

**Question for written answer E-000356/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Alessandra Basso (ID)

Subject: Providing financial support to maternity hospitals to preserve demographic stability

The population forecasts for Europe and Italy are sobering: the Italian National Institute of Statistics expects the country's population to drop by 2 million to 58 million by 2030; and the EU's share of the world population will decrease from 5.7 % to 3.7 % by 2070. This dramatic decline endangers the very future of European countries and the idea of Western civilisation.

The EU has mobilised substantial funds (a total of EUR 750 billion) under NextGenerationEU to help steer the Union's development in the years to come. With this in mind, in 2021, by means of Resolution 2020/2039 (INI), the European Parliament called on the Commission to use cohesion funds to reverse the demographic decline. This will hopefully translate into more support being put towards keeping local maternity hospitals, such as the one in Mirandola (BO), open.

In view of the above:

1. Would it be possible to review the allocation of NextGenerationEU funds to focus them on efforts to reduce the demographic decline?
2. Could these funds be used to improve the health and social care offered to mothers by ensuring a greater number and spread of maternity hospitals?

Submitted: 6.2.2023