

## Green Paper "Confronting demographic change: a new solidarity between the generations"

Contributed by EU  
Sunday, 18 June 2006

The EU is facing unprecedented demographic changes that will have a major impact across society and the economy. People are living longer and in better health. Fertility rates have dropped to 1.5 children per woman, and in 2030 Europe will have 18 million children and young people fewer than today (\*). By then, the number of "older workers"(aged 55 to 64) will have risen by 24 million and the EU will have 34.7 million citizens aged over 80 (compared to 18.8 million today).  
[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/news/2005/mar/comm2005-94\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/news/2005/mar/comm2005-94_en.pdf)