



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 14.12.2017
C(2017) 8382 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion on the Communication concerning "an Initiative to Support Work-Life Balance for Working Parents and Carers" {COM(2017) 252 final} and the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on work-life balance for parents and carers and repealing Council Directive 2010/18/EU {COM(2017)253 final}.

The Commission shares the view expressed by the Camera dei Deputati in relation to the need for a cultural change that builds on the principle of sharing care responsibilities within the couple. At the same time, the Commission takes note of its suggestion to assess the possibility of making paternity leave compulsory for fathers. In the proposal for a Directive as it stands now, paternity leave is not compulsory in the sense that there is no obligation by fathers to take the leave. However, if the father wishes to make use of his rights, it would be compulsory for Member States to ensure that his rights are granted in accordance with the Directive.

Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators concerning the proposal are now underway and the Opinion of the Camera dei Deputati will feed into the discussions in the ongoing negotiations with the co-legislators. The Commission trusts that an agreement will be reached in the near future.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the concerns raised by the Camera dei Deputati and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Valdis Dombrovskis
Vice-President of the Commission*

*Laura BOLDRINI
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