DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Questions for Oral Answer B8-0000/2015 and B8-0000/2015

pursuant to Rule 128(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on maternity leave
(2015/0000(RSP))

Maria Arena, Iratxe García Pérez
on behalf of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
B8-0000/2015

European Parliament resolution on maternity leave
(2015/0000(RSP))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Article 2 and Article 3(3), second subparagraph, of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and Article 8 and Article 294 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

– having regard to the questions to the Council on maternity leave (O-92/85/EEC of 19 October 1992 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 (Maternity Leave Directive),

– having regard to the motion for a resolution to the Commission's proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending the Maternity Leave Directive,¹

– having regard to Rules 128(5) and 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,


- having regard to several and reiterated statements of the European Parliament, including the Tarabella Report on progress on equality between women and men in the European Union in 2013, approved by the European Parliament on 10 march 2015,

- having regard to the interinstitutional agreement on better law-making (OJ C 321, 31.12.2003) and the forthcoming one,

– having regard to the questions to the Commission and to the Council on maternity leave (O-0000/2015 – B8-0000/2015 and O-0000/2015 – B8-0000/2015),

– having regard to Rules 128(5) and 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas whereas the principle of equal treatment of women and men implies that there must be no discrimination whatsoever, be it direct or indirect, also on account of motherhood, fatherhood and the fact of shouldering family responsibilities;

B. whereas the Europe 2020 strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy entails ambitious targets, such as the 75% employment rate and reducing the number of persons suffering, or threatened by, poverty and social exclusion by at least 20 million by 2020;

C. whereas there are more women than men living in poverty and exclusion, especially older women, whose average level of pension is 39% below that of men, and single

¹ 2008/0193(COD).
mothers; whereas, it is more common for women than for men to work part time or under fixed-term or temporary contracts, and whereas women's poverty is due largely to the precariousness of their jobs;

D. whereas the falling birth rate in the EU has been exacerbated by the crisis, given that unemployment, precarious circumstances, and uncertainty about the future and the economy are making couples, and younger women in particular, put off having children, thereby further reinforcing the EU-wide trend towards population ageing;

F. whereas women spend every week, three times as long as men, on household chores (e.g. caring for children, elderly people and people with disabilities as well as household tasks); whereas the female unemployment rate is underestimated given the fact that many women are not registered as unemployed, particularly those who devote themselves exclusively to household tasks and childcare;

G. whereas the sharing of family and domestic responsibilities between women and men is essential in order to achieve gender equality; whereas a quarter of Member States do not offer paternity leave;

H. whereas the Council has still not responded officially to the legislative resolution of 20 October 2010 on the proposed maternity leave directive adopted by Parliament;

1. Deplores the deadlock in the Council regarding the Maternity Leave Directive; urges the Member States to resume the negotiations;

2. Deplores the interinstitutional instability originating from the Council's failure to act, since the European Parliament has concluded its first reading while the discussions in Council have been halted and thus compromises the whole legislative procedure;

3. Reiterates its willingness to end the deadlock and calls for the Commission to play its role of the "honest broker" and to engage in a constructive manner with the co-legislators with a view of reconciling the positions of both the Parliament and the Council, with due regard for the balance between the institutions and the role conferred on it by the Treaty;

4. Deplores that the proposed revision of the directive might be withdrawn by the European Commission in the 'REFIT' exercise, and if this is ultimately the case, asks for a legislative initiative to revise the Council Directive 92/85/EEC as an immediate alternative to be started under the Luxembourg presidency of the Council of the European Union in order to improve health and safety of pregnant workers or workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding, thus facing demographic challenges while reducing inequalities between men and women;

5. Reiterates its willingness to draft a separate Directive establishing a paid paternity leave of at least ten working days and encouraging measures, legislative and otherwise, enabling men, and fathers in particular, to exercise their right to achieve a work-life balance;

6. Awaits for the final assessment of the Directive 2012/18/EU on parental leave and, in
view of available interim studies, calls for a revision of that directive as it does not reach its targets of conciliation of private and professional life, in order to achieve work life balance for both parents and especially women who are impacted by the gender pay, pension and poverty gaps;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Commission and the Council of the European Union.