

Question for written answer E-003225/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Jana Žitňanská (ECR)

Subject: Measures to support parents and carers

On 26 April 2017 in the European Parliament, the Vice-President of the Commission presented a package of measures aimed at securing a work-life balance. The package should provide a number of measures for working parents, including maternity, paternity and parental leave and flexible working arrangements. There is, however, also a group of parents who face the long-term prospect of being unable to work because they have disabled children for whom they care. These parents often live in very difficult financial circumstances, and do not receive adequate support from the State. Although they are not formally employed anywhere, I believe that their 24-hour care for their children actually replaces non-existent State services and they therefore have, in some sense, a contract with the State.

In this context, I would therefore like to ask the following questions:

1. Does the package of measures for securing a work-life balance also consider parents with disabled children, who work 24 hours a day and have had to give up their job in order to care for their children?
2. If not, is the Commission also planning measures and legislative proposals to support these parents?
3. Are there any current initiatives, or initiatives planned in the near future, to support these parents, for example initiatives concerning respite care?