



Round Table

Work-life balance in the workplace: opportunities and challenges for businesses

**Brussels, 16th March
16.00-18.00**

COFACE office, Rue de Londres,17

1050 Brussels

Objectives: Bring COFACE and key European-level stakeholders together to discuss challenges and opportunities, bringing different perspectives around the table to understand

- 1. What elements are needed to make a workplace family-friendly*
- 2. What are the key opportunities and challenges for businesses*

16.00-16.10 Welcome

16.10-17.00 **What is a family-friendly workplace?**

The perspective of families: Pro-parents Netherlands and Gezinsbond Belgium kick-start the discussion.

17.00-18.00 **What are the opportunities and challenges for businesses?**

Discussion and exchange on different realities, between COFACE and Business Europe, EPSU, ETUC, CEEP, and SME United.



COFACE's Dutch-speaking member organisation from Belgium, **Gezinsbond**, set up a Charter for a family-friendly organisations and companies. By signing the Charter, organisations are making themselves known as family-friendly employers who take the work-family balance of their staff into account as much as possible. Recently the Charter saw its 100th signatory, DP World, a company that is active worldwide active in port logistics and counts 800 employees in their Belgian branch. Other signatories include large and small companies, governments and NGOs which make up together more than 130,000 employees. Gezinsbond encourages more more companies and organisations to sign its Charter and take family-friendly measures in the workplace. Have a look at the Charter [here in English](#) or on the webpage of [Gezinsbond](#) in Dutch, French or German, the languages spoken in Belgium and used in the workplaces. You can also find more information and tips on family-friendliness in the workplace on the Gezinsbond [website](#) (in Dutch).

Pro Parents Netherlands builds solutions to arrange Work Life Integration and to support healthcare reform and Working Parents. They co-created the first scientific-based programme to support young parents working in a high performance environment (see [news article](#) about "Being a boss, ask how the baby is doing"). This two generation programme focuses on health and well-being for both parents and child and is developed in co-creation with employers, parenthood experts and in collaboration with the University of Amsterdam. In October 2016 Pro Parents was awarded [best innovation](#) on Work and Care by the Dutch Ministry and Social Economic Council, and Pro Parents Founder Joyce Knappe was included on June 12th in the "Women To Watch" a list of 100 influential [female entrepreneurs](#). Pro Parents' main activities include: providing personal development-leadership training via employers, providing research on Parenthood at Work (organizational culture), establishing networks and public speaking at HRM-Change conferences, government and policymaking level. For more information, visit the [ProParents website](#)