

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001988/25
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(18 May 2025)**

Subject: Solving the demographic problem in the European Union and Greece

Europe's demographic problem is constantly worsening and hitting Greece especially hard. There is an urgent need — now more than ever — to take effective and timely action to create better and more effective preconditions for a solution to the massive problem of low birth rates. We have an obligation as the European Union to keep society standing with more members, by implementing a series of measures that include: (a) income support for families by means of an earnings increase, (b) easier access to housing for young couples, young people and vulnerable people, (c) support for families in the area of education, promoting learning by any means necessary, (d) assistance for families with children with disabilities, (e) enabling access to comprehensive healthcare, (f) incentives to stay in the region.

With what immediate and targeted measures could the Commission contribute to solving the demographic problem?

Submitted: 18.5.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(14 August 2025)**

The Commission has put forward a wide range of policy initiatives that help create favourable conditions enabling people to pursue their life and family aspirations ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission Demography Toolbox considers a wide range of adaptation measures on the labour market, pension and health systems, childcare and long-term care provision, intergenerational fairness, territorial cohesion and managed legal migration. These initiatives are also supported through the Cohesion Policy funds ⁽²⁾.

The Quality Jobs Roadmap, the Anti-Poverty Strategy and the European Affordable Housing Plan, planned under this mandate, will further contribute to this endeavour.

The Commission is providing Member States with tools and funding opportunities for strengthening social and territorial cohesion and allowing people to thrive in their communities.

With support from the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), Greece will establish a National Observatory of Demographic Policy to contribute to the implementation of the National Action Plan for Demography and to strengthen the capacity of public administration to formulate targeted interventions at national and regional level.

Under the Technical Support Instrument (TSI), evidence-based tools for the Observatory's work as well as the methodology/guidelines for the preparation of Regional Demographic Action Plans will be developed, with pilot implementation in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace.

⁽¹⁾ The Work-Life Balance Directive aims to improve the balance between work and family lives for parents and carers. The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child aims to combat child poverty, improve access to childcare, education and healthcare, and support families in vulnerable situations. The European Child Guarantee aims to ensure that all children at risk of poverty or social exclusion have access to essential services such as education, care, healthcare, nutrition and housing. The Council Recommendation on the revision of the Barcelona targets on early childhood education and care (ECEC) encourages Member States to increase availability, affordability, accessibility and quality of ECEC. The strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030 aims improve the lives of persons with disabilities in Europe and around the world. The Union of Skills will contribute to enhancing education, training, and skills development across the Union. The EU Directive on Adequate minimum wages in the EU aims to improve working and living conditions in Europe.

⁽²⁾ The EU Cohesion Policy, through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Just Transition Fund (JTF) provide support for start-ups, local SMEs, investment in public services and transport. The Talent Booster Mechanism directly addresses brain drain and talent retention, particularly in Eastern and Southern Europe. The Youth Guarantee aims to ensure that young people receive a job, education or training offer within four months of becoming unemployed.