

**Question for written answer E-007763/2015
to the Council**

Rule 130

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Subject: Review of Directive on maternity leave

In 2008, the Commission proposed a review of Directive 92/85/EEC on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding. That specific proposal aimed to improve the framework of protection for pregnant workers, increase the minimum period of maternity leave from 14 to 18 weeks and introduce 2 weeks' paternity leave.

In 2010, the European Parliament approved the proposal for review by a large majority and introduced important changes, including an increase in the minimum period of maternity leave to 20 weeks.

However, since 2010, the Council has refused to adopt the review on the grounds of the cost of implementing the Directive and the Commission has now stated that it intends to withdraw the said review unless the European Parliament and the Council reach an agreement by June 2015.

In view of the above, will the Council say:

1. Does it still refuse to adopt the amended proposal for a Directive and does it still consider that the financial cost of implementing said the revised proposal is more important than the immediate benefits it would provide to millions of women and families throughout Europe?
2. What initiatives has the Presidency of the Council taken in order to find a solution between Parliament and the Council which is in the interests of the Union and its citizens?