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Regeringens svar til Kommissionens arbejdsgruppe (FREEMO) vedrørende retten til fri bevægelighed og svig

Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg og med henvisning til Justitsministeriets besvarelse af spørgsmål nr. 1 ad EUU alm. del fremsendt 5. november 2013, vedlægges Justitsministeriets svar til Kommissionens arbejdsgruppe (FREEMO) vedrørende retten til fri bevægelighed og svig.

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Dato: 5. november 2013
Kontor: Kontoret for Internationalt udlændingesamarbejde
Sagsbeh: Teis Tonsgaard Andersen
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1. Introduction

The following contains information and statistics on EU citizens receiving social benefits in Denmark and statistics on abuse of and fraud regarding free movement rights as requested by the Commission.

Points 2 and 3 list the number of EU citizens who have received social benefits in Denmark in 2012 compared to the number of Danish citizens and citizens from non-EU countries (including EEA-countries) during the same time period.

Initially, it is noted that all EU citizens residing in Denmark have been included under points 2 and 3, including EU citizens who reside in Denmark permanently. The point of origin of the paper is individuals with citizenship in one of the Member States as registered in the Danish Civil Register (CPR) who resided in Denmark in the year 2012.

2. The economically active and inactive population

The Commission has requested information on the total number and percentage of mobile EU citizens in Denmark who are economically active or inactive in comparison to nationals who are economically active or inactive.

Answer

By the end of 2012, there were approximately 120,600 EU citizens residing in Denmark in the age group 16-64, *see table 1*.

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Table 1. 16-64 year olds, broken down by citizenship – end of 2012.

Danes	EU citizens ¹⁾	Non-EU countries	Total
3,254,603	120,473	173,769	3,548,845
91,7 %	3,4%	4,9 %	100 %

Note: Includes individuals resident in Denmark by the end of 2012.

1) "EU citizens" excludes Danish citizens.

Source: cprstam.

Table 2 demonstrates the number of individuals registered as recipients of social benefits or income from employment for a shorter or longer period of time in 2012. Each individual may occur in more than one category, but only once in each category. This means that an individual who has, for instance, been employed in January-March 2012, unemployed and thus receiving unemployment benefits during April-June 2012, reaches the age of 65 and is transferred to old age pension, will be included in the benefit groups "Income from employment", "Unemployment benefits", and "Old age pension".

Table 2. The population, broken down by various benefits and citizenship – 2012.

	Danes	EU citizen-ship ¹⁾	Other countries	Total
Total	5,210,827 (93,4 %)	143,816 (2,6 %)	224,612 (4,0 %)	5,579,255 (100 %)
Unemployment benefits	310,567 (91,8 %)	10,766 (3,2 %)	17,047 (5,0 %)	338,380 (100 %)
Social assistance (cash benefits) ²⁾	169,959 (82,4 %)	6,047 (2,9 %)	30,266 (14,7 %)	206,272 (100 %)
Students receiving student grants (SU)	418,376 (93,3 %)	10,854 (2,4 %)	19,339 (4,3 %)	448,569 (100 %)
Old age pension (pensioners) ³⁾	999,826 (97,9 %)	8,264 (0,8 %)	13,681 (1,3 %)	1,021,771 (100 %)
Other benefits ⁴⁾	1,037,093 (93,9 %)	23,793 (2,2 %)	43,524 (3,9 %)	1,104,410 (100 %)
Income from employment ⁵⁾	2,758,830 (93,5 %)	95,103 (3,2 %)	97,692 (3,3 %)	2,951,625 (100 %)

- 1) "EU citizens" excludes Danes.
- 2) Social assistance is a cash benefit which is offered when an adult person due to change in circumstances (unemployment, disease, divorce etc.) is without sufficient means to meet his/her needs or those of his/her family, and if no other benefit fulfils these needs.
- 3) Individuals above the age of 65 are considered pensioners.
- 4) This group is made up of, among others, anticipatory pension recipients as well as recipients of maternity leave and sickness benefits.
- 5) Persons working as posted workers in Denmark are not included.

Source: DREAM og cprstam.

3. Recipients of social benefits (social assistance)

The Commission has requested information on the total number and percentage of mobile EU citizens in Denmark who applied for/received social benefits in comparison to nationals (and non-EU nationals, where relevant) in a given period on a comparable situation.

Answer

A little less than 6,050 EU citizens received social assistance for a shorter or longer time period in 2012, see table 3. The statistics include, among others, individuals who received social assistance for a very short amount of time.

Table 3. Number of individuals who received social assistance (cash benefits)¹⁾ for a shorter or longer time period, broken down by citizenship. 2012.

	Danes	EU citizens ²⁾	Non-EU countries	Total
Total	169,959	6,047	30,266	206,272
	82,4 %	2,9 %	14,7 %	100 %

1) Social assistance is a cash benefit which is offered when an adult person due to change in circumstances (unemployment, disease, divorce etc.) is without sufficient means to meet his/her needs or those of his/her family, and if no other benefit fulfils these needs.

2) "EU citizens" excludes Danes.

Source: Special data extraction from Jobindsats

4. Abuse of and fraud regarding free movement rights

The Commission requested information on the types of abuse and fraud of free movement and on numbers and percentages of mobile EU citizens who were found to abuse or defraud free movement, in comparison to the total number of EU mobile citizens in a given country and given period and in comparison to nationals and non-EU nationals, when applicable.

Answer

The Danish Immigration Service began to register cases of abuse and fraud in connection to the free movement rights in July 2011. Cases are registered on basis of reports from The State Administration. Table 4 shows the numbers and the different types of abuse or fraud registered in 2012.

Table 4. Registered cases of fraud and abuse of free movement rights in 2012

	Marriages of convenience	Other types
False documents	8	3

4.1. False documents

Most of the registered cases with false documents concern passports and ID-cards. Fewer cases concern false employer declaration or salary statements.

With regard to false passports, most cases concern persons from Serbia, Russia and Ukraine who are holding false Bulgarian, Slovenian or Lithuanian passports.

4.2. Other types

In this category most cases concern the situation where a person is holding a real ID-document not belonging to the person in question.