

Increasing equality - making parental leave an option for both parents in the EU

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Lisbon,

Portugal on 20-22 November 2014:

Considering that

- several EU member states, such as the Netherlands, Cyprus and Ireland only have a system allowing the father to take paternal leave for a few days or no leave at all;
- there is still a gender pay gap, mostly rooted in women's historically greater childcare responsibilities;
- making it possible for parents to share the leave will give the individual family more freedom and make it easier for mothers to return to the labour market earlier if they wish to do so;
- there is a global trend of fathers' greater involvement around childbirth;

Noting that

- the principle of equality of men and women is a common and central value of the European Union as stated and promoted in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
- remedying all inequalities in all aspects is and has always been a top priority for European Liberals;
- it is a core task of liberals to ensure equality of opportunities and give both mothers and fathers the freedom to choose when to take over responsibilities in family life;

Calls for

- ALDE Member Parties to ensure that both parents have a legal right to take paid parental leave within their national legal system;
- the ALDE Group in the European Parliament to encourage the European governments to introduce an equal shared maternity/paternity leave policy that ensures that all companies support the policy regardless of the gender of their employees, also further encourage that the possibility for paternity leave is increased.

Resolution:

Social Policy

Year and Congress:

Congress in
Lisbon, Portugal,
November 2014

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