

PRESS RELEASE

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Gender equality is also a men's business

8 March 2013: International Women's Day

On the International Women's Day, COFACE, the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union would like to highlight the importance of the involvement of men in gender equality and the equal sharing of family and care responsibilities.

As data shows, while women reduce their working hours after the first child, men tend to work more hours once they become a father. On the other hand, OECD shows that after each birth the salary of women decreases by 12% approximately. The gender pay gap widens significantly after each additional child.

With the effect of austerity showing in a dramatic cut in social services, many women are now silently withdrawing from the "paid" labour market, to ensure the care of children, elderly and disabled family members.

COFACE strongly deplores this situation, which is unsustainable for Europe.

A combination of measures supporting men's increased involvement at home and an increased participation of women in the labour market is necessary.

We are convinced that a **European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life** would be a great opportunity for Europe to show vision and commitment to gender equality.

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Press Contact

For more information, interviews, background or visual materials, please contact

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About the campaign

COFACE is the initiator of the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life 2014 campaign and also coordinates an informal, open co-operation of European level stakeholder networks, the European Year Alliance 2014. The European Year campaign has already been supported by many national governments of the EU27, the current Trio Presidency, and backed by the European Parliament too.

Please visit here the website of the campaign calling for the designation of 2014 European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life: <http://eyf2014.wordpress.com/>

About COFACE: www.coface-eu.org