

Thursday 22 March 13.00 – 14.30
European Parliament, ASP5G305
Brussels

Round Table

“A business commitment for a better Work-Life Balance”

An initiative of MEPs Maria Arena and Agnes Jongerius
(S&D)



Overview

The birth of a child is one of the most beautiful things in life. You want to be present at every moment. You want to be sure that you can see your child grow up and ensure that your child gets a good start. Unfortunately, the gender employment gap in the labour market is most acute for parents. Especially woman have a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion. The gender employment gap is expected to still

amount to 9 percentage points in 2055. This challenge will not be sufficiently addressed without EU action. Therefore, the European Commission, stressed by the S&D, came with proposals to close this gap. The point of view of the European Parliament has not yet been determined. This round table has been set up to discuss the Work-Life Balance proposal from the Commission. There are good practices of work-life balance, whom we have invited to get some inspiration by how they were successfully implemented.

Programme

13.00-13.15

Registration and welcome

- Welcome and opening
- MEP Maria Arena (S&D)
- MEP Agnes Jongerius (S&D)

13.15 -13.40

Trade Union and NGO presentation

- **ETUC, Montserrat Mir, Confederal Secretary**
European trade union in favor of the directive on work-life balance and, above all, the quick adoption of the proposal for a European directive. ETUC is strongly committed to the fight for equality between women and men
Montserrat Mir will share her point of view on the Work-Life Balance and the proposal for a Directive
- **COFACE, Annemie Drieskens, President**
NGOs focusing mainly on policies and legislation that have an impact on the lives of children and families, particularly in the areas of social protection, social inclusion and reconciliation of family and work life.
Annemie Drieskens will focus on the level of remuneration.
- **MMM (Make Mothers Matter), Olalla Michelena, Secretary General EU Delegation**
The mission of this NGO is to promote the essential role of mothers for the social, economic and cultural development

of Europe. Make Mothers Matter joined a coalition of European NGOs to warmly welcome the European Commission's initiative on Work-Life Balance. Olalla Michelena will feed the round table on the organisation of working time within the company and the right to ask for flexible working arrangements.

13.40 – 14.05 Successful entrepreneurs mastering work-life balance

- **DLL Group, Catherine Meyers, Managing Director**
With its subsidiary Athlon, DLL Group is an international group specialized in asset financing solutions. The group is highly invested and committed to implementing a work-life balance within the company. Mrs. Meyer, director of DLL group will illustrate her words through her own experience at Athlon. The initiative of implementing a work-life balance was born when Catherine Meyers felt compelled to refuse an important promotion while pregnant, the company immediately rose to the challenge of defending professional equality between men and women in the corporate culture.
- **ING**
The idea of having ING at the round table is an example of good practice regarding pay and the duration of leave. ING values their employees by ensuring a balance between work and life

14.05 – 14.15 European Commission view & Exchange of view

- **Irena Moozova, European Commission, DG JUST**
- **Manuela Geleng, European Commission, DG Social Affairs**

14.15 -14.30 Questions, answers and closing of the roundtable