

The decision of the Swiss Government to terminate the Agreement on Social Security Swiss-Kosovo is illegal



Prishtina 19 October 2011 - The decision of the Swiss Government to terminate the Agreement on Social Security Swiss-Kosovo was declared illegal. Regarding to this decision, the Agreement on Social Security for Swiss-Kosovo, the Swiss Federal Court has declared illegal the decision of the Government, which took in April of 2010, with retroactive application, the date when it ceased.

It was named illegal the decision of the Swiss Government to stop granting pensions to Kosovars who live in Switzerland. The court asked that they be paid retroactively. Union of Independent Trade Unions of Kosovo (BSPK) is satisfied, because their efforts in cooperation with the Union UNIA with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare of Kosovo, Kosovar ambassador in Switzerland, worked incessantly on this issue asking Swiss authorities to continue the agreement on social insurance and also together with the union "UNIA", and other organizations had collected several thousand signatures for a petition which they submitted them to the two governments in May 2010.

The Swiss government in December 2009 had taken the decision to terminate the payment of pensions in Kosovo, starting from 1 April 2010. In this way, it was not determined for the continuation of social security agreement with the former Yugoslavia in relation to Kosovo.

This agreement was signed at the time of former Yugoslavia and the Government of Switzerland interrupts bilateral social security agreement with Kosovo. The agreement includes: retirement pension, disability insurance, disaster insurance, occupational sickness and family allowances. These assurances can be enjoyed only people who remain living in Switzerland, as if returning to Kosovo, lose the right to a pension.