

**Question for written answer E-000244/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Labour immigration in Europe and impact of immigration on wages and working conditions

In its 2015 immigration programme and in the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Commission has noted that with the working age population expected to decline by 17.5 million by 2030, labour immigration will be essential in order to offset both workforce shortages in some sectors and the effects of demographic ageing. Immigration would thus have a positive impact on the economy in that it would increase labour supply, while its impact on wages would be negligible.

These premises are questionable however. Professor Robert Rowthorn of the University of Cambridge, writing in 2015 on noteworthy and long-term effects of labour immigration on wages, was of the opinion that: 'the claim that immigrants take jobs from local workers and push down their wages ... may be exaggerated, but it is not always false'. He also challenged the view that immigration might compensate for the effects of an ageing population, pointing out that this would require a constant inflow of new immigrants.

1. How does the Commission plan to use immigration to offset demographic ageing?
2. The Commission advocates an increase in labour immigration. What impact does it believe this would have on the wages and working conditions of EU citizens?