

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001746/24
to the Commission
Idoia Mendia Cueva (S&D)
(18 September 2024)**

Subject: Ageing strategy for the Europe Union

On 27 January 2021, the Commission adopted a Green Paper on Ageing — Fostering solidarity and responsibility between generations (COM(2021)0050).

Europe's ageing population is one of the major challenges for the EU, but also an opportunity to transform our economy by creating better jobs and improving our long-term care system.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission take the view that it is time to continue the work initiated in the Green Paper and to move towards a White Paper setting out specific measures to address the challenge of ageing in the EU?
2. Does the Commission believe that there is a need to develop an ageing strategy for the European Union, with clear and long-term objectives?

Submitted: 18.9.2024

**Answer given by Vice-President Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(24 October 2024)**

The Commission has carried out a number of actions during its mandate 2019-2024 to address demographic change, including the Green Paper on Ageing ⁽¹⁾ and the European Care Strategy ⁽²⁾.

In response to the European Council ⁽³⁾, the Commission adopted the Demography Toolbox Communication in 2023 ⁽⁴⁾ laying out a comprehensive set of tools and measures to support Member States in managing demographic change, in full respect of the division of competences and the diverse local realities.

The toolbox aims *inter alia* at empowering older generations and sustaining their welfare, through reforms combined with appropriate labour market and workplace policies.

Gender equality, non-discrimination, respect for fundamental rights and intergenerational fairness form guiding principles in these efforts.

The Political Guidelines 2024-2029 ⁽⁵⁾ confirm the need to continue the work on tackling the root causes of demographic change and adapting to new realities.

The Mission Letter to the Commissioner-designate for the Mediterranean ⁽⁶⁾ foresees a focus on the further implementation of the Demography Toolbox and on increasing the labour market participation of underrepresented groups.

The Commissioner-designate responsible for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport ⁽⁷⁾ will have to prepare a strategy on intergenerational fairness, ensuring that interests of present and future generations are respected.

In addition, the Commissioner-designate for Health and Animal Welfare ⁽⁸⁾ is tasked to support healthy longevity, and the Commissioner-designate responsible for Equality ⁽⁹⁾ will lead the work on mainstreaming equality, which includes efforts to promote age equality and tackle age discrimination.

⁽¹⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ce2ab168-7f23-11ec-8c40-01aa75ed71a1>

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_5169

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/06/30/european-council-conclusions-29-30-june-2023/>

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/communication-demographic-change-europe-toolbox-action_en

⁽⁵⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/towards-new-commission-2024-2029/president-elect-ursula-von-der-leyen_en

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/24039223-f92e-40a0-a440-a27d9715051a_en

⁽⁷⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/c8b8682b-ca47-461b-bc95-c98195919eb0_en

⁽⁸⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/b1817a1b-e62e-4949-bbb8-ebf29b54c8bd_en

⁽⁹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/faaf33ff-c8c7-49a1-b01d-56681e11a5e6_en