

**Question for written answer E-006620/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Vincenzo Sofo (ID)

Subject: Specific EU policies to boost birth rates

A few days ago, ISTAT sounded the alarm about the worrying fall in the birth rate in Italy – already at historic lows – in 2020 and 2021 owing to the pandemic. According to the Toniolo Institute, as a result of COVID-19, the measures to combat it and its economic and social impact, more than 70% of Italians between the ages of 18 and 34 have decided to suspend their plans to procreate, and 36% have even decided to abandon those plans altogether, as have 14% of young Germans, 17% of young French people and 29% of young Spaniards.

However, although the birth rate is a vital resource, historically, culturally, economically and socially, and despite the fact that Europe was already entering a worrying demographic winter before COVID-19, this problem does not appear to be central to the EU agenda. On the contrary, at present it seems rather geared towards policies that go in the opposite direction, such as encouraging uncontrolled abortion.

In the light of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What specific policies does it intend to implement in order to raise the birth rate in Europe?
2. Does it not think that the encouragement of abortion could help exacerbate population decline?
3. Is it of the view that immigration from outside Europe is an alternative to boosting the birth rate?