



## **WORK-LIFE BALANCE EXPERT MEETING**

### **Agenda**

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2020**  
**Brussels**

**Venue: COFACE Office**

Arrival of participants on the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **9.00-11.00 Transposition of the EU Work-Life Balance Directive**

-Presentation by European Commission representative(s)  
-Exchange on national developments in France, Czech Republic, Belgium, Spain, Austria, Hungary, The Netherlands, Greece.

#### **11.00-11.30 *Coffee break***

#### **11.30-13.00 Work-Life Balance part 2: the EU and international realities**

Update by Pascual Martinez, COFACE Policy and Advocacy officer on key European trends in European Commission, European Parliament and more (ECEC, gender equality, employment, presentation of recent research and data, and projects on Work-Life Balance)

Presentation by European Commission representative of the EU-Japan Partnership on Work-Life Balance issues

Q&A and decision on key actions for COFACE in 2020

#### **13.00-14.00 *Lunch break (sandwich lunch)***

#### **14.00-15.30 National updates from COFACE members on different issues**

-Updates on national developments on family policy, ECEC, working carers and more. There will be no presentations here. Rather, participants are asked here to highlight current trends, challenges and potential areas where COFACE could provide support. This will help understand where COFACE needs to work collectively.

-Proposal to [map](#) family support programmes on work-life balance within the COFACE network.



**15.30-16.00** *Tea break*

**16.00-18.00** **Round Table on family-friendly workplaces (public event)**

**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 & Business Europe, CEEP, EPSU, ETUC, and SME United.

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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](#)