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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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?	Gerade in Deutschland besteht großer Nachholbedarf, was die Vereinbarkeit von Familie und Beruf betrifft. Es läßt sich nicht bestreiten, dass dies zumindest ein wichtiger Grund für die niedrige Geburtenrate ist. Außerdem wird in Deutschland in vielen Bereichen noch nicht akzeptiert, dass wir seit langem ein Zuwanderungsland sind und diese brauchen. Leider wird von starken politischen Kräften versucht, eine Diskussion über diese Themen und Maßnahmen zur Lösung der Probleme zu verhindern. Insoweit ist eine Diskussion auf europäischer Ebene absolut notwendig und das Grünbuch sehr zu begrüßen.

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?

Ich denke, dies sind die wesentlichen Themen, die angegangen werden müssen.

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?

Wünschenswert wäre auch eine Vereinheitlichung des Staatsbürgerschaftsrechts.

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

Ein größerer Praxisbezug insbesondere der universitären Ausbildung wäre wünschenswert.

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?

Ich bin für ein flexibles Rentenalter. Allerdings muss auch die Diskriminierung der Älteren entgegengewirkt werden. Es sollte mehr die Leistung als das Alter beurteilt werden.

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?

Ich finde es sehr wichtig, dass die Union den Gedankenaustausch fördert und so auch konservative Staaten wie Deutschland dazu bringt, sich modernen Lösungen zu öffnen.

Expectations met