

## DECLARATION

### “The Importance of Families in Society” A European Agenda for Family Well-being: Priorities and Solutions Declaration on creating the best possible conditions to enable and promote family life

The General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family (IYF) in order to create a greater awareness of families as the natural and fundamental unit of society. The thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF+30) offers an opportunity to put the focus back on the importance of families, their diversity and family policy making in general.

*Recognizing* that families are the foundation of every society and therefore they need the best possible framework conditions,

*Recognizing* the importance of families as one of the elements for education, security, social cohesion, development, protection, care, recovery and the continued existence of society,

*Reaffirming* that, in accordance with article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 23 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State,

*Reaffirming* that, in accordance with article 10 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, protection and assistance should be accorded to the family,

*Reaffirming* that, in accordance with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life,

*Reaffirming* that, in accordance with article 16 of the European Social Charter, the family as a fundamental unit of society has the right to appropriate social, legal and economic protection to ensure its full development,

*Acknowledging* that work-life balance is a main pillar of family policy and reaffirming that, in accordance with the Work-Life Balance Directive, affordable, accessible and good quality childcare, as well as care for the elderly and relatives with disabilities, and encouragement of a more equal sharing of caring responsibilities between women and men enables caretakers to reconcile paid work and family life,

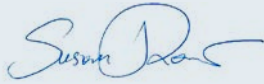
*Recognizing* the necessary that the States provide conditions for all families to thrive,

*Recognizing* the importance of the involvement of the private sector in implementing work-life balance policies and measures,

*Acknowledging* that families should receive the best possible financial and institutional support.

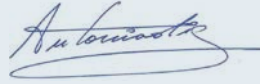
**We, the undersigned Ministers and Secretaries of State responsible for Family Affairs, are committed to**

- support families in fulfilling their numerous functions for the overall benefit of society,
- support socially disadvantaged families,
- prevent, combat, and raise awareness for all forms of violence within families, especially develop and strengthen child protection systems in the best interests of the child,
- strengthen existing family-oriented policies and programmes and generate new initiatives responding to the needs and situation of families,
- promote work-life balance and take appropriate steps to provide affordable, accessible and good-quality childcare,
- increase awareness of family issues among stakeholders in politics, society and economy, at international, regional and national level, and encourage them, to actively utilise the opportunities offered by family-conscious measures in the interests of society,
- exchange and work collaboratively and individually, at international, regional and national levels, to promote family life and respond to problems affecting the situation of families as well as to strengthen family-friendly policies.



**Austria**

Ms. Susanne Raab  
*Federal Minister for Women, Family,  
Integration and Media*



**Belgium**

Mr. Antonios Antoniadis  
*Deputy Minister-President and Minister for Health  
and Social Affairs, Regional Development and Housing*



**Bulgaria**

Mr. Lazar Lazarov  
*Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy*



**Croatia**

Ms. Margareta Mađerić  
*State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, Pension System,  
Family and Social Policy*



**Cyprus**

Ms. Marilena Evangelou  
*Deputy Minister of Social Welfare*



**Czechia**

Mr. Marian Jurečka  
*Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour  
and Social Affairs*



**Germany**

Ms. Lisa Paus  
*Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women  
and Youth*



**Greece**

Ms. Sofia Zacharaki  
*Minister of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs*



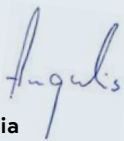
**Hungary**

Ms. Ágnes Hornung  
*Secretary of State for Family Affairs at the Ministry  
of Culture and Innovation*



**Italy**

Ms. Eugenia Roccella  
*Minister for Family, Natality and Equal Opportunities*



**Latvia**

Mr. Uldis Augulis  
*Minister for Welfare*



**Malta**

Mr. Michael Falzon  
*Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights*



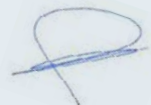
**Romania**

Ms. Natalia-Elena Intotero  
*Minister of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities*



**Slovakia**

Mr. Erik Tomáš  
*Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family*



**Slovenia**

Mr. Luka Mesec  
*Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Labour,  
Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities*