

## Green Paper "Confronting demographic change: a new solidarity between the generations"

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Do you consent to the publication of your personal data/data relating to your organisation with the publication of your replies to the consultation?	Yes
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Are you replying as an individual or an organisation?	Organisation
On behalf of which of the following are you replying?	European NGO
Please specify the name of your organisation or institution	Helpage International
Country where your organisation is based	UK - United Kingdom
Do you take the view that the discussion of demographic trends and managing their impact should take place at European level? If so, what should be the objectives, and which policy areas are concerned?	We take the view that discussion of demographic trends has relevance for the whole spectrum of European Union policy areas, including throughout EU international development policy. Its objectives should be to ensure the fulfilment of the potential of all members of society throughout their life course, and should concern all political, social and economic policy areas.
Should the European Union be promoting exchanges and regular (e.g. annual) analysis of demographic change and its impact on societies and all the policies concerned? Should the Union's financial instruments – particularly the structural funds – take better account of these changes? If so, how? How could European coordination of employment and social protection policies better take on board demographic change? How can European social dialogue contribute to the better management of demographic change? What role can civil society and civil dialogue with young people play? How can demographic change be made an integral part of all the Union's internal and external policies?	HelpAge International would like to draw the European Commission's attention to the fact that the implications of ageing at global level should be also acknowledged, and addressed through all the EU external policies. 1. Ageing is no longer a feature of only European and North American societies, but is relevant to all continents and countries, including developing countries. UN statistics indicate that people over 60 years of age are the fastest growing population group in developing countries. Even in Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of older people is growing faster than the number of children, and by 2050 nearly one in four people in Asia and Latin America and one in ten people in Africa will be aged over 60. By 2050, while life expectancy in Africa will still be the lowest in the world, it will have increased to 71 years compared with 83 in North America. 80% of older people in developing countries have no regular income, and older people make up a large part of the chronically poor. Yet older people contribute to the survival of their families by working into very old age and play key roles in fighting the effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, by caring for sick children and orphaned grandchildren. European Union policies, including those designed to mitigate the effects of the domestic demographic challenges, impact in many ways on the situation of older people in developing countries. A case in point is the migration by all economic sectors of the workforce, including the health services sector, to the European Union, which increases older people's role and responsibility in countries of origin as caretakers of children left behind and breadwinners for their families. Our evidence points to the need for a targeted social pension and a robust and resourced package of health and education entitlements available

	<p>across the life course to support intergenerational interdependence of older and younger persons. Therefore we call upon the European Union to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- assess the full spectrum of costs resulting from EU migration policies and address the impact on countries of origin, and especially on the poorest and most vulnerable communities,</li> <li>- promote a tripartite social protection package of health, education and social pensions for vulnerable households in developing countries, especially those with older people and children; support ways of strengthening 'traditional' or 'informal' social security for poor people in developing countries,</li> <li>- provide political, financial and technical support to governments in developing countries to resource, extend and, when necessary, implement social protection measures, including universal old-age pensions,</li> <li>- develop more effective poverty analysis tools, policies and aid which disaggregate data by age and gender, and appropriately address the needs revealed by such tools.</li> </ul> <p>HelpAge International believes that all EU external policies – trade, development cooperation, external relations - should include older people in its programmes and policies and respond to their needs, whilst acknowledging older women and men's contributions to development as stated in the United Nations International Plan of Action on Ageing (Madrid 2002), which has been signed up to by all EU Member States.</p>
How did you perceive this questionnaire?	Expectations met