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Answer given by Vice-President Šuica
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.7.2020)

1. While the Commission continues its efforts to protect lives and livelihoods and chart a path for Europe's recovery, it continues to work to address more structural changes, including the twin green and digital transitions and the impact of demographic change. Demography is a priority for the Commission and has a dedicated portfolio for the first time to address these issues. Demographic change reflects long-term challenges that build up and unfold over many decades. It is too early to draw definitive conclusions on Covid-19's possible impact on Europe's long-term demographic outlooks. Nevertheless, it is clear that any future policy response will have to take into account demographic factors and draw lessons from the Covid-19 crisis. In this spirit, the Commission's Recovery Plan adopted on 27 May 2020 explicitly calls for solidarity between generations and highlights the need to support vulnerable groups as part of a fair and inclusive recovery.

2. The Report on the Impact of Demographic Change was adopted on 17 June 2020¹. As confirmed in the adjusted Commission Work Programme for 2020², it will provide the basis for a series of initiatives on demography, including the Green Paper on Ageing and the Long-term Vision for Rural Areas, which are both planned for 2021.

¹ COM(2020) 241 final, 17.6.2020

² COM(2020) 440 final, 27.5.2020