

Brussels, 21 January 2014

Dear Members of the Administrative Council,

Firstly, let me wish you a Happy New Year, good health and best wishes for a successful 2014!

I am writing to you with a quick up-date as to where we are now, and what are the plans for the coming months.

As you know, there is no official European Year, therefore we have changed the name of our campaign, which we are now calling “**2014 Year for reconciling Work and Family Life in Europe**”. May I please ask you to up-date your websites or references to the year accordingly and also to use the latest logo, as you can see it at the end of my e-mail.

A good news to start the year, we have received the official answer from the European Commission, they have approved our Work-Plan and budget for 2014 just as we submitted it, so we can go ahead and implement the activities I briefly presented to you at the last Administrative Council meeting in December in Brussels.

At this moment, may I just ask you not to buy any travel tickets, as the dates are indicative for the time being, except for the Greek presidency Conference, which has now been fixed.

The main activities related to the 2014 Year of Reconciling Work and Family Life are the following:

**1. Greek Presidency Conference „Families in the Crisis”**

Athens, 29th April (with a pre-conference dinner on the 28th April and the Admin Council on the 30th April)

We are grateful for the tremendous amount of work by KMOP and in particular Antonia Torrens since last summer in helping us in organising a very successful conference. We have submitted the draft programme to the Ministry and are waiting for their approval. Once they agree, we will send out the Save the Date as well as the draft programme. Just like for the Dublin Conference we will launch a cll for presentations for the 3 workshops.

In addition, Dimitris Stamouils from ASPE is helping us with the organisation of the Administrative Council on the 30th April in Athens.

For this meeting, you may already buy your travel tickets in accordance with the COFACE Travel and Reimbursement Policy:

Arrive: before 20.00 on the 28/04 for the pre-conference dinner (if you wish to attend the conference)

Departure: after 17.00 on the 30/04 after the AC meeting.

We will inform you about the hotel arrangement, as we are looking at a group booking for the conference and AC for a preferential price.

For any questions related to the logistics, please do not hesitate to contact Florian. E-mail : [secretariat@coface-eu.org](mailto:secretariat@coface-eu.org) / tel: 0032 2 511 41 79.

## 2. European Employer's Forum on Reconciliation

Helsinki, 8-9 September 2014-01-21

With the great support of Västoliitto we are going to organise a Forum for exchange of best practice and family-friendly work-place measures for employers. We will start working on the details of this event shortly and keep you informed.

## 3. Italian Presidency conference - Social Innovation and Investment for a better reconciliation of Work and family Life (working title)

The date still is not set

We are in contact with the Italian Ministry of Labour and are now waiting to see what opportunities there will be for the event.

In addition we will also be working the entire year on the final product of the 2014 Year, the European Reconciliation Package, which will be a collection of different policy proposals, and it will be a key advocacy instrument for the new European Commission and the new European Parliament.

We will organise an initial meeting with the 2014 Alliance to bring together a diversity of stakeholders and get their first input to the document, which is largely based on the Roadmap document. We will then start compiling the first draft, send to the Members for comments and input. If necessary, we may have a second meeting with the Alliance towards the summer.

In addition, we will also work on the other main issue for the year, on the **Vulnerable Families 2020 Roadmap**, which will set the scene for further work, especially in 2015.

We are planning two meetings, one in March and one in October. Soon you will receive a separate e-mail with the Doodle to set the date of the first meeting and also a call for nomination of experts into the Vulnerable Families thematic working group.

There will be also our usual **Statutory meetings**:

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Administrative Council meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014
2. Administrative Council meeting and General Assembly in June 2014 in Brussels
3. Administrative Council meeting in November (probably linked to the Italian Presidency conference)

In addition we are looking for ways to mark the **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN International Year of the Family**.

We didn't have time unfortunately at our last Administrative Council meeting, but we would like to hear from you too:

- what activities are you planning for 2014 Year of Reconciling Work and Family Life?
- what activities are you planning to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary?

It would be very important to know, and also very interesting for other members too, what activities, media events, seminars you are planning, what impact this would have on the lives of families, and also on local, regional and national policies. Please send any information you have about up-coming events and initiatives to Zoltan Vadkerti: e-mail: [zvadkerti@coface-eu.org](mailto:zvadkerti@coface-eu.org) / tel: 0032 2 500 56 95.

2014 can only be a success, if in addition to the EU level activities our members are also active and can mobilize citizens and involve families.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon,

Kind regards,

Agnes



Agnes Uhreczky  
Director