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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Towards a family-friendly Europe: policy recommendations for demographic renewal

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Ms Anna ZÁBORSKÁ and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Europe faces significant demographic challenges such as declining birth rates and an ageing society. These trends negatively influence society, economy, regional development, pensions, health care and labour market. Exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, the "demographic winter" also affects life expectancy. Additionally, although some European governments adopted family- friendly policies, they did not manage to mitigate the brain drain.

In its Recommendation 1482 (2000) and Resolution 1502 (2006), the Parliamentary Assembly reiterated its concern regarding these challenges.

Monitor member States' compliance with their social policy commitments and relevant Council of Europe standards should be a priority for the Assembly. In this context, the Assembly should further examine demographic challenges in member States and make specific recommendations with a view to improving the welfare benefits system and providing appropriate financial support to families. These recommendations could include:

– mitigating the expected increase in health and long-term care needs by investing in formal health and long-term care services;

– preventing the brain drain from rural regions, including through family-friendly policies;

– recognising conciliation of professional and family life as a guiding principle for pro-social cohesion policies;

– protecting motherhood and the equality between men and women in employment policies;

– promoting a more child-friendly and family-friendly environment in all spheres of society, including housing, child-care programmes, working conditions and fiscal policies;

– rethinking the organisation of the entire life-course perspective of work, parenthood and retirement;

– supporting a joint effort by the European institutions and member States to strategically co-ordinate a cohesion policy with the declared aim of closing (or at least narrowing) the persisting wage differences between the core States and the periphery.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

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1. ECPA: European Conservatives, Patriots and Affiliates
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