

TOWARD A EUROPEAN YEAR FOR RECONCILING WORK AND FAMILY LIFE

EFSI welcomes the European Parliament call in favour of the designation of 2014 as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life

BRUSSELS, 13 February 2013 : On the 7th of February, the European Parliament adopted with **388 signatures** the Written Declaration Nr 32 asking for the designation of 2014 as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life. As a member of the EY2014 Alliance, the European Federation for Services to Individuals (EFSI) **calls now on the President of the European Commission to designate 2014 as the European Year for Reconciling Work and Family Life.**

Initiated by Marian Harkin (Ireland, ALDE)¹, the Written Declaration Nr. 32 underlines 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 in the basis of their individual needs and preferences”*. The current changes in family structures (increased participation of women in the labour market, high number of single parent families, etc.) and the population ageing result in greater difficulties for families to cope with everyday life tasks. Thus 53% of European workers declare having difficulties balancing their work and family lives because they come home from work too tired to do household jobs².

“Personal and household services³ offers innovative and affordable solutions to families enabling them to better conciliate work and family responsibilities” said Aurélie Decker, EFSI Director. The demand for housework services (cleaning, ironing, meal preparation, etc.), childcare and long-term care services will keep on rising in the coming years. *“This far-reaching societal challenge must be addressed comprehensively at EU level in order to improve the social situation of millions of families”* she added.

In its work program published in December 2012, the Trio of Presidency of the Council (namely Ireland, Lithuania and Greece) endorsed the idea of a year dedicated to Reconciling Work and Family Life. Together with the other members of the European Alliance for the EY2014 leads by the COFACE, EFSI will continue 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 EU as a whole.

¹ The Written Declaration was co-signed by Elisabeth Morin-Chartier (France, EPP), Roberta Angelilli (Italy, EPP) and Jutta Steinruck (Germany, S&D).

² 3rd European Quality of Life Survey, Eurofound, November 2012

³ The personal and household services sector represents a broad range of activities that contributes to well being at home of families and individuals such as child care, long term care for the elderly and for persons with disabilities, housework, remedial classes, home repairs, etc.

For more information about this campaign leads by COFACE : <http://eyf2014.wordpress.com/>

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As the European Federation for Services to Individuals, **EFSI** is the representative body of national federations and associations as well as companies involved in the development of personal and household services in Europe. Through its members, EFSI is present in 22 EU Members' States.