

EN

E-003131/2026

Answer given by Ms Šuica
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.10.2026)

Although policies related to demographic change are primarily national competences, the EU supports Member States' efforts through the Work-Life Balance Directive¹, the Quality Jobs Roadmap², the European Child Guarantee³, the European Care Strategy⁴, the Anti-Poverty Strategy⁵, the European Affordable Housing Plan⁶, the EU Youth Strategy⁷ and the Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness⁸, which together aim to create favourable conditions for young people and families in the EU.

The Commission is supporting islands, mountainous and remote areas to adapt to demographic decline through initiatives such as the Rural Pact⁹, the Rural Action Plan¹⁰, the Talent Booster Mechanism, the EU strategy for islands¹¹, the EU Strategy for the outermost regions¹² and the ongoing work on the Right to Stay¹³. EU funding instruments such as the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus and the Technical Support Instrument support Member States in mitigating the impact of demographic change. The proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework includes many references to support Member States, also financially, to face the consequences of the demographic trends that are more relevant for them.

The Commission's Demography Toolbox¹⁴ provides Member States with a set of EU policy tools to address demographic change, in line with EU's role that is complementary to national competences.

The Commission recently published the 2026 Demography Report¹⁵ providing an update on data, statistics and projections on how EU's population is changing in size, structure and geographic distribution, and exploring the underlying drivers. The Commission monitors and is preparing an update on its implementation.

¹ Directive (EU) 2019/1158.

² COM(2025) 944 final.

³ Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/1004.

⁴ COM(2022) 440 final.

⁵ COM(2026) 538 final.

⁶ COM (2025) 1025 final.

⁷ Council Resolution: 2018/C 456/01.

⁸ COM(2026) 110 final.

⁹ COM(2021) 345 final.

¹⁰ The Rural Pact and the Rural Action Plan are two complementary components for implementing the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas covered by two separate subsections: 3.1. Rural pact and 3.2. Rural action plan.

¹¹ COM(2026) 520 final.

¹² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM%3A2026%3A660%3AFIN>.

¹³ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/whats-new/newsroom/05-05-2026-european-commission-launches-landmark-right-to-stay-strategy_en.

¹⁴ COM(2023) 606 final.

¹⁵ <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC147518>.