

Directive 2009/138/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council
of 25 November 2009 on the taking-up and pursuit of the business of
Insurance and Reinsurance (Solvency II) (recast) (Text with EEA relevance)

TITLE I

**GENERAL RULES ON THE TAKING-UP AND PURSUIT OF
DIRECT INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE ACTIVITIES**

CHAPTER VIII

Right of establishment and freedom to provide services

Section 1

Establishment by insurance undertakings

Article 145

Conditions for branch establishment

1 Member States shall ensure that an insurance undertaking which proposes to establish a branch within the territory of another Member State notifies the supervisory authorities of its home Member State.

Any permanent presence of an undertaking in the territory of a Member State shall be treated in the same way as a branch, even where that presence does not take the form of a branch, but consists merely of an office managed by the own staff of the undertaking or by a person who is independent but has permanent authority to act for the undertaking as an agency would.

2 Member States shall require every insurance undertaking that proposes to establish a branch within the territory of another Member State to provide the following information when effecting the notification provided for in paragraph 1:

- a the Member State within the territory of which it proposes to establish a branch;
- b a scheme of operations setting out, at least, the types of business envisaged and the structural organisation of the branch;
- c the name of a person who possesses sufficient powers to bind, in relation to third parties, the insurance undertaking or, in the case of Lloyd's, the underwriters concerned and to represent it or them in relations with the authorities and courts of the host Member State (the authorised agent);
- d the address in the host Member State from which documents may be obtained and to which they may be delivered, including all communications to the authorised agent.

With regard to Lloyd's, in the event of any litigation in the host Member State arising out of underwritten commitments, the insured persons shall not be treated less favourably than if the litigation had been brought against businesses of a conventional type.

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3 Where a non-life insurance undertaking intends its branch to cover risks in class 10 in Part A of Annex I, not including carrier's liability, it shall produce a declaration that it has become a member of the national bureau and the national guarantee fund of the host Member State.

4 In the event of a change in any of the particulars communicated under point (b), (c) or (d) of paragraph 2, an insurance undertaking shall give written notice of the change to the supervisory authorities of the home Member State and of the Member State where that branch is situated at least one month before making the change so that the supervisory authorities of the home Member State and the supervisory authorities of the Member State where that branch is situated may fulfil their respective obligations under Article 146.

Article 146

Communication of information

1 Unless the supervisory authorities of the home Member State have reason to doubt the adequacy of the system of governance or the financial situation of the insurance undertaking or the fit and proper requirements in accordance with Article 42 of the authorised agent, taking into account the business planned, they shall, within three months of receiving all the information referred to in Article 145(2), communicate that information to the supervisory authorities of the host Member State and shall inform the insurance undertaking concerned thereof.

The supervisory authorities of the home Member State shall also attest that the insurance undertaking covers the Solvency Capital Requirement and the Minimum Capital Requirement calculated in accordance with Articles 100 and 129.

2 Where the supervisory authorities of the home Member State refuse to communicate the information referred to in Article 145(2) to the supervisory authorities of the host Member State they shall state the reasons for their refusal to the insurance undertaking concerned within three months of receiving all the information in question.

Such a refusal or failure to act shall be subject to a right to apply to the courts in the home Member State.

3 Before the branch of an insurance undertaking starts business, the supervisory authorities of the host Member State shall, where applicable, within two months of receiving the information referred to in paragraph 1, inform the supervisory authority of the home Member State of the conditions under which, in the interest of the general good, that business must be pursued in the host Member State. The supervisory authority of the home Member State shall communicate this information to the insurance undertaking concerned.

The insurance undertaking may establish the branch and start business as from the date upon which the supervisory authority of the home Member State has received such a communication or, if no communication is received, on expiry of the period provided for in the first subparagraph.

Section 2

Freedom to provide services: by insurance undertakings

Subsection 1

General provisions

Article 147

Prior notification to the home Member State

Any insurance undertaking that intends to pursue business for the first time in one or more Member States under the freedom to provide services shall first notify the supervisory authorities of the home Member State, indicating the nature of the risks or commitments it proposes to cover.

Article 148

Notification by the home Member State

1 Within one month of the notification provided for in Article 147, the supervisory authorities of the home Member State shall communicate the following to the Member State or States within the territories of which an insurance undertaking intends to pursue business under the freedom to provide services:

- a a certificate attesting that the insurance undertaking covers the Solvency Capital Requirement and Minimum Capital Requirement calculated in accordance with Articles 100 and 129;
- b the classes of insurance which the insurance undertaking has been authorised to offer;
- c the nature of the risks or commitments which the insurance undertaking proposes to cover in the host Member State.

At the same time, the supervisory authorities of the home Member State shall inform the insurance undertaking concerned of that communication.

2 Member States within the territory of which a non-life insurance undertaking intends, under the freedom to provide services, to cover risks in class 10 in Part A of Annex I other than carrier's liability may require that insurance undertaking to submit the following:

- a the name and address of the representative referred to in Article 18(1)(h);
- b a declaration that it has become a member of the national bureau and national guarantee fund of the host Member State.

3 Where the supervisory authorities of the home Member State do not communicate the information referred to in paragraph 1 within the period laid down therein, they shall state the reasons for their refusal to the insurance undertaking within that same period.

Such a refusal or failure to act shall be subject to a right to apply to the courts in the home Member State.

4 The insurance undertaking may start business as from the date on which it is informed of the communication provided for in the first subparagraph of paragraph 1.

F1 Article 149

Changes in the nature of the risks or commitments

Any change which an insurance undertaking intends to make to the information referred to in Article 147 shall be subject to the procedure provided for in Articles 147 and 148.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive 2014/51/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directives 2003/71/EC and 2009/138/EC and Regulations \(EC\) No 1060/2009, \(EU\) No 1094/2010 and \(EU\) No 1095/2010 in respect of the powers of the European Supervisory Authority \(European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority\) and the European Supervisory Authority \(European Securities and Markets Authority\).](#)

Subsection 2

Third party motor vehicle liability

Article 150

Compulsory insurance on third party motor vehicle liability

1 Where a non-life insurance undertaking, through an establishment situated in one Member State, covers a risk, other than carrier's liability, classified under class 10 in Part A of Annex I which is situated in another Member State, the host Member State shall require that undertaking to become a member of and participate in the financing of its national bureau and its national guarantee fund.

2 The financial contribution referred to in paragraph 1 shall be made only in relation to risks, other than carrier's liability, classified under class 10 in Part A of Annex I covered by way of provision of services. That contribution shall be calculated on the same basis as for non-life insurance undertakings covering those risks, through an establishment situated in that Member State.

The calculation shall be made by reference to the insurance undertakings' premium income from that class in the host Member State or the number of risks in that class covered there.

3 The host Member State may require an insurance undertaking providing services to comply with the rules in that Member State concerning the cover of aggravated risks, insofar as they apply to non-life insurance undertakings established in that State.

Article 151

Non-discrimination of persons pursuing claims

The host Member State shall require the non-life insurance undertaking to ensure that persons pursuing claims arising out of events occurring in its territory are not placed in

a less favourable situation as a result of the fact that the undertaking is covering a risk, other than carrier's liability, classified under class 10 in Part A of Annex I by way of provision of services rather than through an establishment situated in that State.

Article 152

Representative

1 For the purposes referred to in Article 151, the host Member State shall require the non-life insurance undertaking to appoint a representative resident or established in its territory who shall collect all necessary information in relation to claims, and shall possess sufficient powers to represent the undertaking in relation to persons suffering damage who could pursue claims, including the payment of such claims, and to represent it or, where necessary, to have it represented before the courts and authorities of that Member State in relation to those claims.

That representative may also be required to represent the non-life insurance undertaking before the supervisory authorities of the host Member State with regard to checking the existence and validity of motor vehicle liability insurance policies.

2 The host Member State shall not require that representative to undertake activities on behalf of the non-life insurance undertaking which appointed him other than those set out in paragraph 1.

3 The appointment of the representative shall not in itself constitute the opening of a branch for the purpose of Article 145.

4 Where the insurance undertaking has failed to appoint a representative, Member States may give their approval to the claims representative appointed in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2000/26/EC to assume the function of the representative referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Section 3

Competencies of the supervisory authorities of the host member state

Subsection 1

Insurance

Article 153

Language

The supervisory authorities of the host Member State may require the information which they are authorised to request with regard to the business of insurance undertakings operating in the territory of that Member State to be supplied to them in the official language or languages of that State.

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Article 154

Prior notification and prior approval

1 The host Member State shall not adopt provisions requiring the prior approval or systematic notification of general and special policy conditions, scales of premiums, or, in the case of life insurance, the technical bases used in particular for calculating scales of premiums and technical provisions, or the forms and other documents which an insurance undertaking intends to use in its dealings with policy holders.

2 The host Member State shall only require an insurance undertaking that proposes to pursue insurance business within its territory to effect non-systematic notification of policy conditions and other documents for the purpose of verifying compliance with its national provisions concerning insurance contracts, and that requirement shall not constitute a prior condition for an insurance undertaking to pursue its business.

3 The host Member State shall not retain or introduce a requirement for prior notification or approval of proposed increases in premium rates except as part of general price-control systems.

Article 155

Insurance undertakings not complying with the legal provisions

1 Where the supervisory authorities of a host Member State establish that an insurance undertaking with a branch or pursuing business under the freedom to provide services in its territory is not complying with the legal provisions applicable to it in that Member State, they shall require the insurance undertaking concerned to remedy such irregularity.

2 Where the insurance undertaking concerned fails to take the necessary action, the supervisory authorities of the Member State concerned shall inform the supervisory authorities of the home Member State accordingly.

The supervisory authorities of the home Member State shall, at the earliest opportunity, take all appropriate measures to ensure that the insurance undertaking concerned remedies that irregular situation.

The supervisory authorities of the home Member State shall inform the supervisory authorities of the host Member State of the measures taken.

3 Where, despite the measures taken by the home Member State or because those measures prove to be inadequate or are lacking in that Member State, the insurance undertaking persists in violating the legal provisions in force in the host Member State, the supervisory authorities of the host Member State may, after informing the supervisory authorities of the home Member State, take appropriate measures to prevent or penalise further irregularities, including, in so far as is strictly necessary, preventing that undertaking from continuing to conclude new insurance contracts within the territory of the host Member State.

[^{F2}In addition, the supervisory authority of the home or the host Member State may refer the matter to EIOPA and request its assistance in accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1094/2010. In that case, EIOPA may act in accordance with the powers conferred on it by that Article.]

Member States shall ensure that in their territories it is possible to serve the legal documents necessary for such measures on insurance undertakings.

4 Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not affect the power of the Member States concerned to take appropriate emergency measures to prevent or penalise irregularities within their territories. That power shall include the possibility of preventing insurance undertakings from continuing to conclude new insurance contracts within their territories.

5 Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not affect the power of the Member States to penalise infringements within their territories.

6 Where an insurance undertaking which has committed an infringement has an establishment or possesses property in the Member State concerned, the supervisory authorities of that Member State may, in accordance with national law, apply the national administrative penalties prescribed for that infringement by way of enforcement against that establishment or property.

7 Any measure adopted under paragraphs 2 to 6 involving restrictions on the conduct of insurance business must be properly reasoned and communicated to the insurance undertaking concerned.

8 Insurance undertakings shall submit to the supervisory authorities of the host Member State at their request all documents requested of them for the purposes of paragraphs 1 to 7 to the extent that insurance undertakings the head office of which is in that Member State are also obliged to do so.

[^{F19} Member States shall inform the Commission and EIOPA of the number and types of cases which led to refusals under Articles 146 and 148 or in which measures have been taken under paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive 2014/51/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directives 2003/71/EC and 2009/138/EC and Regulations \(EC\) No 1060/2009, \(EU\) No 1094/2010 and \(EU\) No 1095/2010 in respect of the powers of the European Supervisory Authority \(European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority\) and the European Supervisory Authority \(European Securities and Markets Authority\).](#)
- F2** Inserted by [Directive 2014/51/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directives 2003/71/EC and 2009/138/EC and Regulations \(EC\) No 1060/2009, \(EU\) No 1094/2010 and \(EU\) No 1095/2010 in respect of the powers of the European Supervisory Authority \(European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority\) and the European Supervisory Authority \(European Securities and Markets Authority\).](#)

Article 156

Advertising

Insurance undertakings with head offices in Member States may advertise their services, through all available means of communication, in the host Member State, subject to the rules governing the form and content of such advertising adopted in the interest of the general good.

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Article 157

Taxes on premiums

1 Without prejudice to any subsequent harmonisation, every insurance contract shall be subject exclusively to the indirect taxes and parafiscal charges on insurance premiums in the Member State in which the risk is situated or the Member State of the commitment

For the purposes of the first subparagraph, movable property contained in a building situated within the territory of a Member State, except for goods in commercial transit, shall be considered as a risk situated in that Member State, even where the building and its contents are not covered by the same insurance policy.

In the case of Spain, an insurance contract shall also be subject to the surcharges legally established in favour of the Spanish ‘Consorcio de Compensación de Seguros’ for the performance of its functions relating to the compensation of losses arising from extraordinary events occurring in that Member State.

2 The law applicable to the contract under Article 178 of this Directive and under Regulation (EC) No 593/2008 shall not affect the fiscal arrangements applicable.

3 Each Member State shall apply its own national provisions to those insurance undertakings which cover risks or commitments situated within its territory for measures to ensure the collection of indirect taxes and parafiscal charges due under paragraph 1.

Subsection 2

Reinsurance

Article 158

Reinsurance undertakings not complying with the legal provisions

1 Where the supervisory authorities of a Member State establish that a reinsurance undertaking with a branch or pursuing business under the freedom to provide services within its territory is not complying with the legal provisions applicable to it in that Member State, they shall require the reinsurance undertaking concerned to remedy that irregular situation. At the same time, they shall refer those findings to the supervisory authority of the home Member State.

2 Where, despite the measures taken by the home Member State or because such measures prove inadequate, the reinsurance undertaking persists in violating the legal provisions applicable to it in the host Member State, the supervisory authorities of the host Member State may, after informing the supervisory authority of the home Member State, take appropriate measures to prevent or penalise further irregularities, including, insofar as is strictly necessary, preventing that reinsurance undertaking from continuing to conclude new reinsurance contracts within the territory of the host Member State.

[^{F2}In addition, the supervisory authority of the home or the host Member State may refer the matter to EIOPA and request its assistance in accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1094/2010. In that case, EIOPA may act in accordance with the powers conferred on it by that Article.]

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Member States shall ensure that within their territories it is possible to serve the legal documents necessary for such measures on reinsurance undertakings.

3 Any measure adopted under paragraphs 1 and 2 involving sanctions or restrictions on the conduct of reinsurance business shall state the reasons and shall be communicated to the reinsurance undertaking concerned.

Textual Amendments

F2 Inserted by Directive 2014/51/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directives 2003/71/EC and 2009/138/EC and Regulations (EC) No 1060/2009, (EU) No 1094/2010 and (EU) No 1095/2010 in respect of the powers of the European Supervisory Authority (European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority) and the European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority).

Section 4

Statistical information

F1 Article 159

Statistical information on cross-border activities

Every insurance undertaking shall inform the competent supervisory authority of its home Member State, separately in respect of transactions carried out under the right of establishment and those carried out under the freedom to provide services, of the amount of the premiums, claims and commissions, without deduction of reinsurance, by Member State and as follows:

- (a) for non-life insurance, by lines of business in accordance with the relevant delegated act;
- (b) for life insurance, by lines of business in accordance with the relevant delegated act.

As regards class 10 in Part A of Annex I, excluding carrier's liability, the undertaking concerned shall also inform that supervisory authority of the frequency and average cost of claims.

The supervisory authority of the home Member State shall submit the information referred to in the first and second subparagraphs within reasonable time and in aggregate form to the supervisory authorities of each of the Member States concerned, upon their request.]

Textual Amendments

F1 Substituted by Directive 2014/51/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directives 2003/71/EC and 2009/138/EC and Regulations (EC) No 1060/2009, (EU) No 1094/2010 and (EU) No 1095/2010 in respect of the powers of the European Supervisory Authority (European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority) and the European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority).

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Section 5

Treatment of contracts of branches in winding-up proceedings

Article 160

Winding-up of insurance undertakings

Where an insurance undertaking is wound up, commitments arising out of contracts underwritten through a branch or under the freedom to provide services shall be met in the same way as those arising out of the other insurance contracts of that undertaking, without distinction as to nationality as far as the persons insured and the beneficiaries are concerned.

Article 161

Winding-up of reinsurance undertakings

Where a reinsurance undertaking is wound up, commitments arising out of contracts underwritten through a branch or under the freedom to provide services shall be met in the same way as those arising out of the other reinsurance contracts of that undertaking.