

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000214/25
to the Commission
Idoia Mendia (S&D)
(20 January 2025)

Subject: ‘Demographic change in Europe: a toolbox for action’ — Ageing Group

In October 2023, the Commission adopted a communication presenting a set of policy tools available to Member States for managing demographic change and its impacts on the EU’s society and economy, including the EU’s global competitiveness, named ‘Demographic change in Europe: a toolbox for action’.

To achieve the objective of ‘empowering older generations and sustaining their welfare’, the Commission made a commitment to ‘publish the Pension Adequacy Report (jointly with the Social Protection Committee) and the Ageing Report (jointly with the Ageing Group)’.

1. What are the main objectives of this Ageing Group, how is it structured and who are its members?
2. How regularly does the Ageing Group meet, what are its main activities and what are the connections between this group and Parliament?

Submitted: 20.1.2025

Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(24 March 2025)

The Ageing Working Group (AWG) is a working group of the Economic Policy Committee (EPC). Its purpose is to bring together expertise on the economic and budgetary impact of demographic changes.

The working group is constituted to conduct common budgetary projections together with the Commission, based on population projections prepared by Eurostat.

This work culminates in the publication, every three years, of the Ageing Report. The latest vintage of this joint Commission-EPC report was published in April 2024 ⁽¹⁾.

The working group contributes to improving the analysis of the sustainability of public finances and economic consequences of the demographic development of the EU Member States, to assist policy formation.

Within the EU fiscal surveillance framework, the projections contribute particularly to the prior guidance provided by the Commission to the Member States and should be reflected in their medium-term fiscal-structural plans.

The technical work by the AWG should also feed into the coordination of economic policies and other relevant coordination processes in the context of the European Semester.

The members of the working group comprise representatives with relevant background from all Member States, the Commission and the European Central Bank.

Each Member State is represented by up to two experts. The frequency of AWG meetings depends on the workload, with a higher frequency when an update of the Ageing Report is being prepared. There is no established connection between the EPC-AWG and the Parliament.

In parallel to the Ageing Report, the Commission and the Social Protection Committee produce the Pension Adequacy Report ⁽²⁾, last published in May 2024, which analyses current and future adequacy of pensions in Member States.

⁽¹⁾ https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/publications/2024-ageing-report-economic-and-budgetary-projections-eu-member-states-2022-2070_en

⁽²⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/c854e35f-2eb1-11ef-a61b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en#:~:text=When%20analysing%20the%20developments%20in%20pension%20systems%20and,while%20also%20touching%20upon%20the%20key%20policy%20deba>