

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

| Identification of case | |
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| IPM Reference Number: | 272774 |
| Creation date | 05-04-2005 |
| Modification date | |
| Privacy statement | |
| Personal Data | |
| 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? | Individual |
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| Age | 65-.. |
| Country of residence | FR - France |
| Explanation | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? <p>Oui. Baliser au plan régional l'évolution à court et moyen terme des effectifs de population et de ses composantes par âge, sexe, catégories sociales, configurations familiales, ... sous l'influence du mouvement naturel (natalité mortalité) et migratoire (migrations extérieures et mobilité intrarégionale). La principale politique concernée est la politique sociale, et son financement, y compris fiscal.</p> | |
| 1. The challenges of European demography | |
| 1.1. The challenge of a low birth rate | |
| <p><i>Over many years, the Union has been making considerable efforts to achieve equality between men and women and has coordinated national social protection policies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can a better work/life balance help to tackle the problems associated with demographic ageing? • How can a more balanced distribution of household and family tasks between men and women be encouraged? • Should the award of certain benefits or advantages (leave, etc.) be linked to an equal distribution of tasks between the sexes? How best to ensure an adequate | |

income for both parents on parental leave?

- How can the availability of child care structures (crèches, nursery schools, etc.) and elderly care structures be improved by the public and private sectors?
- Can a reduced rate of VAT contribute to the development of care services?
- How can parents, in particular young parents, be encouraged to enter the labour market, have the career that they want and the number of children they want?

Tout ceci devrait être du domaine des collectivités locales, sous réserve d'une harmonisation européenne et du principe de subsidiarité.

1.2. The possible contribution of immigration

The Thessaloniki European Council in June 2003 declared that an EU integration policy for immigrants should help to meet the new demographic and economic challenges currently facing the EU. This is the debate initiated by the Green Paper adopted last January.

- To what extent can immigration mitigate certain negative effects of demographic ageing?
- What policies should be developed for better integrating these migrants, in particular young people?
- How could Community instruments, in particular the legislative framework to combat discrimination, the structural funds and the Employment Strategy, contribute?

La principale mesure consiste à créer un "état civil" de l'immigration, enregistrant le mieux possible entrées et sorties dans l'Union et dans chaque pays. Le principal instrument peut en être un "Numéro de Sécurité sociale" à la française, compte tenu des précautions de protection des données individuelles définies par les directives ad hoc.

2. A new solidarity between the generations

2.1. Better integration of young people

European objectives have been laid down for the prevention of long-term youth unemployment, combating early school leaving and raising the level of initial training. The structural funds help to attain them at grass roots level.

- How can initial training and adult training schemes be improved? What can non-formal education and voluntary activities contribute? How can the structural funds and the instruments for achieving better access to the knowledge society contribute?
- How can the bridges between school and working life and the quality of young people's employment be improved? What role should social dialogue play? What can dialogue with civil society, in particular youth organisations, contribute

Le dialogue social, c'est le dialogue démocratique. La démocratie consiste à faire discuter les budgets (recettes et dépenses) de chaque collectivité (UE, Etats, régions, communes) par des assemblées élues et convenablement informées.

- How can Community policies contribute more to combating child poverty and poverty among single-parent families and to reducing the risk of poverty and exclusion among young people?
- What forms of solidarity can be fostered between young people and elderly people?

Les politiques fiscales et sociales doivent corriger, par une politique active de redistribution (généralisation des barèmes progressifs, détaxant les parties basses du revenu), les méfaits de la concurrence "libre et non faussée"

2.2. A global approach to the “working life cycle”

In order to foster the transition to a knowledge society, EU policies promote the modernisation of work organisation, the definition of lifelong learning strategies, the quality of the working environment and “active ageing”, in particular raising the average retirement age. Demographic changes reinforce the importance of these policies, whilst raising new questions:

- How can the organisation of work be modernised, to take into account the specific needs of each age group?
- How can young couples' integration in working life be facilitated and how can we help them to find a balance between flexibility and security to bring up their children, to train and update their skills to meet the demands of the labour market? How can we enable older people to work more?

Les politiques d'éducation, y compris "tout au long de la vie", relève pour l'essentiel des Etats. L'Union ne peut que les coordonner, et répandre les bonnes pratiques.

- How can work organisation best be adapted to a new distribution between the generations, with fewer young people and more older workers?
- How can the various stakeholders in the Union contribute, in particular by way of social dialogue and civil society?

Revenir au plein emploi résoudrait tous les problèmes. La principale cause du chômage, ce sont les mesures prises pour lutter contre le chômage (Alfred Sauvy)

2.3. A new place for “elderly people”

The European coordination of retirement scheme reforms is promoting more flexible bridges between work and retirement.

- Should there be a statutory retirement age, or should flexible, gradual retirement be permitted?
- How can elderly people participate in economic and social life, e.g. through a combination of wages and pensions, new forms of employment (part-time, temporary) or other forms of financial incentive?
- How can activities employing elderly people in the voluntary sector and the social economy be developed?
- What should be the response to pensioner mobility between Member States, in particular with regard to social protection and health care?
- How should we be investing in health promotion and prevention so that the people of Europe continue to benefit from longer healthy life expectancy?

Toute idée de "partage du travail" est fallacieuse. La retraite devrait être aussi flexible et progressive que possible, les cumuls de revenus d'activité et de retraite autorisés sans limite que la fiscalité progressive de droit commun.

2.4 Solidarity with the very elderly

The coordination of national social protection policies is due to be extended to long-term care for the elderly in 2006. How can this help to manage demographic change?

- The coordination of national social protection policies is due to be extended to long-term care for the elderly in 2006. How can this help to manage demographic change?
- In particular, should a distinction be drawn between retirement pensions and dependency allowances?
- How do we train the human resources needed and provide them with good

quality jobs in a sector which is often characterised by low salaries and low qualifications?

- How do we arrive at a balanced distribution of care for the very old between families, social services and institutions? What can be done to help families? What can be done to support local care networks?
- And what can be done to reduce inequality between men and women when they reach retirement age?
- How can new technologies support older people?

Il faut accroître la redistribution entre personnes âgées et très âgées, en développant l'impôt progressif sur le capital.

3. Conclusion: what should the European Union's role be?

- 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?

L'important est d'organiser au plan régional, dans les assemblées élues, "des échanges et une analyse régulière, par exemple annuelle, des changements démographiques et de leur impact sur les sociétés et toutes les politiques concernées".

The Questionnaire

How did you perceive this questionnaire? Expectations not met

Why?

Too long