

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

Identification of case	
IPM Reference Number:	458407
Creation date	20-09-2005
Modification date	
Privacy statement	
Personal Data	
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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>Objectives should be: 1) the release of guidelines that each country have to follow 2) monitoring programs that check, at local level, the fulfillment of specification released 3) procedure against local governments that don't fulfill the specification released</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?

Sex policy is not useful to improve birth rate. You are completely wrong if you think that a redistribution of tasks between sexes can improve the situation. A low birth rate depends upon many factors: first of all, babies costs a lot. Services for family, rare and very costly, should be completely VAT free. In Italy there are no public junior schools for every child, and private schools can cost 400 euro a month. Special european programs have to build "block" junior school and pay volunteer "mothers" that attend their own and some other child, without too much bureocracy. Artificial milk in Italy costs three times than in Germany: why ? So, products for babies must be price-capped, and price has to be the same in each EU Europe, while VAT for this products have to be halved. Each child should produce a tax cut of 25% for the family, while a disabled elderly person or a disabled child should produce A TOTAL TAX CUT, the family have not to pay any tax at all, and have to acces every service free. You should not concern about career: you have TO REDUCE THE MONSTRUOUS AMOUNT OF "FLEXIBLE" WORKS. Without a long term, "stiff" work young pepole does not marry, does not have children: and flexibility is always run to increase profits, not to improve worker's life conditions. Young peple must acces low rate mortgages to buy home and city centers have to be rebuilt to transform old houses, rather than built "popular" houses that will crumble shortly after due to the lack of maintenance.

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?

Immigration without integration is useless. Only if immigration is integrated and migrants becomes EU citizens we can have significant improvements of this situation: on the contrary, we have an additional burden of welfare and social care that we cannot bear. Integration means that we cannot let the development of religious schools without control. But you have to consider that islamic communities self-discriminate to guarantee themself "purity" - but want to access social facilities without paying integration price. Another matter is fighting "black employment", that means unfair competition with regular employees and subtract contribution to social programs. I think there is no discrimination in EU against migrants, but if a strict inflation control doesn't cut product prices and if Europe is not protected about dumping hates againts specific nations and specific migrants can rise. So a precise immigration control, that rejects irregular migrants and sends them back to native control, is a good and useful legislative framework. You are forgetting contribution of international adoptions. In Italy international adoption is strongly contrasted because judge and social operators consider this act "buying children" and thinks that to respect Convention of Aia about adoptions Italian government has to "select" potential parents, not train them to host a foreign child. So a huge army of government officers works only to show that many pepole cannot be ad adoptive parent- the more, the best - while associations that run assistential-educational programs in foreign countries and are very effective cannot use their potentiality to fulfill this tasks saving a lot of public money. They respect Convention of Aia, because always try to find alternatives to international adoptions, but if no option is left are very capable to match childrens characteristic and train parents. International adoption, if a common EU procedure has to be followed in each country, can be a possible contribution to low birth rate much more effective than a very theoretical contribution of direct immigration.

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

First of all school primary schools have to last until age 18: apprentice programs have to be run in summer for each student, to couple study and working. Each family has to be involved and approve-monitor school programs, while university teachers have not to be a "baronal" dynasty as in Italy, from grandfather to grand nephew. Workers have to access specific, even undergraduate studies, programs that have to be both flexible and adapted to workers - and to teachers - needs. Flexible works have to finish off quickly. Only stable and continautive works can lead to families, and families to children. Companies have to have a tax cut if commit in university educational programs their employees.

- 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?

Poverty can be supported with stable works. Young people can voluntarily help elderly people if there is an economical support, so family that have to sustain elderly people can help, if there is a money reward, other family to do the same. Support for lone parents can use volunteer organization

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?

If elder people do more, there will be less work for youngs, unless they are social volunteering works. There cannot be any compromise in flexibility accorded to companies: flexible work have to be taxed. Parents have to access unconditionated permits to attend children needs and take care of them if they have problems, so flexibility has to be oriented to workers.

- 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?

In Italy there are not "more older workers" simply because they are fired at 50 during company restructurations.

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?

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?

It's correct that men and women retire at different age. New technologies can help life, but only if medical researches are oriented to improve old people quality, and not only to save their lives. If family are tax-freed they can attend elder people needs by their own, so an european contribution is required to support them without any distinction of money possessions.

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?

EU have to act, not to monitor. Structural funds have to support free association of people that pool their own resources to take care about youngs and olds, not to support public facilities. Social protections have to be extended, but family has to have the most part of social protection. If you improve family, you have the key to solve the problem. And additional funds for family can be found taxing advertisement. EU have to establish clear, overnational rules for taking care of youngs and olds, make international adoption grows and avoid that 30000-40000 children live in rescue communities simply because Italian officers thinks that "there are too few family good for adoption, temporary or not". Waste of resources is a shame, expecially if a family is negated to young peple for personal opinions or ideological-political ideas.

The Questionnaire

How did you perceive this questionnaire? Expectations not met

Why?

Too general