

Question for written answer E-002541/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kristoffer Storm (ECR)

Subject: Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers, and its application to self-employed persons and small business owners

In the preamble to Directive (EU) 2019/1158 on work-life balance for parents and carers, it is stated in recital 16 that the directive lays down minimum requirements related to paternity leave, parental leave and carers' leave for workers. The minimum requirements for paternity leave etc. do not apply to self-employed persons. Depending on the implementation of this Directive in Member States, some self-employed persons may be considered workers and thus be subject to the Directive.

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that there can be different criteria in different Member States for distinguishing between workers and self-employed persons in relation to the Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers?
2. Does the Commission recognise that a self-employed person can be a person employed in a private or public limited company in which they own at least 25 % of the shares if they receive their primary income from employment in the company and hold a leading position or hold majority ownership together with family members?
3. Does the Commission know the definitions of the term 'self-employed' as used in individual Member States in regard to the Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers and/or will the Commission initiate the creation of an overview of these definitions?

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