

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002112/26
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(21 May 2026)**

Subject: Europe has an obligation to act quickly on the demographic problem

The demographic problem is a major issue that is troubling Greece and the EU as a whole. The time has come to take immediate and decisive measures and initiatives to resolve this issue. The Commission has an obligation to take decisive action. Supporting families with stable work, robust economic growth, easy access to affordable housing, equality in healthcare and education provision and social assistance will help young people to start a family. Economic security must be solid and equal so young people can secure a stable future. In addition, boosting regional development will form the other pillar providing support and effective intervention for the resolution of the demographic problem. Measures to create stable jobs, together with the state care provided to families, are very important factors. The public and private sector can work together to solve the demographic crisis. The demographic problem affects us all. Stability in the finances of young families will help alleviate the problem.

In view of the above:

1. Will the Commission take fresh economic measures to resolve the demographic problem?
2. Will the Commission support governments' decisions financially to solve this major problem?

Submitted: 21.5.2026

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(17 July 2026)**

Demographic change is impacted by life choices that individuals and families make. Although demographic policies are primarily national competences, the EU supports Member States through policy frameworks and funding.

The Demography Toolbox ⁽¹⁾ points to EU-supported relevant reforms and investments Member States could implement in their national and regional contexts to address demographic change.

The Commission is committed to develop such policies further, also based on their success and interest. Recent initiatives such as the strategy on Intergenerational Fairness ⁽²⁾, the European Affordable Housing Plan ⁽³⁾, the Anti-Poverty Strategy ⁽⁴⁾ and the Talent Booster Mechanism ⁽⁵⁾ collectively address diverse consequences of demographic change.

The Commission is preparing a dedicated strategy on the Right to Stay, proposing a vision and concrete measures to increase prosperity and quality of life for those regions which are struggling with population decline.

The Commission proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2034) includes addressing demographic change as an objective of both National and Regional Partnership Plans and the European Competitiveness Fund.

Member States can already use several financial instruments:

- The European Social Fund Plus ⁽⁶⁾ (EUR 142 billion for 2021-2027) funds childcare, long-term care, skills development and social innovation.
- The European Regional Development Fund ⁽⁷⁾ supports investments to reduce disparities across EU regions.
- The Technical Support Instrument ⁽⁸⁾ provides expertise for structural reforms. Greece receives support for a Demographic Observatory and a National Action Plan on Demography.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0577>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52026DC0110>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC1025>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0538>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/harnessing-talent-platform_en.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en>.

⁽⁷⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/erdf_en.

⁽⁸⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-and-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument_en.