

EN
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Answer given by Mr Schmit
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission's response to demographic change includes policies integrating family support, labour market reforms, education and skills development, and healthy ageing, alongside a legal migration strategy.

The European Care Strategy¹, for instance, fosters supportive environments for families, balancing family and career obligations.

The Commission's Action plan to tackle labour and skills shortages² aims to harness talents by activation of underrepresented groups in the labour market, reskilling and upskilling the workforce, improving working conditions and facilitating intra-EU mobility. It also sets measures to attract talent from outside the EU in certain occupations (EU Talent Pool) and supports the full implementation of the EU Blue Card Directive³.

The Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027⁴ aims to improve integration of migrants into the labour market.

Having children is a matter of individual choice; the Commission supports Member States in creating favourable social and economic conditions. Examples of EU instruments (e.g. directive on work-life balance, the European Child Guarantee, support for investments in childcare) are listed in the Demography Toolbox⁵ which will continue to be implemented.

¹ COM/2022/440 final - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022DC0440>

² COM(2024) 131 final - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024DC0131>

³ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-and-integration/work/eu-blue-card_en

⁴ COM (2020) 758 final - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/AUTO/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0758>.

⁵ COM(2023) 577 final - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2023%3A577%3AFIN>