

**Question for written answer E-004276/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Addressing the issues of low birthrates, employment and the sustainability of Europe's pension systems

In 2025, over 20% of the population of major urban centres of the Union will be 65 years old or more. Due to increases in life expectancy and the limited youth workforce, the old-age dependency ratio is expected to increase from 31.2% in 2017 to 35.3% by 2025 in major European urban centres.

Also, with the onset of the economic crisis, many Member States have sought to become more competitive by cutting pay, thereby reducing pension contributions.

This leaves the Union with an ageing population compounded by a simultaneous decline in birthrates and a sharp drop in pension contributions in line with falling pay levels, which will put a strain on the economies of the EU Member States and on their health and pension systems.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission adopt measures to support young families with children, in order to address the low birth rate?
2. Will it establish a long-term strategy for the harmonisation and sustainability of pension funds and seek to ensure a uniform European minimum pension?
3. Will it maintain the target of increasing the employment rate to 75% for the active population of the Member States between 2021 and 2027?