

**Question for written answer E-004450/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Maria Spyra** (PPE)

Subject: Demographic problem

The rapidly declining population in the European Union may prove to have major consequences in the coming decades. Persistently low birth rates and higher life expectancy are transforming the composition of the age pyramid, resulting in a gradual transition towards a much older population, as is already apparent in several Member States. As a result, the proportion of people of working age is shrinking, while the relative number of pensioners is expanding.

Given that the Commission is required, under Article 159 TFEU, to draw up a report every year on the progress made in terms of implementing the Union's actions in the field of European social policy, including the demographic situation in the Union, and, under Article 160 TFEU, to cooperate with a special Social Protection Committee, can it say:

1. What action has it taken to solve the demographic problem?
2. Has it requested an opinion from the Social Protection Committee established under Article 160 TFEU on how to address the rapid decline of the population?
3. Are funds available from the EU's general budget or from the special structural funds to boost birth rates within the EU?