

**Question for written answer E-006532/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Depopulation and ageing in Europe

One of the key challenges facing us as a continent is the gradually ageing population and the increasing depopulation of many regions, as in the case in my home region, Galicia.

Article 174 of the Treaty on European Union makes it an objective of cohesion policy to pay particular attention to regions suffering severe natural and demographic handicaps. Their situation is linked to levels of unemployment and rising poverty which make it hard to talk about a real cohesion policy.

It seems necessary to take a leap forward in European cohesion by advancing towards a European agenda for demographic growth, with adequate resources to meet this huge challenge for the continent's sustainability and economic vitality and in order to preserve our social model and the EU's social and territorial cohesion.

What action is the Commission taking in response to ageing and depopulation?

What funding does it intend to allocate towards correcting this situation?

Does it intend to promote an agenda along these lines?