

**Question for written answer E-001510/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Valentino Grant (ID)

Subject: Policies promoting smart working in the light of its beneficial effects on birth rates

After the pandemic, most public and private enterprises all but abandoned remote working – a practice many believed indicative of a change towards a more functional and positive way of working for millions of citizens.

Indeed, in most cases, working from home would allow the families of those who simply need IT tools to do so to reduce expenditure – and especially travel-related costs, which would simultaneously reduce emissions.

A recent US study analyses smart working's positive contribution to post-pandemic birth rates, which spiked in 2021.

Men and women working from home can be with their children without needing to entrust them to someone else's care. According to the study, birth rates in Western countries have plummeted because of socio-cultural changes and because families are experiencing increased economic hardship, compelling both partners to find work.

Does the Commission plan to promote policies incentivising smart working, given its beneficial effects on couples starting a family and on birth rates?

Submitted: 9.5.2023