

### Balancing family life and work

'Exploring the possibilities of a European family-friendly label'































## DECLARATION OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

### Ignacio Socías 15 May 2013, European Parliament

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#### **Commission for Social Development**

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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups



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Recognizing that the family, as the natural and fundamental group unit of society, has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Noting also the importance of designing, implementing and monitoring family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance, social integration and intergenerational solidarity,

Recognizing that the preparation for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provide a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Convinced that civil society, including research and academic institutions, has a pivotal role in advocacy, promotion, research and policymaking in respect of family policy development and capacity-building,





#### To Member States

- improve family well-being through the implementation of effective national policies, strategies and programmes;
- promote the delivery of family-centered benefits;
- strengthen provisions for parental leave;
- extend flexible working arrangements for employees with family responsibilities;
- promote gender equality, paternal involvement, quality childcare arrangements;
- provide social protection assistance and investments in cross-generational facilities, volunteering and job-sharing programmes;
- create a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families;
- recognize the principle of shared parental responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child;
- share good practices and data on family policy development.





#### To Governments

- integrate a family perspective into national policymaking;
- provide for data on family well-being;
- identify and ensure support for constructive family policy developments;
- design strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues;
- support the United Nations trust fund on family activities to enable research activities.





#### To civil society organizations

- play a supportive role in promoting the twentieth anniversary;
- support the preparations for regional meetings;
- provide for data on family well-being;
- identify and ensure support for constructive family policy developments;
- design strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family issues;
- support the United Nations trust fund on family activities to enable research activities.







Declaration of the Civil Society on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family

124 Organizations from 54 countries;

327 politicians, academics and civil society representatives.







We propose this Declaration in which the basic contents of UN resolutions about the International Year of the Family are included, as well as the main recommendations of different Expert Group Meetings, particularly the European one organized in Brussels.

We aim to enroll as many politicians, academics and representatives of NGOs in every country as we can, so that we can present it together with the rest of international organizations in the Commission for Social Development to be celebrated in February 2014.

We also hope that its contents can become a part for the contents of a resolution by the UN General Assembly on the occasion of this anniversary.



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- 1. Welcome the call made by United Nations to celebrate the forthcoming twentieth anniversary, in 2014, of the International Year of the Family, noting the opportunity it provides to revisit family-oriented policies as part of overall development efforts, [5] supporting its objective to aim at responding to challenges faced by families and continuing to guide national efforts that benefit families worldwide [6] and to integrate a family perspective [7] by introducing a family impact report or assessment as a standing and compulsory part of policymaking;
- 2. *Urge* Member States to enhance and strengthen family mainstreaming in policy making at all levels, considering the impacts of socio-economic policies on families; to develop, promote and implement family-friendly policies aimed at providing sustainable, affordable and quality living conditions for families; and to empower families and recognize their role in social cohesion and economic development; [8]

right of families to sufficient resources and social assistance

recognize and communicate the value of balancing family and work

facilitate intergenerational solidarity, quality couple and family relationships,







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RAISE AWARENESS MEETINGS	
- Warsaw, 3-4 April 2013	The twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014) offers an opportunity to refocus on the role of families in development, take stock of recent trends in family policy development share good practices in family policy making, review challenges faced by families worldwide and recommend solutions. The preparations for the this anniversary will include:  International and regional expert group meetings gathering family experts and practitioners.  Research activities, including background papers.  Exchange of good practices in family policy.  Observances of the International Days of Families focusing on the themes for the twentieth anniversary.  Side events at the Commission for Social Development.  Government, civil society, academic and private sector initiatives at the national level.  Findings and recommendations from these activities are to guide future action in effective family policy design, monitoring and implementation.
- New York, 12 February 2013	
- Brussels, 5 June 2012	
REGIONAL EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS	
Brussels, 6-8 June 2012	
UN BACKGROUND	
- International Day	
International Year [1994]	
Tenth Anniversary [2004]	
- Twentieth Anniversary [2014]	
- ECOSOC Resolution [2013]	
General Assembly Resolution [2012]	
Secretary General Report [2012]	
- Secretary General Report [2011]	
- Secretary General Report [2010]	
ECOSOC Resolution [2012]	
Preparations 20th Anniversary [2012]	
- Follow-up 10th Anniversary [2008]	
- Follow-up 10th Anniversary (2006)	

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