

**Question for written answer E-002846/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Kira Marie Peter-Hansen** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Implementation of Directive (EU) 2019/1158 in Denmark (2/2)

Article 16 of Directive (EU) 2019/1158 contains a non-regression rule: '2. The implementation of this Directive shall not constitute grounds for justifying a reduction in the general level of protection of workers in the areas covered by this Directive.'

Today, Danish mothers are entitled to four weeks of pregnancy leave, 14 weeks of maternity leave and up to 32 weeks of paid parental leave. Without the mother's consent, it is difficult for a father to take any of the paid parental leave and it is probably out of the question for him to take more than half of the paid parental leave.

This means that the mother is entitled to at least 34 paid weeks of the total leave of 52 paid weeks.

The model that gives parents equal rights after birth would as a consequence mean that when a father takes all of his leave, the mother will be entitled to 28 weeks of paid leave, which is less than the 32 weeks she is entitled to today.

Does the non-regression rule therefore mean that the equal rights model as described cannot be introduced in Denmark, or is the non-regression rule respected as long as the total paid leave of both parents is not reduced?