

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001943/24
to the Commission
Guillaume Peltier (ECR)
(3 October 2024)**

Subject: To what extent is the Commission supporting new waves of legal migration to fill job vacancies?

On 11 October 2023, the Commission adopted a communication presenting a set of support tools available to the Member States to help them manage demographic change and its impact on EU societies and economies.

In its fourth point, the communication unambiguously states that it is necessary ‘to address shortages through managed legal migration where necessary, in full complementarity with harnessing talents from within the EU.’

In February 2024, there were 13.2 million unemployed people in the EU. There are thus 13.2 million residents of the Member States, a significant proportion of whom are already immigrants, who are looking to their governments or the Commission for support in ‘putting their talents to good use’.

1. Does the Commission intend to submit a communication setting out what it is Member State nationals are lacking in order to help overcome the labour shortages which it intends make up by means of migration?
2. Has it received any information from the Member States on the proportion of job vacancies they are allocating to new immigrants, given that 2.9% of job openings in the EU remained vacant in 2023?
3. Would it prefer to promote employment for Europeans or to aggravate the madness of its migration policy?

Submitted: 3.10.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(9 January 2025)**

The Commission refers the Honourable Member to the action plan on labour and skills shortages ⁽¹⁾, which sets out the new actions that the EU, Member States and social partners will or should take to tackle this issue.

As emphasised in the action plan, the main priority should be to harness the untapped potential of the EU labour force. To this end, several EU initiatives have been recently adopted.

They include the European Care Strategy ⁽²⁾, the reinforced Youth Guarantee ⁽³⁾, the Disability Employment Package ⁽⁴⁾, as well as the recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed in the labour market ⁽⁵⁾. Furthermore, EUR 27 billion have been programmed under European Social Fund+ ⁽⁶⁾ to be invested in active labour market policies.

The Commission analysis ⁽⁷⁾ shows that in some shortage-occupations employment has grown both for foreign- and native-born individuals, while in other shortage-occupations, foreign-born workers are filling positions where demand exceeds the supply of native workers.

The Commission will continue to support first the development of talents from within the Union, as well as actions that promote the reconciliation of family aspirations and paid work in line with the Demography Toolbox ⁽⁸⁾.

However, relying on domestic workforce alone will not be enough to counterbalance the negative impact of demographic change on labour supply.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Communication on Labour and skills shortages in the EU: an action plan, COM(2024) 131 final (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52024DC0131>).

⁽²⁾ Commission Communication on the European care strategy, COM(2022) 440 final (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0440>).

⁽³⁾ Council Recommendation of 30 October 2020 on A Bridge to Jobs — Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee and replacing the Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee, 2020/C 372/01 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2020.372.01.0001.01.ENG).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Communication on a Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, COM(2021) 101 final (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52021DC0101>).

⁽⁵⁾ Council Recommendation of 15 February 2016 on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market, 2016/C 67/01 ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32016H0220\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32016H0220(01))).

⁽⁶⁾ For the period 2021-2027.

⁽⁷⁾ ‘Labour Market and Wage Developments — 2024 Annual Review’, to be published in December 2024.

⁽⁸⁾ Commission Communication on Demographic change in Europe: a toolbox for action, COM(2023) 577 final (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2023:577:FIN>).

In this regard, fair legal migration can play a complementary role in addressing these shortages, helping companies that struggle to find workers within the EU to attract talent from abroad and, in turn, preserving their competitiveness, for example by using the EU Talent Pool ⁽⁹⁾.

The Commission recalls that Member States alone are responsible for determining volumes of admissions of non-EU nationals.

⁽⁹⁾ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an EU Talent Pool, COM/2023/716 (<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d1b8e0ae-87c7-11ee-99ba-01aa75ed71a1/>).