

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

id_request	456560
DT_CREATE	22/07/2005
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
Name	Hannele Rautamäki
E-mail address	hannele.rautamaki@dnainternet.net
Are you replying as an individual or an organisation?	Individual
Gender	Female
Age	55-64
Country of residence	FI - Finland
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?	* I would see that the general discussion should take place at EU level however allowing the differences that exist in the member states. * Aging work force and downsizing fertility rate are to be solved of most importance already within the next year
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?	* there should be a possibility for partial retirement and partial working so that taxation or limitations in earning do not hinder the senior employees to transfer the tacis knowledge to the junior generations * reduced taxation would be beneficial to the development of care services * young parents should have fiscal and taxation benefits to be able to combine work and family. Also more part time working without fear of loosing the job which means the need of state support in cases like this for the employee.

<p>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.</p> <p>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?</p>	<p>* immigration should not be preferred to own free movement with EU</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>* the schools should have more activities with businesses > research, support for young peoples training period etc</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>* new ideas how tacit knowledge can be transfered to the younger generation</p>

<p>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?</p>	<p>* support systems for young generations to update their skills without the fear of losing their jobs * support systems for the seniors to be able to work longer > support to the businesses to be able to do that</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>* flexible retirement age should be permitted. * free movement within the member states also for the seniors > EU social security funds to compensate the cost of health care for the countries with more entry of seniors</p>

<p>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?</p>	<p>* training and support to buy new technological equipment and services for seniors * information campaigns about the facts of low salary and qualification jobs > there is often not enough information about the good sides of these businesses * enough support for seniors for them to be able to survive home as long as possible > also enough support for their children to be able to help seniors even though they themselves are in working life</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>* yes > regular (bi)annual analysis and facts are necessary * there should be more structural funds for these subjects * demographic change policies should be guided on EU level and so go into national policies</p>
<p>How did you perceive this questionnaire?</p>	<p>Expectations met</p>