

**Question for written answer E-006219/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Revision of the Maternity Leave Directive

At the most recent part-session in Strasbourg, the Commission announced the withdrawal from the legislative procedure of the draft maternity leave directive, which Parliament approved in 2010 and on which the Council never followed up. The Parliament resolution made provision for, inter alia, 20 weeks' guaranteed maternity leave and two weeks' guaranteed paternity leave on full pay, and health protection for new mothers returning to work. The decision to withdraw the proposal comes at a time when ageing populations in Member States have become a pressing issue and there is a clear need to encourage a rise in birth rates, which is vital for the progression of our societies. Voices from far and wide, from inside and outside Parliament, rang out in opposition to the plan to withdraw this draft directive.

- Does the Commission still intend to withdraw this draft directive from the legislative procedure or will it insist that it must be kept and that Parliament and the Council must negotiate?
- If it still intends to withdraw it, when does it intend to come forward with a new proposal, and will this proposal be based on the minimum guarantees adopted by Parliament in 2010?