



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 10.10.2017
C(2017) 6753 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on 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}.

With this proposal, the Commission is delivering on its commitment from 2015 to present a new initiative taking a broader perspective to improving the lives of working parents and carers.

The Commission welcomes the Senato della Repubblica's assessment that the proposal complies with the principles of proportionality and subsidiarity and its general support for the proposal to increase female participation in the labour market and to achieve gender equality.

The Commission appreciates the Senato della Repubblica's view that the directive in question contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the Treaty relating to equality between men and women with regard to labour market opportunities, contributing also to the Commission's priorities on growth and job creation.

Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council, concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission trusts that an agreement will be reached in the near future.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Valdis Dombrovskis
Vice-President*

*Mr Pietro GRASSO
President of the Senato della Repubblica
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