

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?	Individual
Gender	Male
Age	40-54
Country of residence	CZ - Czech Republic
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?	The discussion of demographic trends should take place at European level, as many of its aspects have an all-European dimension - such as immigration. Moreover, one of the main pillars of European Union is a free movement of people, therefore also social and labour policies should be coordinated.
Over many years, the Union has been making considerable efforts to achieve equality between men and women and has coordinated national social protection policies. 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?	I am not sure whether economic gender equality is a proper solution of low birth rate. Even if so, I think that the "distribution of household and family tasks" is something which the government should not control neither directly nor indirectly. I am convinced from my own experience (having 6 children) and experience of my friends that a decision to accept a gift of more children has less to do with purely pragmatical aspects of financial loss/benefits, and much more with parents' principal beliefs of their life roles and missions. Therefore, In my view, the major reason of current poor natality is connected with the crisis of family and life-oriented values. This is an area beyond a primary control of government and politics; still, governments and public authorities have some chances of impact, such as: - legislation supporting a standard model of Christian family (marriage between a man and a woman with the prior purpose of having and raising children) - support for Christian churches which promote the above family model
How did you perceive this questionnaire?	Expectations met