invites the Commission to present a toolbox to address demographic challenges and notably their impact on Europe’s competitive edge
There is a **sense of urgency** to act at the European level

- Falling birth rates
- Rapid ageing
- Shrinking working-age population
- Parents struggling to reconcile work and family
- Labour/skills shortages reaching record levels
- Huge pressure on public budgets
- Brain drain and depopulation
- Territorial disparities undermining social cohesion
- Geography of discontent

*If left unaddressed* – demographic change risks negatively impacting the EU’s long-term competitiveness.
In the labour market, citizens consider actions addressing youth unemployment as most effective ...

... followed by work-life balance policies

... as well as providing high-quality and affordable health care services

asked about policy solutions, citizens' preferred measures addressing population ageing are to ensure adequate pensions that remain affordable for future generations ...

agree that demographic trends put at risk the EU’s long-term economic prosperity and competitiveness

think that managing demographic change should remain a political priority and 85% agrees that this requires close cooperation between all levels of government

September 2023
Demographic trends can be managed to strengthen Europe’s resilience overall

Promote economic prosperity and well-being in all regions with place-based policies.

Pillars built on best practices from across the Union and on complementarity between EU and national-level actions.
Key level TOOLS available to Member States

**Youth**
- EU Strategy on the rights of the Child
- Launch the Harnessing Talent Platform
- Support regional innovation valleys
- Skills Agenda, Year of Skills
- Adequate minimum income (Req)
- Inclusive access to banking services
- Use the mid-term review of cohesion policy programmes

**Parents**
- European Education Area
- Youth Guarantee (Req)
- Vocational Education and Training (Red)
- European Child Guarantee (Req)
- Renovation Wave
- Funding ESF+, ARP, etc
- Employment Equality Directive
- Pregnant Workers Directive
- Long-term unemployed (Req)

**Migration**
- Asylum, Migration & Integration Fund
- Single Permit Directive
- Action Plan Integration & Inclusion
- Blue Card Directive
- Talent Partnerships

**Older persons**
- Use the Technical Support Instrument
- EU Rights Action (Learn, Master, Achieve)
- ALMA (Aging Lease, Master, Achieve)
- Mainstream demographic concerns
- Encourage regular dialogues and exchanges
- Early Childhood Education and Care (Req)
- Work-Life Balance Directive
- Long-Term Care (Req)
- Occupational, safety and health Framework Directive
- Financial Competence Frameworks
- Part European Personal Pension Product
- Use ESF+, Employment and Social Innovation (ESI)
- Enhance population statistics
- Transform Atlas of Demography
- Support research via Horizon Europe

Key EU level tools
Key next steps by the European Commission
(Req) Council Recommendation
Operationalizing the Toolbox for a Longevity-ready Europe

1. Reinforce the data and evidence base
   - Atlas of demography
   - Better statistics (ESOP revision)
   - Scaling up experiments in social innovation (EaSI)
   - Research through Horizon Europe

2. Review and upgrade of demography-related policies at all levels
   - Dedicated resources and structures supporting regular dialogues with MSs
   - Use of TSI
   - Mainstreaming demographic concerns
   - Thematic Conference on demography

3. Ensure that no region is left behind
   - Launch of the Harnessing Talent Platform
   - Rural vision report
   - Creation of regional innovation valleys
   - Use of cohesion funds and mid-term review of cohesion policy programmes

This Communication points to key reforms and investments needed to address and manage demographic change in Europe. The Commission is committed to support MSs in effectively using the tools and to continue to develop them further.