

**Question for written answer E-008545/2013  
to the Council**  
Rule 117  
**Edite Estrela (S&D)**

Subject: Revision of the Maternity Leave Directive

The process of revising the Maternity Leave Directive began in 2008 when the Commission tabled its proposal. Parliament adopted its position on 20 October 2010. To date, the Council has not yet adopted a formal position on the proposal. This legislative initiative is part of what is known as the reconciliation package. Of the package's three proposals, only the revision of the Maternity Leave Directive is still awaiting the Council's position.

Parliament has already demonstrated several times openness and flexibility towards working alongside the Council to reach a balanced agreement that meets the needs and expectations of European families.

When will the Council reach a decision on this proposal that defends the health and safety of women in the workplace, promotes the reconciliation of professional and family life and helps to stem demographic decline, which is one of the most serious challenges that the EU faces?