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Answer given by Vice-President Šuica
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.4.2021)

There is no one-size fits all solution to the consequences of the ageing of Europe's population. There is a need for a mix of policies, adapted to the specific circumstances of Member States. Since the mid-1980s, EU annual net migration has been consistently positive and, in its absence, Europe's population would have already started to shrink. The ageing of populations and the shrinking of the working-age population are expected to continue, as this is shaped by past, long-term demographic trends. Increasing labour force participation, including of legally staying migrants, is likely to have a significant impact in alleviating the negative consequences of population ageing. The Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion¹ and the Action Plan supporting the European Pillar of Social Rights² aim, among other, to improve employment and self-employment prospects for all. As proposed in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum³, with a well-managed system, migration can contribute to growth, innovation and social dynamism in Europe.

The objective of the public consultation launched by the Green Paper on Ageing⁴ is to gather views from stakeholders and the public on how to anticipate and respond to the challenges and opportunities that ageing of the EU population brings. The results of the public consultation will be taken into consideration when preparing possible policy responses on how the Commission can best support Member States' efforts.

¹ COM(2020) 758 final, 24.11.2020.

² COM(2021) 102 final, 4.3.2021.

³ COM(2020) 609 final, 23.9.2020.

⁴ COM(2021) 50 final, 27.1.2021.