

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Written Declaration Nr. 32: the race for signatures has started!

STRASBOURG, 22 October // COFACE, the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union is glad to announce that the Written Declaration asking for the designation of 2014 to be the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life was presented on Monday 22 October in the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The Written Declaration number 0032/2012 was initiated by Marian HARKIN (Ireland, ALDE), and the co-signers are: Elisabeth MORIN-CHARTIER (France, EPP), Roberta ANGELILLI (Italy, EPP) and Jutta STEINRUCK (Germany, S&D).

Written Declaration 0032/2012 states that "better support for reconciliation measures will enable women and men in all kinds of family models to exercise greater choice in balancing work and family life on the basis of their individual needs and preferences, and will also contribute to achieving major policy objectives of the EU".

The Written Declaration is one of the open and available opportunities for European citizens to directly influence the European level legislative process. In order to become an official position of the European Parliament, Written Declarations must be signed by at least half of the Members of the European Parliament within 3 months. The number of necessary signatures is 378, and our count back starts today.

The Secretariat of COFACE is now in Strasbourg to ask and urge the Members of the European Parliament to sign the Written Declaration nr. 32, said Agnes Uhreczky, COFACE Director, in the hope that many will sign, as hopefully many MEPs will get on board of this initiative, that could make a difference in the lives of many citizens.

COFACE, together with the European Alliance for the EY2014, is trying to bring attention to the fact that creating and promoting policies that enable the reconciliation of work and family life would be a win-win situation – both for individual EU citizens, as well as for the European Union as a whole.

More information about this campaign: <http://eyf2014.wordpress.com/>

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About COFACE: www.coface-eu.org

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For more information see: <http://ec.europa.eu/progress>