

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002625/24
to the Commission
Tomasz Froelich (ESN)
(21 November 2024)**

Subject: Migration unsuited as a means of solving demographic problems, according to a study by the University of Amsterdam

According to the Commission, the ageing of the population puts the EU's competitiveness and the public finances of its Member States at risk. The Commission sees legal migration as a means to address demographic imbalances and the resulting socioeconomic problems ⁽¹⁾.

A study by the University of Amsterdam concludes that this does not add up. According to the study, the cost of immigration for the public purse in the Netherlands will total EUR 600 billion over the next 20 years, if current trends continue. Only labour migration from North America and Oceania, the British Isles, Scandinavia, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Israel, India, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan is said to have positive economic effects, with that from other countries having at times a neutral but mostly a negative impact. Overall, migration is rejected as a solution to demographic change ⁽²⁾.

Around 13 million people were unemployed in the EU at the end of August 2024.

1. In the light of this study, what is the Commission's view of legal migration as a solution to demographic problems?
2. What impact will the findings of this study have on Commission policy?

Submitted: 21.11.2024

**Answer given by Commissioner Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(13 March 2025)**

Addressing demographic issues requires a comprehensive strategy that goes beyond interventions on population size and age structure through fertility or migration.

The EU's strategy on demography is framed around the Demography Toolbox Communication which considers a wide range of adaptation measures on the labour market, social infrastructure, health systems and long-term care provision, intergenerational fairness and territorial cohesion, along the four pillars of parents, youth, older people and where necessary attracting talent from outside the EU.

The toolbox encourages Member States to make use of the tools available at EU and national level for addressing and managing demographic change, in line with their national and regional circumstances.

As for the economic impacts of migration, the Commission takes into consideration a wide array of studies and expert analyses when formulating policies.

For fiscal costs, a critical assumption concerns the return probability and the likelihood of remaining active in the labour market until pension.

Studies by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ⁽¹⁾ and by the Commission ⁽²⁾ converge in highlighting the need for labour market policies targeted at increasing labour participation of migrants with skills that can fill in shortages in the labour market skilled to generate higher fiscal gains.

They also suggest that migration alone will not be sufficient to ensure the sustainability of European welfare states, and as indicated in the Draghi report ⁽³⁾, Europe should make use of all forms of activation of labour to strengthen the EU's competitiveness.

¹ <https://www.nzz.ch/international/yilva-johansson-ueber-die-angst-vor-migration-und-identitaetsverlust-ld.1603359?reduced=true>

² https://demo-demo.nl/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Borderless_Welfare_State-2.pdf

⁽¹⁾ International Migration Outlook 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1787/29f23e9d-en>

⁽²⁾ Projecting the Net Fiscal Impact of Immigration in the EU, https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2020-11/fiscal_impact_report_final_online.pdf

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/draghi-report_en