

**Question for written answer E-006038/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Dominique Martin (ENF)**

Subject: Work-life balance

The Commission is seeking to promote a better work-life balance in the EU, and to that end is proposing that a number of directives should be revised in order to make working time arrangements more flexible. However, the real aim of the changes set out in the 'gender equality' legislative package is to change attitudes and impose new family patterns.

How families chose to divide their household responsibilities is a private and culturally specific matter. Therefore, surely it cannot be within the remit of public bodies in general, and the Commission in particular, to seek to influence mindsets and family relationships?

Is there any concrete evidence to suggest that a mere change in working time arrangements could reverse current trends and bring about higher birth rates?