28th April 2016

**Harkin Calls for Support for Domestic Workers and Carers**

A report in the European Parliament has adopted a proposal that a Carers Leave Directive should be developed. This was warmly welcomed by Independent MEP Marian Harkin who stated that she had called for such a proposal on many occasions and it was now up to the European Commission to listen to the Parliament and bring forward such a proposal.

Speaking on the adopted report ‘Domestic Workers and Carers in the EU’, Marian Harkin said that it highlighted the need for proper working conditions and decent work for domestic workers and carers.

“As a member of the European Parliament’s Employment Committee, I put forward 17 amendments to this report and I was particularly pleased that many were included and especially my call on all member states to urgently ratify the International Labour Organisations Domestic Workers Convention”, she said. Ireland had ratified the convention but 22 EU counties had yet to do so and needed to do so urgently, she said.

Her proposal on the professionalisation of the sector, to foster the creation of decent jobs and quality employment, had been accepted and was particularly pleasing, the Independent MEP said. “Finally I am very happy that my call for a Carer’s Leave Directive was included in the report as this is vital in easing the pressure on that dedicated group”, Marian Harkin concluded.

Further information from: Marian Harkin MEP

 Tel: +086-8341758

E-mail: [marian.harkin@ep.europa.eu](mailto:marian.harkin@ep.europa.eu)

Website: [www.marianharkin.ie](http://www.marianharkin.ie/)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/marianharkin](http://www.facebook.com/marianharkin)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/MarianHarkin](http://www.twitter.com/MarianHarkin)

"MEP of the Year " Award Winner 2011 & 2012