



Socialdepartementet

Åsa Regnér

Barn-, äldre- & jämställdhetsminister

Joint statement by Minister Rovana Plumb and Minister Åsa Regnér upon the signing of the joint declaration between Romania and Sweden

We, as Ministers responsible for social affairs and thus the well-being of our populations, recognise that the freedom of movement within the European Union, a right which we both cherish and stand firmly behind, may also contribute to forging new ways of collaboration and cooperation in issues of mutual interest.

Against this background we have today signed a joint declaration between our countries. Building on existing forms of cooperation at EU-level we seek to strengthen our cooperation in the field of social policy. Through exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices as well as the promotion of common projects we wish to enhance the lives of our citizens. The cooperation will especially target the population groups most at risk. This would for instance be children from poor families in difficult circumstances or women and girls at risk of being abused.

We have identified four main areas for our cooperation, children's rights, gender equality, social welfare and social security. All of these areas are of outmost importance for the well-being of our populations as well as of our societies.

To oversee the declaration and to ensure that the cooperation runs smoothly we intend to establish a joint working group with high ranking officials from our ministries as chairs. Within a year we will evaluate the work. Possibly we will by then have identified other areas for common work or other ways of developing the cooperation between our countries.