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Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU fiscal framework recognises the challenges from demographic changes[1]. Member States' medium-term plans should include a fiscal path that ensures fiscal sustainability, also reflecting costs related to demographic ageing. Reforms and investments that help address the economic and fiscal impact of ageing can be included in the plan and considered among those that justify a more gradual fiscal consolidation. In line with Protocol 12 annexed to the Treaties[2], investment means gross fixed capital formation as defined in the European System of Accounts.

Tackling the impact of demographic change is a shared commitment for the entire Commission and the organisational arrangements will follow the evolution, if any, of the related tasks. The Commissioner for the Mediterranean is responsible for steering the implementation of the Demography Toolbox[3] to help Member States address their demographic challenges. Moreover, employment and social policies, education and training, territorial cohesion policy, migration, fiscal policies, health policies, and others, all contribute to managing demographic change.

The Commission's proposal for the next multiannual financial framework includes national and regional partnerships for investments and reforms tailored to each Member States' specific needs, including demographic challenges[4]. For instance, investment in quality and affordable childcare and health/long-term care positively impacts well-being and labour market participation[5].

[1] Recital 5 of Regulation 1263/2024 (EU) on the effective coordination of economic policies and on multilateral budgetary surveillance and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1466/97.
[2] Protocol (No 12) on the Excessive Deficit Procedure annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
[3] Communication Demographic change in Europe: a toolbox for action COM(2023) 577 final.
[4] Communication A dynamic EU Budget for the priorities of the future - The Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 COM(2025) 570 final.
[5] Communication on the European care strategy COM(2022) 440 final.