

**Question for written answer E-002182/2016
to the Council**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Directive 92/85/EEC on parental leave deadlocked in the Council

In 2008, in line with the ILO Maternity Protection Recommendation, the Commission tabled proposals to amend Directive 92/85/EEC with a view to extending the minimum length of maternity leave, countering declining birth rates and helping strike a 'better balance between work and private life in order to achieve economic growth, prosperity and competitiveness'. Although Parliament approved the proposal at first reading in 2010, it has remained deadlocked in the Council ever since.

Parliament is currently drafting its report on the implementation of Council Directive 2010/18/EU on parental leave, which highlights the need to update and harmonise the various parental leave directives.

The deadlock in the Council is holding back legislation which would bring the equality and better work-life balance that Europe's people are calling for.

Aside from the fact that some Member States object to the proposal, why exactly is it being blocked in the Council?

Has the Council made its reasons public?

Will it consider introducing a system to avoid such situations, which can inconvenience millions of Europeans?