



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

### NEWS REPORT

<b>Country:</b>	Italy
<b>Title:</b>	The protection of motherhood and fatherhood
<b>Date:</b>	23 January 2017
<b>Expert:</b>	Simonetta Renga
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	The funding of childcare expenses and compulsory paternity leave
<b>Ground of discrimination:</b>	Sex
<b>Source:</b>	Legislation
<b>Field:</b>	Parental leave
<b>Applicable law:</b>	Article 1, par. 354 ff., Act 11 December 2016, No. 232

### **Content**

**Law development:** The Budget Act for 2017 (Act N. 232 of 11 December 2016) was quickly approved just after a Government crisis which followed the results of a referendum on the reform of the Constitution. No substantial changes could be proposed, as the Government asked for a vote of confidence.

Compulsory paternity leave, which was set at two days for 2017, will be raised to four days in 2018. The additional two days optional leave fathers are entitled to, instead of the mother, within the first five months after the child birth which was set at two days for 2017 will also be increased to three days in 2018. Both measures are temporary.

The Budget Act confirms the extension of paid vouchers for baby sitting or contribution for crèche expenses (for a total amount of EUR 3600 to be used for a maximum of six months) to 2017 and 2018. These will be made available to mothers at the end of the compulsory maternity leave for the following 11 months as an alternative to parental leave. The same (for a total amount of EUR 1800 and a maximum of three months) for professionals and autonomous workers.

The text approved by Parliament on 7 December 2016 also includes the possibility to increase funds for Equal Opportunities up to EUR 20 million.

**Key points of analysis:** On the whole, no substantial changes are to be recorded comparing to the measures already in force in the last years, apart from a small but progressive increase of the paternity leave. Only funds will be remarkably increased, from EUR 23 million to EUR 50 million for baby-sitting vouchers and for crèche expenses.

**Internet link source:** Act No. 232 of 11 December 2016, published on Official Journal No. 297 of 21 December 2016, Ordinary Supplement No. 57, [http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/atto/serie\\_generale/caricaDettaglioAtto/originario?atto.dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=2016-12-21&atto.codiceRedazionale=16G00242&isAnonimo=false&normativi=false&tipoVigenza=originario&tipoSerie=serie\\_generale&currentPage=1](http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/atto/serie_generale/caricaDettaglioAtto/originario?atto.dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=2016-12-21&atto.codiceRedazionale=16G00242&isAnonimo=false&normativi=false&tipoVigenza=originario&tipoSerie=serie_generale&currentPage=1) accessed 17 January 2017.