



European Women Lawyers Association

The Voice of Women Lawyers Across Europe

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PRESS RELEASE

Better work-life balance for EU citizens: Presidency reaches provisional agreement with the European Parliament

The European Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) applauds as a first step the provisional agreement reached by the Romanian Presidency and the European Parliament, although the agreement falls short of the initial proposal of the Commission from 2017.

EWLA supports strongly Commissioner Marianne Thyssen's vision and mission to create real opportunities for equality within the European Union. According to the European Commission, "the overall employment rate of women is still 11.5 pp lower than that of men. 31.1% of working women work part-time vs. 8.2% of working men. This is especially the case for those with children. Just over 57.4% of women work full-time, compared to 75.5% of men. Therefore the full-time employment rate gap reaches 18 pp. Caring responsibilities are reasons for inactivity for almost 31% of inactive women, while this is only the case for 4.5% of men".

EWLA wants to support any legislative action that closes the gaps on parental rights between EU Member States. At the moment, there are still 11 Member States¹ that do not recognise the right to 10 working days of paternity leave around the time of birth of the child, 16 Member States² are without a period of leave reserved for fathers and 15 Member States³ don't offer well-paid parental leave.

EWLA President, Katharina Miller states: "EWLA was not very satisfied with the outcome of the Council (EPSCO) on 21 June 2018 on the Work-Life-Balance Directive. Now at least fathers are the winners of the game. We do understand that there are still many gaps between Member States and closing these takes time. We encourage the paternity and parental leave champions in Member States to talk about their best practices and pass their knowledge on to others; and at the same time, to work even harder to maintain their status quo or, better yet, to go even further in order to reach a better quality of life for men and women in the European Union."

The European Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) is registered in Belgium as an international non-governmental, non-profit, association (Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif). It is a federation of national women lawyers associations from amongst the European Union countries and those of EFTA countries. Members of EWLA are also individual women lawyers and academics from these countries. EWLA pursues the co-operation of European women lawyers, in order to combine their specific expertise in monitoring law and politics seen from the angle of fundamental rights, and in particular gender equality.

¹ Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Croatia, Italy, Malta, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania and Slovakia

² Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, Slovenia, Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Slovakia

³ Belgium, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, UK, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia and Slovakia

The European Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) is registered in Belgium as an International Non-profit Association (AISBL)

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