevant events occurring before its entry into force shall be taken into account for establishing entitlement to benefits by virtue of this Agreement.

3. This Agreement shall not apply to rights settled by a lump-sum payment or a refund of contributions before its entry into force.

4. Subject to paragraphs 5 to 7 of this Article, decisions, including the decline of entitlement to a benefit, made before the entry into force of this Agreement shall not affect any rights to be established by virtue of this Agreement.

5. As regards Austria, the amount of a benefit due only by virtue of this Agreement shall be determined from the date of entry into force of this Agreement at the request of the beneficiary. Where the claim is submitted within two years from the entry into force of this Agreement, the benefit shall be paid from that date; otherwise the benefit shall be paid from the date determined under the legislation of Austria.

6. As regards Austria, the amount of a benefit determined before the entry into force of this Agreement shall not be reviewed anew.

7. As regards Japan, the application of this Agreement shall not, for a beneficiary, result in any reduction in the amount of benefits to which entitlement was established before the entry into force of this Agreement.

8. In applying paragraph 1 of Article 7, in the case of persons whose detachment referred to in the paragraph commenced prior to the entry into force of this Agreement, the period of such detachment shall be considered to begin on the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

Article 27
Entry into Force

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 28
Duration and Termination

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. If this Agreement is terminated in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, rights regarding entitlement to and payment of benefits acquired under this Agreement shall be retained, in respect of a person who submits an application for those benefits and who fulfils the requirements for entitlement to those benefits prior to the date of termination.