

**Conclusions**  
**of the Heads of Delegations of the Social Welfare Committees**  
**of the V4 Parliaments**  
*(Budapest, 21 December, 2017)*

*We, the Committees responsible for family policy of the Parliaments of the Visegrad Countries (the Visegrad Four or V4) agree that the population of the region is declining and aging dramatically. In order to meet the demographic challenges, we must primarily make use of family policy tools.*

We agree that the family is the fundamental, natural and living cell of society, which is the basis for every other community and society itself. The well-being of the family is a socio-political issue, and at the same time an indispensable condition for a nation's future quality of life. The family is the national, European and global common denominator which merits the utmost protection.

We confirm that the family – being society's fundamental unit – must receive the protection and support necessary for the fulfilment of its role in the community, so that the children brought up in them could grow up in a family environment characterized by a happy, loving and understanding atmosphere.

We consider children and young people to be the greatest treasure of our countries, whose life is indispensably important for sustainable development, thus we underline the need for pro-family policies allowing families to realise their full potential and to perform their mission in bringing up the next generations.

We declare that we endeavour to govern our countries in a pro-family manner, that our countries pursue and strengthen pro-family government programs, and that we will implement measures and plans that help us reach these goals. In their legislative work, our parliaments will give priority to the interests and the protection of the family.

We call on our parliaments and governments to dedicate special attention and resources to the support and protection of the family at the regional, national and the local levels, and to endeavour to make sure that each relevant program and initiative takes into consideration the impact of its activities on the family.

We advocate that appropriate attention be paid also at the European level to encouraging childbearing, in order to protect the family, maintain its unity and favourably influence demographic processes. We emphasize that the preservation of the current level of regulation of social security and family allowances and observing the European Union principle of equal treatment are indispensable conditions for this purpose. We consequently reject the legal institution of the indexation of family allowances and consider that it sends the wrong message to European families. We trust that the related EU legislation will soon come to a resting point and thus strengthen the predictability of EU legislation.

In line with the Conclusions of the European Council meeting on 14 December 2017 we emphasise the importance of taking into account the respective competences during the negotiations of social policy legislative proposals.

Taking the spreading and exchange of the best national practices as our point of departure, we will intensify our efforts to facilitate a constructive cooperation in matters of family policy among Member States, as well.

*Signed in Budapest, on 21 December 2017*

*On behalf of:*

*Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic*



*Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic*



*Hungarian National Assembly*



*Sejm of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland*



*Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Poland*



*National Council of the Slovak Republic*

