2014 was a very special year for COFACE!

Not only have we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, declared by the United Nations, but 2014 was also our greatly anticipated year of reconciling work and family life in Europe.

In September we went to Helsinki for our successful European Employers’ Forum on reconciling in companies, jointly organised with Väestöliitto.

We ended our journey in Rome, addressing the difficulties many families are facing in caring for their family.

During those major events we raised awareness and worked towards a better understanding of the challenges of families in reconciling work and family life and care.

We promoted what is already existing, we found examples of inspiring practices that are already in place and we formulated concrete policy recommendations.

We are very happy that so many members and other stakeholders and partners of COFACE participated in our events. We are grateful that many experts from European and National parliaments, Universities and NGOs joined us in this year long conversation and that they gave input for our “European Reconciliation Package”.

This European Reconciliation Package is the main achievement of our year! It highlights the different policies and practices developed at local and national level that can support families in reconciling their work and care responsibilities.

We are convinced that our package reflects a clear sense of what needs to be done at EU level to empower family carers, to empower families.

It is clear that we need to continue our action in 2015. Together with our members, social partners, national governments and other stakeholders we must address this package to the European Commission and the European Parliament and translate it into concrete actions.

One of our key roles is to build a bridge between the European Union Institutions and decision makers, and family organisations working at national and grassroots levels. In 2014 this role became as important as it gets, with the European elections. We have taken it very seriously, to fulfil our obligation in giving a clear picture to family organisations, families and voters in general, of the different European political parties and the candidates. We presented in February our #FamiliesVOTE publication, which contained the comparative answers of the main political groups to a number of key questions, such as reconciling work and family life, energy, migration, poverty, employment...

The new European Commission took office in November, and all eyes are on them to turn the European economy around, but coupled with a strong social policy, keeping with the tradition of the European Welfare states. A strong EU social protection must go hand in hand with strong investment into human capital.

ANNEMIE DRIESKENS
President

AGNES UHERECZKY
Director
COFACE as the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union, brings together a large number of civil society organisations with the aim of giving a voice to all families and representing the issues most important to them at the European level.

With 58 member organisations in 23 Member States of the European Union, COFACE monitors closely the implementation of family and social policies in the Member States, and formulates together joint policy objectives at European level.

COFACE works towards a family friendly environment, enabling all families and their members to benefit from sufficient financial resources, available quality services and adequate time arrangements in order to live and enjoy their family life in dignity and harmony.

COFACE advocates policies of non-discrimination and equal opportunities between persons and between family forms, and specifically supports policies aimed at increasing equality between women and men, with a special focus on reconciliation policies between work, care and family life.

COFACE was originally founded in 1958. Since then, it has been linking together family organisations from all over Europe to discuss and work on issues such as family and social policies, work-life balance, migrant families, family carers, disability issues, safer internet, parenting, consumer protection, childcare and health services and the needs of the most vulnerable families.

COFACE is the bridge between researchers and policy makers to discuss issues and decisions that have an impact on the lives of families living in Europe in partnership with other civil society organisations, the European institutions and international stakeholders.

COFACE contributes to a number of legislative proposals advocating for the shaping of a more family friendly policy and legislative environment in Europe. It also participates in awareness-raising campaigns and research projects.

COFACE also provides information and exchanges of ideas and experiences about relevant developments at National and EU level and organises thematic and ad-hoc meetings, seminars and conferences around Europe.

As an accredited organisation to the UN, we bring our European expertise to the global policy stage.
Number of visits to the #DeleteCyberbullying blog www.deletecyberbullying.eu raised by 11322 compared to the previous year.

300,000 users reached on Facebook and Twitter at our three main conferences of the year.

519 followers increase on the @coface_eu twitter.

Number of visits to the 2014 campaign’s blog www.e2014.eu raised by 38120 in one year.

We published 9 photo albums on flickr.com/photos/coface-aisbl/sets that got 77,270 views.

We have organised events this year with physical participants. 16 events with 611 participants also followed our events through streaming.

We have almost 3000 subscribers to our newsletter.

Our awareness-raising video “cyberbullying: there is a way out” got more than 70,000 views.

Participants also followed our events through outreach.

2014 YEAR OF RECONCILING WORK AND FAMILY LIFE IN EUROPE

In 2014 we have delivered three main conferences and other events and activities to the highest standard with the aim of sharing as widely as possible inspiring work-life balance practices and making a real change in people’s lives!

29 April, Athens

FAMILIES IN THE CRISIS. FINDING WORK-LIFE BALANCE IN A DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Under the auspices of the Greek Presidency of the EU with our Greek member KMOP.

Over 100 delegates joined us at the Impact Hub, a social enterprise in the heart of Athens to listen to and to understand better the situation of women in the Southern and Eastern European countries.

8-9 September, Helsinki

EUROPEAN EMPLOYERS’ FORUM ON WORK-LIFE BALANCE “2014 THE YEAR OF WORKPLACE REINVENTION”

Endorsed by the Finnish Ministry of Social Welfare, jointly organised with our Finnish member Väestöliitto.

We brought together employers from the private, public and third sectors in the prestigious House of Estates, to discuss family friendly workplace measures for offering a better work-life balance and improved well-being for their employees.

4 November, Rome

A SUSTAINABLE CARE SYSTEM FOR EUROPE IN THE CONTEXT OF RECONCILING WORK AND FAMILY LIFE

Under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the EU, with our Italian member Anziani e Non Solo and AIAS.

We discussed and presented policies and practices developed at local and national levels supporting families in reconciling their work and care responsibilities and reflect on the sustainability of a caregiving system in Europe.
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

COFACE contributed with two articles to the UN Landmark publication “Family Futures”. The publication contains over 50 articles from around the world on three main topics: Social integration and intergenerational solidarity, Family Poverty and Work-Family Balance.

The book was launched as part of International Day of Families celebrations on May 15th.

COFACE OBTAINED SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS AT THE UN

This status enables COFACE to actively get engaged with the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, as well as with the UN Secretariat, programmes, funds and agencies in a number of ways such as attending meetings, submitting written statements and oral presentations at the ECOSOC, use of UN facilities, consultation and providing expertise to the work of the Council.

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE 2014

Throughout the year we worked together with the Members of our 2014 Alliance on our events and the different sections of the European Reconciliation Package (ERP), to be launched on March 2015.

The ERP contains the main policy recommendations to help improve work-life balance and the quality of life of families in Europe.
"...The crisis has affected families where at least one of the members has a job. Over the past years we have seen a persistent decline in the real gross disposable income of households. In work poverty is on the rise and, to make things worse, many countries made budgetary cuts in essential services such as care services offered to families. This of course very much affects the possibilities for reconciliation and in particular the situation of women who generally undertake a bigger share of household and care of children and elderly. This rather grim picture reminds us of the need to keep reconciliation high on the political agenda, both nationally and at the European and international levels. I am therefore grateful to COFACE to have continued their important campaign. From the Commission’s side I can reassure you that reconciling work and family life remains embedded in the European Union’s key policy aims including increasing employment, improving living and working conditions and reducing poverty."

Advocacy for work-family balance has been the focus of many notable initiatives by civil society organizations. The Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union has been active in promoting 2014 as a Year of Reconciling Work and Family Life in Europe. Its "Families in the crisis-Finding work-life balance in difficult economic context" conference, held in Athens on 28 and 29 April 2014, focused on the negative effects of austerity measures and cuts in social services in Europe in the aftermath of recent crises.

In addition, the Confederations’ European Employers’ Forum for Work-Life Balance, held in Helsinki, in September 2014, offered an exchange platform between employers from the private, public and non-profit sectors, experts and representatives of social partners, scientists and researchers to discuss family-friendly workplace measures and share knowledge and good practices. The Forum featured several examples of flexible work arrangements that demonstrated concrete outcomes in increasing company productivity, employee satisfaction, responsibility and gender equality.
Main events 2014:

- **Brussels.** Official Launch of the 2014 Year in the European Parliament
- **Barcelona.** Time Banks in the context of reconciling Work and Family life organized by Salud y Familia
- **Groningen.** “Reconciling work and family in health and social care education”
- **La Rioja.** Work-life balance: a shared responsibility, organized by the Committee of the Regions (CoR)
- **Madrid.** Conference “Toolkit for Gender Equality in Practice”
- **Rome.** COFACE Conference “A sustainable care system for Europe in the context of reconciling work and family life”
- **Athens.** COFACE Conference “Families in the Crisis - Finding work-life balance in difficult economic context”
- **Barcelona.** COFACE Conference “European Employers’ Forum for Work-Life Balance”
- **Tallinn.** Meeting of the International Network on Leaves Policies and Research
- **Rome.** General Assembly, UN 25th Anniversary, UN Convention of the Rights of the Child
- **Brussels.** Final event #DeleteCyberbullying
- **Brno:** Work-life balance conference organized by the Office of the Public Defender of Rights
- **Helsinki.** COFACE Conference “European Employers’ Forum for Work-Life Balance”
- **Budapest.** Visegrád 4 seminar on reconciling Work and Family Life
- **New York.** Changing Work and Family Relationships in a Global Economy
- **Budapest.** Visegrád 4 seminar on reconciling Work and Family Life
- **Vilnius.** From Practices with Potential to Good Practices on Reconciliation organized by EIGE
- **Groningen.** “Reconciling work and family in health and social care education”
- **London.** The Work and Family Show
- **General Assembly.** UN 25th Anniversary, UN Convention of the Rights of the Child
- **La Rioja.** Work-life balance: a shared responsibility, organized by the Committee of the Regions (CoR)
- **Brussels.** Official Launch of the 2014 Year in the European Parliament
- **Madrid.** Conference “Toolkit for Gender Equality in Practice”
DEBATE

We organized a European elections debate in March in Berlin. The event, “2014: Citizen action for better family policies” aimed to motivate people to vote, get engaged and to learn more about the EU. The event was webstreamed and a number of viewers from different countries joined the debate. The event was very interactive with questions from the audience and on Twitter with the hashtag #FamiliesVOTE2014.

The event was organised in close co-operation with Eurofound and COFACE’s German member organisation AGF.

PUBLICATION

We launched the #FamiliesVOTE2014 publication: “Helping you make your choice for the 2014 European Parliament Elections” in 5 languages: English, German, Greek, Italian and French.

The publication included concrete information for voters but it also compared the various family related programmes of the main political groups in the European Parliament on: Jobs; Work-Life Balance; Family Carers and Disability; Housing; Energy; Migrant and Transnational Families and Financial Inclusion.
The #DeleteCyberbullying project aims at raising awareness around Europe about the phenomenon of cyberbullying. The work achieved by the project is the successful co-operation of eight organisations from seven countries. In 2014 we delivered a short educational animated video and an interactive app aiming at raising awareness and preventing cyberbullying, focusing on teenagers, parents and teachers.

The awareness raising video “Cyberbullying: There is a way out” is available in 10 languages.

Watch it here: youtube.com/user/DeleteCyberbullying1/videos

The #DeleteCyberbullying app is available in 16 countries.

Download it here: deletecyberbullying.eu/app

The project also called upon the expression of solidarity through the virtual, online Big March held in June. Thousands of people, schools and NGOs took part in an online protest to highlight the ‘hidden’ pain caused by bullying.

Blog: www.deletecyberbullying.eu
Twitter: @dcyberbullying
YouTube: youtube.com/user/DeleteCyberbullying1
**FINANCES**

**EXPENDITURE**
- Travel: 23%
- Salaries and Charges: 57%
- Rent Office and Charges: 3%
- Translation, Interpretation, Publications: 5%
- Administration, Others: 12%

**INCOME**
- Eu Progress Program: 75%
- Eu Daphne Project: 7%
- Membership Fee: 12%
- Member’s Contribution: 2%
- Contributions of Others: 4%

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One of the important roles for COFACE is being a bridge between civil society organisations, research bodies and institutions. We build on the experience of our member organisations and we listen to the needs of families at grassroots level and channel these to policy and decision makers at EU level. Besides our member organisations, we regularly link up to other networks to exchange best practice, learn about other ways of solving societal problems, and also grow our network, on which we rely for our events, projects and advocacy work.

These are either projects or networks run by other NGOs, or consultative and expert groups of the European Institutions:

**European Commission**
- European High Level Group on Disability
- EU platform for Diet, Physical activity and Health
- Financial Services Users Group
- CEO Coalition for a Better Internet for Kids
- Integration Forum

**European Parliament**
- Interest Group on Carers

**Civil Society networks**
- EU Alliance for Investing in Children
- European NGO Platform on Asylum and Migration
- European Responsible Housing Initiative
- Social Platform
- European Disability Forum
- European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community-based care

**Corporate networks**
- ICT Coalition for the Safer Use of Connected Devices and Online Services by Children and Young People in the EU
- Women Entrepreneurship Platform

**Research projects**
- FP7 European Research project FamiliesAndSocieties
- Positive Online Content and Services for Children (POSCON)
- Benchmarking of parental control tools for the online protection of children (SIP-Bench III)
In terms of the internal cooperation, we organised the regular statutory meetings, expert groups and networking events. The members of the Administrative Council adopted 3 policy positions in 2014, ratified by the General Assembly:

- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Leaves
- Air Quality

The members of the Executive Bureau and Administrative Council are:

**Executive Bureau**

Annemie Drieskens, President
Eric de Wasch, Treasurer
Helena Hiila O’Brien, Vice-President
Antonia Torrens, Vice-President

**Administrative Council**

Full Members: Elisabeth POTZINGER (AT), Annemie DRIESKENS (BE), Delphine CHABBERT (BE), Eric DE WASCH, Treasurer (BE), Mariela TODOROVA NANKOVA (BG), Hervé HOFFMANN (CH), Paraskevas SAMARAS (CY), Sven IVERSEN (DE), Antonia TORRENS (EL), Jean-Bernard AUDUREAU (ES), Teresa BLAT (ES), Helena HIILA (FI), Méridaec RIVIERE (FR), Évelyne BERNARD (FR), Silvija STANIC (HR), Maria KLINGER (HU), Liz WALL (IE), Gaetano SANTONOCITO (IT), Roland ANEN (LU), Peter GRABNER (SL), Stanislav TRNOVEC (SK)

Alternate members:
Eleonora TEIXEIRA-ROSSOLL (AT), Jacques LODOMEZ (BE), Valanidis NIKOS (CY), Hiltrud STÖCKER-ZAFARI (DE), Dimitris STAMOULIS (EL), Kari LANKINEN (FI), Noël GILIBERT (FR), Virginie DURIN (FR), Viktoria SZANTO (HU), Rebecca RYAN (IE), Chiara CRIVELLI (IT), Andreja GRABNER (SL), Slavomira MAREKOVA (SK)

We would like to thank Marién DELGADO (ES), Ghislaine JULEMONT (BE) and Waltraud LECOCQ (CH) for their work and dedication to COFACE.

We will always remember Roumjana MODEVA (BG) for the wonderful moments of many years spent with you.

We would like to welcome our new members on board: Teresa BLAT (ES), Silvija STANIC (HR), Delphine CHABBERT (BE), Hervé HOFFMANN (CH), Kari LANKINEN (FI), Virginie DURIN (FR).
AUSTRIA
Katholischer Familienverband Österreichs

BELGIUM
Association Aidants Proches
Association de parents et professionnels autour de la personne polyhandicapée
Centre d’action laïque
Femmes Prévoyantes Socialistes
Fonds du Logement Wallon
Gezinsbond
Ligue des Familles

BULGARIA
Center of Women’s Studies and Policies
Women and Mothers Against Violence

CROATIA
Step by Step

CYPRUS
Pancyprian Organisation Polyteknon

FINLAND
Väestöliitto

FRANCE
Aide à domicile en milieu rural
Association des paralysés de France
Association nationale pour le Spina Bifida et handicaps associés
Associations de parents d’élèves de l’enseignement libre
Confédération syndicale des familles
Familles de France
Familles rurales
Maman travaille
Union nationale des associations de familles de traumatisés crâniens
Union nationale des associations de parents, de personnes handicapées mentales et de leurs amis
Union nationale des acteurs de Parrainage de Proximité
Union nationale des associations familiales

GERMANY
Arbeitgemeinschaft Der Deutschen Familienorganisationen
European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants

GREECE
Confederation of large families’ associations of Greece
Kendro Merimnas Oikoyenias Kai Pediou KINAPSI

HUNGARY
Hungarian National Foundation for Recreation
Pro Familia

IRELAND
Irish Countrywomen’s Association
Special Olympics

ITALY
Anziani e non solo
Associazione italiana genitori
Associazione italiana per l’assistenza agli spastici
Il coordinamento dei familiari assistenti “Clelia”
Movimento italiano genitori

LATVIA
Latvijas daudzbernu gimenu biedrību apvienība

LUXEMBOURG
Association des parents d’enfants mentalement handicapés

POLAND
Association des parents d’enfants mentalement handicapés

PORTUGAL
Associação nacional de famílias para a integração da pessoa deficiente
Confederação nacional das associações de família

ROMANIA
Family and Child Care Foundation

SLOVAKIA
Club of Large Families

SLOVENIA
Family Initiative

SPAIN
Asociación general de consumidores de España
Asociación Salud y Familia
Confederación española de familiares de enfermos de Alzheimer y otras demencias
Confederacion española de organizaciones de amas de casa, consumidores y usuarios
Fundación de Familias Monoparentales Isadora Duncan
Unión nacional de consumidores y amas de hogar
Unión de Asociaciones Familiares
Unión de centros de Acción Rural

SWEDEN
Remarkable Single Parents

SWITZERLAND
Pro-XY

UNITED KINGDOM
Family and Childcare Trust
Grandparents Plus

Members who joined us in 2014.