



Ms. Marianne Thyssen
Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Minister for Employment
Ved Stranden 8
DK-1061 Copenhagen K

T +45 72 20 50 01
E bm@bm.dk
uk.bm.dk

CBR 10172748

Dear Commissioner Marianne Thyssen

Date 26 June 2017

File no. 2017 - 3361

The Danish Government and the Danish Parliament are currently examining the Commission's proposal on the work-life balance for parents and carers – COM(2017) 253 final.

With this letter, I wish to inform you of the Danish Government's preliminary reaction to the proposal.

While the Government agrees that the proposal adheres to the principle of subsidiarity, we do not agree with the Commission's analysis of the scope of the proposed directive.

Thus, the Government does not agree that "*The Directive respects well-established national arrangements for leaves and flexible working arrangements and the possibility for the Member States and the social partners to determine the specific provisions thereof.*"

Furthermore, the proposal does not "*fully respects the freedom and preferences of individuals and families to organise their lives and does not impose on them any obligation to use the benefit of its provisions.*"

The Danish Government supports the current EU-legislation – namely the framework directive on parental leave based on the agreement concluded between the European Social Partners – which fully respects the flexible parental leave scheme in Denmark, which also includes the right to state benefits at the same level as sick leave benefits.

However, with the Commission's proposal we will not be able to maintain this "well-established national arrangement" which in its own right "fully respects the freedom and preferences of individuals and families to organise their lives".

Therefore, the Danish Government cannot support the Commission's proposal. We actively seek to amend the Commission's proposal in the forthcoming negotiation process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troels Lund Poulsen'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Troels Lund Poulsen