



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.9.2017
C(2017) 6096 final*

Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado for their reasoned 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}.

In putting forward this proposal, the Commission is making good on its commitment in 2015 to present a new initiative taking a broader approach to improving the lives of working parents and carers.

The Commission welcomes the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado's assessment that the proposal for a Directive is in conformity with the principle of subsidiarity established in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Commission welcomes the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado's view that the proposal is a departure point to facilitate the reconciliation of professional and family life, through the new and enhanced rights proposed. The Commission is also pleased that the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado shares the view that these measures will promote a more equal share of care responsibilities between men and women, which will have a positive impact on women's labour market participation and professional careers.

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 our political dialogue with the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado in the future.

Yours faithfully,

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First Vice-President*

*Valdis Dombrovskis
Vice-President*

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