



Thursday 15 October 2015

Press release

New European Citizens' Initiative “Mum, Dad & Kids” has been submitted to the European Commission today, 15 October 2015

Article 9 of the EU Fundamental Rights Charter protects Member States against interferences by the EU in the domain of marriage and family law.

In the course of time, however, the EU has adopted an increasing number of legal acts that concern marriage and family, such as Article 81.3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) (a text that indeed confers a legislative competence to the EU, albeit under restricted conditions), Directive 2004/38/EC (on the right of EU citizens and their families to freely choose their domicile within the EU), or Directive 2003/86/EU (concerning the right to family reunification).

In addition, the EU has also adopted legal acts that, although they deal with different subject matters, contain references to, and at times even definitions of, the family, such as Directive 2012/29/EU (on the rights, the support, and the protections of victims of crime).

At the same time, the differences between Member States' national legislation on marriage and family keep widening: while some countries (such as the UK, Belgium...) believe that the union of persons of the same sex can be a marriage, others have included into their constitutional law provisions according which marriage is based on the union of a man and a woman (Croatia, Hungary...). In the same vein, some countries allow the practice of surrogacy motherhood (UK, Greece...), whereas others prohibit it (France, Spain, Italy...)

In this context the EU legal acts, having become incomprehensible and difficult to apply, lead to contradictions and tensions.

The citizens' committee **Mum, Dad & Kids** has therefore submitted to the European Commission today, 15 October 2015, a new European Citizens' Initiative requesting the EU to adopt a unique definition of marriage and family to be applied horizontally within all EU legal acts.

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The proposed definition of marriage as a permanent union between a man and a woman corresponds to the common ground of the laws of all EU Member States. By consequence, this definition alone is apt to ensure the respect of Article 9 of the Fundamental Rights Charter. The proposed definition of family is based on marriage and descent.

*The legal framework of the European Citizens' Directive is set out by the EU Treaties and EU Regulation 211/2011. The citizens' committee **Mum, Dad & Kids** consists of 9 members, who are citizens of 8 different Member States:*

Edit Frivaldszky (President, Representative)	Hungary
Roger Kiska (1. Vice-President, Deputy Representative)	Slovakia
Maria Hildingsson (2. Vice-President)	Sweden
Aleksander Stępkowski	Poland
Ludovine de La Rochère	France
Grégor Puppink	France
Željka Markić	Croatia
Paul Moynan	United Kingdom
José Manuel Veiga de Macedo	Portugal

Professor **Robert Spaemann** (Germany) is an honorary member of this committee.

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