

# High-Level Conference of European Ministers responsible for Family Affairs

Vienna, 13 June 2024

## Concept Note

The Austrian Federal Chancellery is organizing a Conference of European Ministers responsible for Family Affairs to be held on 13 June 2024 in Vienna, as part of the commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

“The family as a fundamental unit of society has the right to appropriate social, legal and economic protection to ensure its full development” states the revised European Social Charter.

Family policy contributes a great deal to ensuring these rights, e.g. through social and family benefits and fiscal arrangements.

The Conference “Importance of families in society” will focus on the central role that families and family policies play in EU Member States. The Conference will provide a forum for the presentation of good practices in family policy making. The aim is to address the following questions:

- What is the situation of families in the EU?
- What are Member States doing to protect the rights of the family?
- What constitutes a family-friendly policy?
- Which measures have proven to be particularly effective in providing families with the best possible support?

Furthermore, Member States are invited to sign a declaration on creating the best possible conditions to enable and promote family life. The text of the declaration will be circulated prior to the Conference.

## Preliminary Programme

### Wednesday 12 June 2024

**From 15:00\***      **Cultural programme** for delegations – visit to the **Vienna International Centre**  
(Wagramer Strasse 5, 1220 Vienna)

**19:00 – 21:00**      **Reception at the Federal Chancellery** (Ballhausplatz 2, 1010 Vienna)

### Thursday 13 June 2024

**High-Level Conference at the Palais Niederösterreich** (Herrengasse 13, 1010 Vienna)

**08:15–09:00**      **Arrival**

**09:00–09:10**      **Welcome** incl. Press and **Camera Spray**

**09:10–09:20**      **Opening Speech** by MMag. Dr. Susanne Raab, Austrian Federal Minister for Women,  
Family, Integration and Media

**09:20–09:45**      **Keynote Speech** by a representative of the United Nations (tbc)

**09:45–10:00**      **Signing of the Declaration**

**10:00–10:30**      **Press Conference**  
**Coffee Break**

**10:30–11:45**      **Working Session – Best Practices**  
Policy debate: Member States are invited to exchange good practices in family policy.

**11:45–12:00**      **Conclusion** by MMag. Dr. Susanne Raab, Austrian Federal Minister for Women, Family,  
Integration and Media

**12:00–12:15**      **Group Photo**

**12:15–13:45**      **Lunch**

**14:20–15:30\***      **Cultural programme** for delegations – special tour at the **Spanish Riding School**  
*We kindly ask you to inform us before visiting the Spanish Riding School if you have an animal hair allergy  
or an allergic rhinitis ("hay fever").*

\*We apologise that we are currently unable to give an exact time.

More details will be provided after the registration closes on 11 April 2024.