

whether a person may appeal against such sanctions to an independent body.

The Committee regrets that no further information has been supplied on re-establishment centres, despite its request in the previous conclusion. As these centres cater for persons in need who are not eligible for cash assistance, they clearly play an important role in the social assistance infrastructure. Therefore, the Committee insists that a full account of the structure, operation, staffing and competence of these centres be supplied in the next report, along with statistics on the number of person assisted in this way.

Considering the rehabilitation allowance (*revalideringsydelse*) is a social security benefit, (see conclusion for Article 12 para. 1), the Committee will therefore deal with this benefit under Article 12.

As regards *medical assistance*, the Committee recalls that most forms of health care in Denmark are free of charge to all residents. Assistance for other health care costs may be granted under Section 46(a) of the Social Assistance Act. The report states that this provision also applies to nationals of other Contracting Parties legally resident or regularly working in Denmark. Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. The payments granted

cover all or part of the cost of the treatment required, depending on the resources of the individual. The Committee notes that 37,831 persons received health care benefit in 1996. It asks that the next report also indicate how many people were refused this benefit and whether any of these refusals were linked to length of residence in Denmark.

Concerning appeals, the report contends that the Appeals Committee for social affairs operates independently of the deciding authority. Its president is the chief administrative officer for the county, who is joined by two members appointed by the Minister for Social Affairs on the recommendation of the association of municipalities in the country. The term of office is four years. The Committee notes that decisions of the Appeals Committee may be brought before the courts, which is in line with the requirements of Article 13 para. 1.

The Committee therefore concludes that, as nationals of other Contracting Parties legally resident or regularly working in Denmark do not enjoy the same rights to "permanent" social assistance (for over one year) as Danish nationals, and as they are also subject to repatriation if they are in need of such assistance, Denmark fails to comply with this provision of the Charter.