

**Question for written answer E-002124/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Funding instruments needed to resolve the demographic crisis

In the conclusions adopted by the European Council in June 2023, the Commission was invited to present a toolbox to support Member States in addressing demographic challenges and their impact on Europe's competitive edge.

Its philosophy is based on supporting parents through better paid work, ensuring access to high-quality childcare services, access to the labour market and to affordable housing.

Unfortunately, without the required financial support, these targets cannot reverse the decline in Europe's population (since 2015, more deaths than births have been registered on our continent). The cohesion policy and the Recovery and Resilience Facility must incorporate the demographic crisis into their priorities, with clear targeting, and must adopt policies based on long-term strategic planning.

We need to protect our European regions by boosting their infrastructure and incentivising business activity there.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission intend to create a special funding strand targeted at the demographic problem?
2. Does it intend to use the above-mentioned resources to boost the European Regional Development Fund and the Recovery and Resilience Facility for initiatives linked to demographics?
3. Does it intend to implement specific de-urbanisation measures and at the same time to focus on regional development through the creation and modernisation of infrastructure?

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