Dear delegates of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (II),

The question which has been assigned to you is on how Europe should cope with the effects of an ageing population and what measures should be taken to keep the workforce young on average and globally competitive.

I would encourage you to do your own research, allowing you to bring original ideas and topics to the table, but I hope you find the links below useful guidelines and starting points. I will give a list of articles which identify the problems which result from an ageing population and some more opinionated articles which suggest solutions.

Try your best to develop an idea of what you think some ideal solutions would be but remember that there will be people who disagree, so bring an open mind and a willingness to compromise!

I would like to structure the meetings in the following way:

1. Problem identification. Please be familiar with the problems presented to the EU by an ageing population and be prepared to come up with a thorough list of Introductory Clauses. As the question suggests, the majorly affected areas are the labour market, the pension and social welfare system. There are also significant impacts on the competitiveness of the European workforce and therefore the general wellbeing of the whole European economy. The question suggests that we should take measures to keep the European workforce young on average, although I’m not convinced that all of you will assume that this is an assumption we should begin with. So we should also debate whether we want to keep the workforce young, or instead adopt a policy focussed on ‘healthy life years’.
2. We should then discuss solutions to each individual problem, as well as overall solutions to mitigate the future negative impact of an ageing population. These solutions may include: increasing immigration; encouraging families to have more children; raising the retirement age; increase savings rates; and increasing returns on savings by improving productivity and capital efficiency throughout the economy. These are merely suggestions; I warmly welcome your own solutions.
3. I will then ask you to finalise the writing of the resolution.
4. Finally, we should save some time to criticise our own resolution. This sounds odd, but we must be prepared for the criticism which **will** come during the General Assembly. Be aware of the counter-arguments to the solution(s) we propose and be confident enough to defend your resolution during the General Assembly.

I hope you find the following links useful and I very much look forward to meeting you all soon! Please contact me if you need any help or guidance, I will try to help as much as I can. I can answer any questions on our committee’s topic or MEP in general. (My e-mail address is olly.bartrum@gmail.com, or you can Facebook me).

Kindest Regards,

Olly Bartrum (Your Committee President).

Suggested reading:

<http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/europe/the_graying_of_europe> - A very thorough report by the McKinsey Institute on Europe’s ageing population and the proposed solutions. Although it was published a long time ago (2005).

<http://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21570752-growth-will-suffer-workers-dwindle-working-age-shift> - The impact of an ageing population on the EU economy. (Articles from the Economist require a paid-for account. If you do not have one, I will be happy to let you use my account, contact me for the details.)

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Population_structure_and_ageing> - Eurostat’s analysis of the impact of demographic ageing within the EU.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/24/us-europe-economy-demographics-insight-idUSBRE93N09B20130424> - “Aging deepens debt-laden Europe’s economic woes”. Dramatic headline but good analysis.

<http://www.healthyageing.eu/initiatives/european-policies-and-initiatives> - European policies and initiatives.

<http://ec.europa.eu/health/ageing/policy/index_en.htm> - More details on Europe’s policies.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f5378e04-27ac-11e3-ae16-00144feab7de.html#axzz2tb9IYdcw> – Details of the ageing population crisis in Eastern Europe. (Reading FT articles also requires an account, but it’s free to create one.)

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/01/17/the-eu-11-in-an-aging-europe> - “The EU 11 an Ageing Europe”

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w12736.pdf> - “The Effects of the Ageing European Population on Economic Growth and Budgets: Implications for Immigration and Other Policies.” A good paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research, but quite an old one. Beware of any out-dated statistics/facts.

<http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org/focus/britains-greying-population/> - A good article on Britain’s ageing population and the proposed solution – only talks about Britain bust most arguments can be extended.

<http://seniorliving.about.com/od/babyboomers/a/aging_pop_tips.htm> - “10 Ways Communities Can Prepare for the Aging Population Boom” – A good starting point for the question of society rejuvenation. Some more articles at the bottom. Beware of bias… it is from a website called ‘seniorliving.about.com’…

[http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/archivestory.php/aid/741/Ageing\_populations:\_How\_the\_Dutch\_cope.html](http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/archivestory.php/aid/741/Ageing_populations%3A_How_the_Dutch_cope.html) – “Ageing populations: How the Dutch cope” – Should we all just do what the Dutch do?

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2810516/?iframe=true&width=100%25&height=100%25&_escaped_fragment_=po=8.33333> – A scholarly article entitled ‘An ageing population: the challenges ahead’. This article argues that older people are healthier. Useful for arguing for an increase in retirement age.

If you’ve got a good idea but are struggling to find articles to back you up or deepen your knowledge, do contact me, I’ll be more than happy to help.