

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002545/24
to the Commission
Afroditi Latinopoulou (PfE)
(14 November 2024)**

Subject: The demographic problem: Greece and the EU are dying a slow death

The EU's demographic problem, especially in Greece, has already turned into a serious crisis.

According to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, Greece's population has been continuously declining over the last decades, the older population has been steadily increasing and the fertility rate remains well below the population replacement level.

Although the situation is just as concerning in other Member States, the EU institutions are still not making this matter a top priority.

On the contrary, the Commission and national Governments alike see the influx of migrants from non-EU countries as the solution for offsetting the population decline.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission plan to highlight the true extent of the demographic problem and help tackle the issue in a meaningful way in Member States?
2. Does the Commission plan to help Member States to fund support programmes for European families and how?
3. What steps does the Commission plan to take to limit the influx of illegal migrants to genuine refugees only?

Submitted: 14.11.2024

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(20 March 2025)**

The Demography Toolbox ⁽¹⁾ provides a comprehensive mapping of tools and policy measures to support Member States on demographic change.

It aims to reconcile family aspirations with paid work, promote gender equality, empower younger and older generations, and where necessary address labour shortages through legal migration. The effective integration of third-country nationals legally residing in the EU is essential.

The European Social Funds Plus is the main EU funding instrument that invests in people and thus helps to address the demographic challenges. It has a total budget of EUR 142 billion. (EU funding and national co-financing) during 2021-2027.

It supports measures as access to employment, including for youth and women, access to services, such as long-term care and childcare services, and education and skills.

Well-managed legal migration can help reducing labour shortages. Migration in itself will not offset demographic decline. In line with the Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽²⁾, providing a strong European response to irregular migration and migrant smuggling is an essential part of the comprehensive approach to migration (the EU has launched the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling).

The Pact is also establishing a set of new rules for managing migration and establishing a common asylum system at EU level. The new system will address the issue of irregular arrivals of non-EU nationals at the EU external borders.

It will set up fast, efficient and streamlined procedures for asylum and return, as well as strong safeguards for the people concerned.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/communication-demographic-change-europe-toolbox-action_en

⁽²⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum_en