



Presidency of Italy
Council of Europe
November 2021 – May 2022

Présidence de l'Italie
Conseil de l'Europe
Novembre 2021 – Mai 2022

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Work-life balance as a leverage for women's empowerment and promoting gender equality

High Level Conference of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Organised by the Italian Minister of Equal Opportunities and Family and the Council of Europe

12 April 2022

Rome, Italy

Palazzo della Farnesina

Sala delle Conferenze Internazionali

Hybrid format

Programme

9:30 – 10:00 am

High-level opening session

Moderator: Caterina Bolognese, Head of the Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

- **Benedetto Della Vedova**, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
- **Elena Bonetti**, Minister of Equal Opportunities and Family, Italy
- **Claudia Luciani**, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe
- **Helena Dalli**, European Commissioner for Equality

10:00 – 11:15 am

Session 1: Policies and reforms in favour of women's employment to encourage gender equality – examples from member States

Panel moderator: Claudia Luciani, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe

- **Thomas Blomqvist**, Minister for Nordic Cooperation and Equality, Finland
- **Élisabeth Moreno**, Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister, Responsible for Equality between Women and Men, Diversity and Equal Opportunities, France
- **Andrea Orlando**, Minister for Labour and Social Policies, Italy
- **Margareta Madjerić**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy, Croatia
- **Ekin Deligöz**, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany
- **Rasmus Cruce Naeyé**, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Sweden

Topics to be addressed:

- ➔ What is the latest situation in the Council of Europe member States concerning welfare policies in supporting women's employment?
- ➔ What are examples of policies and reforms to support women's employment to promote gender equality and work-life balance?

11:15 – 11:35 am

Coffee Break

11:35 am – 12:50 pm

Session 2: New policies and services to promote gender-sensitive work-life balance, including a better sharing of care responsibilities - employers' perspectives

Panel moderator: Tryggvi Hallgrímsson, member of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe, Iceland

- **Federica Saliola**, Lead Economist, World Bank
- **Monika Queisser**, Head of the Social Policy Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- **Kateryna Levchenko**, Government Commissioner for Gender Equality, Ukraine
- **Paola Mascaro**, G20 Empower Chair 2021
- **Sonia Malaspina**, Director of Human Resources, Danone Italy & Greece

Topics to be addressed:

- ➔ What is the role of welfare policies and services in supporting a more equal distribution of care work?
- ➔ How can family policies support transformative changes in our societies?
- ➔ Welfare measures/best practices from the private sector
- ➔ Promising practices
- ➔ What are the roles of the public and private sectors in promoting support for work-life balance?

Q&A session with participants

12:50 – 2:30 pm

Lunch break

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Session 3: The different impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work and family responsibilities of women and men

Panel moderator: Maria Ellul, member of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe, Malta

- **Liliana Palihovici**, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender (OSCE)
- **Emanuela Pozzan**, Senior Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination Specialist, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- **Carlien Scheele**, Director, European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE)
- **Pasquale Tridico**, President of the National Institute for Social Security (INPS), Italy
- **Paola Profeta**, Professor, Bocconi University, Milan, Italy

Topics to be addressed:

- How has the COVID 19 pandemic impacted differently the lives of women and men with care and work responsibilities?
- What measures have been taken by governments and employers to support female and male employees? Have teleworking and other measures been gender-equality-sensitive?
- What are the research outcomes on this topic and what conclusions should be highlighted?
- Promising practices in terms of recovery and new employment policies.

Q&A session with participants

3:30 – 4:20 pm

Concluding remarks

Moderator: Caterina Bolognese, Head of the Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe

- **Conference rapporteur: H el ene P erivier**, Economist, French Economic Observatory (OFCE), France
- **Claudia Luciani**, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe
- **Elena Bonetti**, Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, Italy
