

**Question for written answer E-004359/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Strategy of the EU and national governments exacerbates the demography problem

According to official EU data, 41.6 % of households in the EU experienced at least some difficulty getting by in 2024. Declining personal incomes, the high cost of basic items, soaring rents, energy poverty, the degradation and commercialisation of health and social support for children, the elderly and people with disabilities – these factors all contribute to the mounting insecurity faced by young couples looking to start a family.

The debate on this subject in Greece and in other EU Member States reflects the ‘concern’ of national governments and the EU institutions with regard to the trend of the declining working-age population, giving rise to corresponding policies for managing low birth rates.

How does the European Commission respond to:

1. the fact that the EU’s anti-labour policy forms precarious employment conditions with flexible forms of employment (such as zero-hour and work-on-demand contracts), negatively affecting female workers in particular and creating barriers for young couples to having a child?
2. the fact that, over time, EU and national government policies have resulted in the commodification of early childhood education and care, creative activities for children, special education and comprehensive child protection – instead of these being universal rights for every child – as part of a wider trend of commercialisation and privatisation, as seen in the areas of housing, water and energy?
3. the fact that policy of commodifying healthcare, including prenatal care and medically assisted reproduction, has created a field of business activity resulting in unaffordable costs for young couples?

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