

**Outg. No. 1 / May 11, 2021**

**Sofia, Bulgaria**

**To:**

**The European Commission**

**CC To:**

**The European Parliament**

**The Parliamentary Groups of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria**

**The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria**

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria**

**The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria**

**Dear European Commission,**

The March for Family National Association is a Bulgarian non-governmental organization that carries out activities in public benefit for the affirmation and the support of the marriage, as a voluntary union between one man and one woman, and the traditional family values and virtues, to achieve a better and a fuller life for all citizens in the society.

We would like to express our concern with the recently published guidelines of the European Commission for the draft of the regulation on the recognition of parenthood between the member states. Once passed, it will have binding power for all member states of the European Union to comply.

It includes each country as a member state to recognize the adoption of children by homosexual couples whether it is legal in the respective country or not. For the majority of these member states such a regulation will be in direct opposition to their national Law regarding the family.

Under the Union Treaties, the substantive law on family matters and the legal status of persons falls within the competence of the member states. That includes the establishment of the parenthood and its control by the NATIONAL law of each country.

We disagree with any EU country being forced to comply with regulations which are opposed to their respective Constitution. As such the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria defines marriage clearly as a “voluntary union between a MAN and a WOMAN”, (Art. 46, 1).

For our citizens, as part of a traditionally Orthodox Christian nation, it is of a primary importance to protect this definition.

We must emphasize that the above is also valid for many other member states of the EU, not only Bulgaria, and it must be taken into serious consideration. These new regulations are in direct contradiction to our established laws and our centuries-old traditions.

For example, the national laws of many EU member states expressly prohibit adoption of children by homosexual couples. Even more so, these provisions are in full conformity with the applicable international laws, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Taking into account the Constitutions of the individual countries and the fact the substantive family law is completely in the jurisdiction of the member states of the EU, our



position is that this proposal is interfering with the national sovereignty, the national competence and traditions of the countries concerned.

We insist the draft to be withdrawn because it goes against the Treaties of Accession to the European Union.

Sincerely,

Ivaylo Tinchev

Chairman of the Managing Council

March for Family National Association

Bulgaria