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„Entrepreneurs d'une Europe de Demain “



PRESIDENT:

Ladies and gentlemen,
we are here to discuss the demographic problem in Europe. Already in 1982 the United Nations drew attention to the aging of the world population and then the European Councils of Stockholm (2001) and Barcelona (2002) stated the importance of the demographic challenge in the EU and the situation became truly alarming. Therefore you are invited to present the position of their respective governments that you represent and your eventual proposals to avoid consequences that otherwise will be disastrous for the whole of Europe.

So we give the word to the representatives of Italy, Mr ...

Students:

SAMANTHA GOROSTIETA: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The demographic situation in Italy is unfortunately very serious; The nativity is falling down. In 2008, 576,659 babies were born, and then the lowest level was reached in 2013 with the birth of only 514,308 children.

In addition to the decrease in the average number of children per woman also the average age of giving birth rose to 31.5 years., since the number of people aged over sixty years far exceeds the number of people aged under twenty ' years, Italy is the first country in the world to mark the so-called 'tipping point'

Therefore, the Italian population is not growing, but it decreases.

According to Istat in 2014 the "natural population", that is the difference between births and deaths, showed a negative balance of nearly 100,000 units.

Not seen so much negative since the two-years period 1917-1918, when there was the First World War.

ALESSIO FAVUZZA: This is surely because of the crisis, the career, the lack of services and of an

impossible reconciliation between home and work. All right.

But is that all?

The fact is that women take too many years for their training and education. They have difficulty finding a job that is not a precarious employment or a short-time work. There are not enough State childcare centers and childcare services and children live with their parents even when they are grown-up and they could be independent.

Now the family tradition is disappearing. In fact, today's young people are not always determined to start a family although they are living together, given the difficulties encountered in recent years because of the lack of work and of the persisting crisis.

LAURA TESTA:

Therefore, what can we do to improve this situation in which, however, not only Italy, but all European countries, are involved?

Facing the problem of Italy that does not grow, the Italian government, is trying different solutions to stem the population decline.

This year, in May, the Italian Minister of Health Beatrice Lorenzin proposed to double the standard **'baby bonus' incentive for couples to have more children** that is currently €80 a month for low-to-middle income families, and she introduced higher payments for second and subsequent children to encourage bigger families.

The allowances are currently payable only for babies born between January 1st, 2015 and December 31st, 2017 up to their third birthdays.

Lorenzin wants to expand eligibility to all under-threes (there by including those born before 2015) and to extend the provision for an additional three years, covering all babies born up until the end of 2020.

The allowances are paid at higher rates for the poorest — those declaring less than €7,000 a year to the taxman.

Under the new proposals, the payment for second and subsequent children would be €240/month for average families and €400/month for the poorest.

GIANLUCA STELLA: However, such a maneuver includes some costs which unfortunately have an impact on the sustainability of Italian public accounts which Brussels controls. The baby bonus absorbs state resources for approximately 500 million euro per year and if we will double it as proposed by the Minister Lorenzin the outlay for the coffers of the State would reach approximately one billion euro a year. But if we want to solve the problem of population decline we must do everything that it is possible and we hope that Brussels, acknowledging that the low inflation, the rising employment and tax cuts should support the real income of our families, before delivering a final verdict on the 2016 budget take into account the different flexibility clauses invoked by Italy on the basis of the new Stability Pact.

SONIA GARGANO: So we hope that Brussels has a conciliatory attitude with the Italian government also in the light of the turmoil going on in the European Union, because of the emergency immigration, the political instability that plagues a lot of countries members, and the danger of terrorist attacks of ISIS and fears for Brexit.

SARAH TOMASELLO: But we must solve the problem of countries' falling birth rate together because it concerns all the countries of Europe, and not only Italy, and for very similar reasons: less and less families are established and they have fewer children because of lack of jobs, economic and social insecurity and also recent terrorist attacks that don't make people feel confident about their future. We must act taking everything into account, and removing causes

which discourage demographic growth.

SUSANNA PRIOLA: The falling birth-rate is truly alarming also because the "baby crash", following the baby boom that originated today 45-65 years old people in Europe, causes problems in terms of funding pensions too.

We strongly believe that all European States must be aware that we must absolutely act and cooperate to solve this problem because such a large population decline means to meet at a disaster.

RICHARD AIELLO: The reduction of active citizens means the reduction of demand in the economy, and the closure of companies for lack of manpower and of needs to be satisfied by an offer of goods and services. The reduction and aging of the population also means the lack of economic assistance to the elderly people in the pension field and an increasing danger for States security for lack of young people to be employed in the Army armed forces and in a long-term forecast it means also depopulation of this part of our planet, Europe.

ALESSANDRA MINEO: But there will be disastrous effects in the short term too:

- The total EU population, which is declining slowly but gradually, will become at the same time much older

- The number of Europeans of working age will decrease by 37 million between 2016 and 2050 and the decrease of the active population (due to the fact that a large number of "baby-boomers" will retire) will affect the rate of economic growth if current trends and policies will remain unchanged

GIUSEPPE CANALE:- The aging population will also have an impact on social security and public finances as having few young people responsible for the maintenance of so many seniors, the future equilibrium of pension systems will be compromised, and this will impact much on potential economic growth and on the same functioning of the single currency.

MARCO ORLANDO: Therefore it is necessary for us, States members governments, to continue to act together in the public sector retirement systems for the modernization of social security.

We must also improve our health services in view of a vigorous fight against addiction to smoking counted among the main causes of infertility.

In particular Italy is committed to following up on the five guidelines set by the European Commission in order to meet the demographic challenge of the coming years, namely:

- 1) Europe must support demographic renewal by improving the balancing of professional life, private life and family life through the parental leave, a more flexible organization of work and the implementation of commitments made at the European Council Barcelona in child care
- 2) Europe must promote employment in Europe through more jobs and longer working lives by improving the education system and by giving priority to "flexibility-security systems", to a greater flexibility on the labor market together with lifelong learning programmes and the promotion of a real public health policy at the European level (combating smoking, alcoholism and obesity)

CARLOTTA ARENA:

3) Europe must be more productive and efficient, thanks to the Lisbon strategy which, revised, will offer the chance to exploit the opportunities associated with demographic change to different economic operators

4) Europe must be organized to receive and integrate migrants through the development of a common policy on legal immigration because over the next 20 years, Europe will need to attract a qualified labor force from outside in order to meet the labor market needs and European Union countries w have the duty to promote diversity and to combat prejudice for a better economic and social integration of migrants;

5) and, finally, Europe must have sustainable public finances to guarantee an adequate social security and equity between the generations in most of Member States. It is necessary a rigorous fiscal effort, particularly in terms of the form of the pension scheme.

ANGELO LO PIPARO: And in fact the Italian government is proposing a number of possible ways to do that in order to secure pensions to older persons without impacting too much on public finances and in compliance with the economic conditions required by Brussels to remain within the European Union.

If we all member countries we will strive together to follow these European Commission guidelines we will have a better chance to cope to a demographic, social, political and economic disaster that otherwise will be inevitable.

VINCENZO PALMERI: Thus by adhering to these guidelines, we representatives of Italy, propose here that all European countries should commit themselves to:

- Give financial support to companies to create new jobs and at the same time invest funds in the school to ensure the quality of training of young people so as to be inserted before and more easily in the world of work and thus to allow them to have an economic stability that can encourage them to establish new families.

ROMOLO GRUENNER:- Give considerable financial aid to large families in the form of bonuses or assistantship to working women by creating part-time professionals, not affecting too much on state coffers, for home care of children that are too young to go to school

- Be more and more united in the fight against terrorism so that the future does not startle or dissuade families from bringing children into the world

- consider immigrants not as a detriment to our society, but as a plus value for the purposes of population increasing because in this moment immigrants are making the greatest contribution to that effect.

GIULIA MICCICHE': But it will be necessary to rationalize their entrance in various states to avoid overcrowding and it will be necessary to intensify controls on their righteousness to reduce the state of insecurity that prevents to make long-term family plans. Immigration can offset the effects of reduced birth rates.

ANTONIO FUMUSO: And since in recent years the increased male and female infertility is one of the most important causes of the population decline, we also propose, to allocate part of funds to the scientific researches of causes of this phenomenon that are supposed to be continuous exposure to electromagnetic waves, air pollution, environmental toxins, obesity, genetic modification of food, excessive use of coffee, smoking and alcohol, as well as an excess of HDL cholesterol in the blood.

TERESA MARCIANO': For this reason we propose to join our forces and to commit ourselves

- to ensure a healthier environment in accordance with the dictates of the COP 21,
- to take a special attention to the production of healthy food,
- To do an awareness campaign to correct diet, to promote a healthy lifestyle and to encourage regular free health check-ups for couples.

Thanks for your attention.