



Ministry of Health and Social Affairs  
Social Insurance Division

## Proposals aiming to offer EU citizens continued entitlement to social security benefits after Brexit

Around 100 000 Swedes currently live or work in the UK. If the UK leaves the EU without a withdrawal agreement in place, Swedes and other EU citizens in the UK on 30 March 2019 could suffer from consequences that have been difficult to predict.

In the social security area, the immediate effect of the UK's withdrawal from the EU is that central EU legal provisions will no longer apply. To prevent any acute consequences, the Government is planning to take measures that will primarily mitigate the effects that may arise for individuals during the initial period after the withdrawal. The proposals aim to allow a period of adjustment.

At present, the common EU rules support the pay-out of a number of social security benefits from Sweden to another EU country. For individuals who receive, or may receive, such benefits, a situation will arise overnight in which they could lose their benefits because the UK is no longer an EU Member State.

The proposals presented in the memorandum 'Measures to mitigate the social consequences of a no-deal Brexit' (*Åtgärder för att mildra konsekvenser på det sociala området vid ett avtalslöst brexit*) primarily mean that individuals will continue to receive their benefits paid out to the UK. This will be the case even though the EU rules no longer apply, provided that these individuals receive, or are entitled to receive, such benefits prior to the withdrawal date. This includes parental benefits and guarantee pensions, as well as other benefits. The proposals also include provisions whereby individuals who

lived or worked in the UK at some point prior to Brexit will be able to use this time as the basis for a benefit even though their application for such a benefit from Sweden is made in the future, for example in applying for a pension. It will also be possible to receive compensation for any care costs that have arisen in the UK. It is proposed that payments of benefits and compensation for care costs be possible up to the end of 2019.