



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

NEWS REPORT

Country:	Italy
Title:	The protection of motherhood and fatherhood
Date:	6 January 2017
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	The funding of care expenses and the compulsory paternity leave
Ground of discrimination:	Sex
Source:	Legislation
Field:	Parental leave

Content

Law development: The draft of the Budget Act for 2017, which is under discussion in Parliament, extends to 2017 the experimental measure providing for a fathers' compulsory leave of two days. The latter can also be split and used at the same time as the mother's compulsory leave.

In addition, paid vouchers for babysitting or contribution for crèche expenses (for a total amount of EUR 3600 to be used for a maximum of six months) have been extended to 2017 and 2018; these will be made available to mothers from the end of compulsory maternity leave for the following eleven months as an alternative to parental leave. The draft also confirms the extension of this temporary measure (for a total amount of EUR 1800 and a maximum of three months) to professionals and autonomous workers.

Finally, at the end of the chapter regarding measures to sustain families, Art. 50 provides for the possibility to increase funds for Equal Opportunities by up to EUR 20 million.

Key points of analysis: On the whole, no substantial changes are to be recorded compared to the measures already in force in the last year. Only funds will be remarkably increased, from EUR 23 million to EUR 50 million for babysitting vouchers and for crèche expenses.

All of these measures are still temporary ones, while it is likely that only a long-term policy could have a real impact on gender equality matters.

Moreover, as regards care expenses, the draft continues to address them only to women, which risks being in contrast with their declared aim of promoting a better balance in care duties within the family. However, from the perspective of boosting women's participation in the labour market, the increase of funds can be regarded as a positive aspect. It could hopefully allow for all or the majority of the requests of babysitting vouchers or contribution for crèche expenses, whereas last year the funds ran out in August.

Internet link source: Draft Budget Act for 2017,
<http://flpdifesa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Testo-bollinato-DDL-di-bilancio-2017.pdf>, accessed 21 December 2016.