

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002762/25
to the Commission**

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(8 July 2025)

Subject: ‘No kids’ ideology, European population decline and an increasing reliance on immigration: is this the civilisational strategy we have adopted?

Europe’s demographic winter poses fundamental questions for the future of our societies, on both the economic and civilisational fronts. The Draghi report predicts an annual decline of almost two million people of working age between now and 2040, which European politicians want to offset with immigration.

At the same time, some campaigns that have been supported or shared promote ‘childfree’ or ‘no kids’ lifestyles, touting them as emancipating, or even morally superior.

While freedom of choice in family life is of course guaranteed in the EU, it is legitimate to question the potential contradictions between such cultural representations and several Member States’ population targets.

1. Can the Commission specify which birthrate and parenthood initiatives and projects it funds and indicate whether follow-up is carried out to prevent antinatalist lifestyles being implicitly promoted in the cultural and educational content it supports?
2. Does it recognise that the changing demographics cannot be solved by immigration alone?
3. Does it intend to promote, in the spirit of European cultural sovereignty, a policy to boost birth rates that focuses on the family and passing on values and heritage from one generation to the next?

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**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(25 August 2025)**

The Commission acknowledges the importance of addressing demographic change as it has significant implications for our societies and economies.

Demographic change is primarily determined by life choices of individuals and families. Family policies are a competence of EU Member States.

However, EU and national policies should help ensure that people can fulfil their aspirations, and the Commission supports initiatives that aim to create favourable social and economic conditions to allow people to pursue these family aspirations in accordance with their free choices.

Following the European Council conclusions of June 2023, which called for a toolbox to address demographic challenges and their impact on Europe’s competitiveness, the Commission has put forward a wide range of initiatives and funding opportunities within the Demography Toolbox to assist Member States in responding to demographic challenges.

Legal migration alone cannot prevent population ageing and address labour force decline. While managed legal migration, in full complementarity to harnessing talents from within the EU, can help meet labour market needs, it is not a standalone answer.

The Commission recognises the complexity of this issue and emphasises the need for a comprehensive strategy that incorporates legal migration among other measures.

Similarly, policy interventions to increase fertility are not sufficient on their own to reverse population or labour force decline.

Therefore, the Demography Toolbox considers a wide range of adaptation measures in the areas of labour market, pension and health systems, intergenerational fairness and territorial cohesion, along the pillars of families, younger generations, older people, and legal migration.
