

Question for written answer E-005417/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Research on fertility issues

In her first address to Parliament, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen underlined the demographic challenge ahead of the EU, namely an ageing EU population coupled with low birth rates. The EU Member States have fertility rates below the generation replacement rate, putting the sustainability of their social systems and the survival of the EU at risk.

The fall in birth rates gives rise to scientific concerns such as a potential rise in human fertility pathologies and sociological questions regarding the desire of people in the EU to have children. However, the mission letter of the European Commissioner for Democracy and Demography and the recent Commission report on the impact of demographic change do not even mention fertility.

1. Does the Commission intend to include research on fertility/infertility and propose strategies to sustain fertility in its upcoming work on demography? Will this topic be addressed at the Conference on the Future of Europe?
2. Does it plan to make fertility part of the European Green Deal?
3. Is it planning a study on the correlations between the use of contraceptives and the increase in fertility problems?