

**Question for written answer E-001773/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski (PPE)

Subject: Demographic changes in the context of the future ERDF and Cohesion Fund

The proposal for a regulation on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund for the period 2021-2027 underestimates the risks associated with the impact of demographic change on regional development. However, demographic change is one of the biggest challenges facing the EU and has widespread economic, social and environmental consequences. These include an ageing population, a decline in the number of young people, a lower birth rate and a reduction in the number of economically active people.

In this connection, does the Commission intend to formulate a more detailed strategy to ensure that particular attention is also paid to regions affected by the severe demographic crisis?

Could the Commission clarify how it intends to better coordinate EU instruments in order to ensure a more comprehensive approach to demographic change, as well as how it intends to ensure the greater integration and flexibility of actions supported by structural funds in order to increase complementarity and consistency in efforts to address demographic change?