

**Question for written answer E-014674/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Towards equal care by fathers and mothers: PLENT proposal for a single EU directive on paternity/maternity/parental leave

Current European legislation on leave (Directives 92/85/EEC and 2010/18/EU) does not support the Commission's stated goal of promoting equal opportunities in the labour market and equal responsibility for childcare. Under that legislation, mothers are guaranteed a 14-week period of paid leave, while fathers are not entitled to any paid leave and have the right only to a four-month period of parental leave without any guaranteed remuneration, which is for the most part transferable.

In July 2015, the Commission announced that it intended to open a process of consultation and debate with the aim of drafting a new proposal. That proposal would take into account social developments during the past decade and use the best combination of available policies to produce effective results.

The evidence shows that, in the majority of cases, fathers take up such leave if and only if it is well paid and non-transferable (considerations 16 and 20 of the Framework Agreement on Parental Leave (revised), annexed to Directive 2010/18/EU).

Is the Commission considering the possibility of replacing the two existing directives with a single directive that would guarantee an equal period of leave for each parent, entirely non-transferable and without any loss of pay, in order to ensure equality in the use of such periods of leave?