



## Act now for families!

### 10 things we ask the European Union to do for families in Europe

#### Easy-to-read text

Easy-to-read is information that is written in a simple way so that all people can understand it. You can find more information at: [www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read](http://www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read).



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The difficult words in the text are marked in **bold**.  
You can find their explanation at the end of this booklet.

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We are 'COFACE Families Europe'.  
We are an organisation that fights  
for the rights of all families in Europe.



In short, we are called 'COFACE'.

At COFACE,  
we believe that all families  
should have the same chances  
to enjoy a good, healthy and safe life.



We made this leaflet to ask people  
who make decisions and laws in Europe  
to take action to protect all families.



Soon there will be **European elections**.  
People in Europe will vote who they want  
to stand for their rights.  
These people will make laws and decisions  
for the **European Union**.



In the next few pages,  
you will read the 10 things we ask them to do  
for families in Europe.

We ask people who make laws and decisions in Europe to:

**1. Give good support to all families  
and especially those at higher risk of being left out**

For example:

- Families of people with disabilities



- Single parents  
This is when a parent raises their child alone  
without the help of a partner.



- Large families



- Same-sex parents  
This is when both parents are women.  
Or both parents are men.



Families who have left their country to start over somewhere new.



## 2. Make sure families can get good health care throughout their lives

From when we are born until we get older, we all need to have good health care. This is important for our physical health, as well as for our well-being.



## 3. Protect children from poverty

Sadly, many children live in poverty. This means that their parents may not have enough money to cover their needs. They may not be able to give their children good food or a safe house to live in.

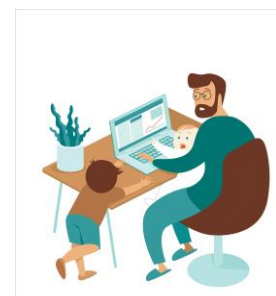


The **European Union** should take action to support poorer families.

## 4. Support parents to be able to work and care for their child

Parents who work should get the right support to be able to take care of their families.

For example, parents should be able to:



- Take time off work when their children are sick.
- Have access to good childcare where their children can spend time with other children.



This should be the case for both women and men. It should not be expected only by women to look after their child.

## 5. Take into account the needs of children with disabilities and their families

Children with disabilities should have the same rights and chances in life as other children.

For example, children with disabilities should have the right to go to school with other children.



For that to happen, the **European Union** should use part of its money to make schools **accessible** for all children.

## 6. Help families to use money in a safe way

Many families struggle to cover the cost of life. They may borrow money and may end up not being able to pay it back. They may also not be aware of the risks of borrowing money or buying things online.



The **European Union** should act to protect families from these risks.

## 7. Support children and families to use the internet in a safe way

Today most of us use the internet in our everyday lives to:

- Look for information
- Talk to each other
- Watch movies
- Buy things online.



All families should have the chance to use the internet if they want to.

The **European Union** should act to make the internet easier and safer to use for families.

## 8. Collect data about the situation of families in Europe

The **European Union** should collect data and other important information about families in Europe.

The European Union should know what problems families in Europe face.

For example, the European Union should know:

- How many families in Europe cannot pay for heating to keep their house warm in the winter.



- How many families in Europe have to move from their country because they cannot have a good life there.

By knowing information like this, the European Union can plan its work to make things better for families.

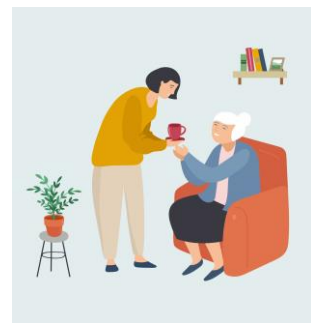
## 9. Offer good care services to all people

We may all need to take care of someone in our family at some point in our lives.

For example, we may need to look after our parents when they get older.

We may also need someone to look after us at some point in our lives.

The **European Union** should give families the support they need to look after their members in need.



## 10. Support families of refugees

In recent years, many people have come to Europe to escape war and other dangers in their countries.

Among them, there are many families with children.

The **European Union** should act to make it possible for these families to have a good and safe life together.





# Explanation of difficult words

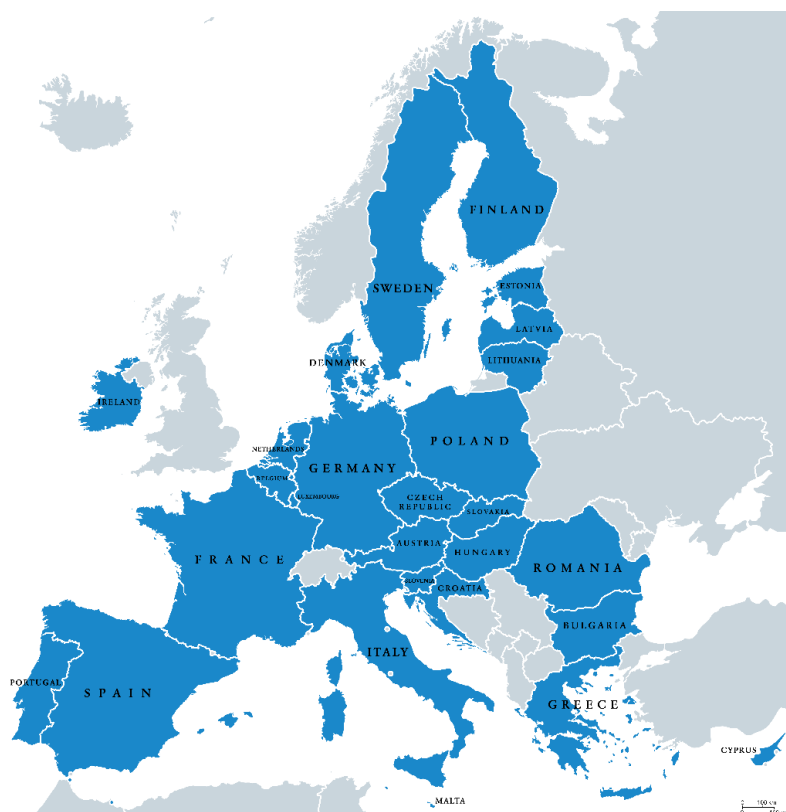
## Accessible

Things are accessible when they are easy to use for people with disabilities. For example, when buildings have ramps that people in wheelchairs can use to get in. Or when information is easy to read and people with intellectual disabilities can understand it.



## European Union

The European Union is a group of 27 countries in Europe. These countries came together to make things better, easier and safer for people.



## European elections

Every 5 years,  
the people who live in the European Union  
vote who they want  
to make laws and decisions in Europe.

The next European elections will be  
in May 2024.



## More information

If you want to know more  
about the work we do at COFACE,  
you can check our website at:  
[www.coface-eu.org](http://www.coface-eu.org).

If you have any questions,  
you can send us an email at:  
[secretariat@coface-eu.org](mailto:secretariat@coface-eu.org).

