The pressing demand to establish a new intergenerational dialogue is approaching the European Parliament.

“A Challenge for Horizon 2020: Ageing and Intergenerational Fairness”

Brussels, April 24th 2013, from 14:00 to 19:30 h CET

Hosted and chaired by Maria da Graça Carvalho, European Parliament Rapporteur of Horizon 2020, and promoted by What-IF International (WII)

Venues:

Networking event: from 14:00 to 17:00 h CET, Brussels Office of EU Region Trentino, rue de Pascale 45-47

European Parliament session: from 18:00 to 19:30 h CET, Room ASP A5E-3, European Parliament

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The event is also organized in collaboration with EMIL (European Map for Intergenerational Learning) and ECWT (the European Centre for Women and Technology*)

The event will be done in media partnership with Euractiv.

With a kind request to forward to those who may be interested.

As known, ageing is a core challenge of Horizon 2020 and the world at large. Ageing stems from an unbalanced demographic process encompassing all generations, from the elderly to those yet to come. As stated by the European Commission, these population trends are of crucial importance for economic growth and wealth distribution. Indeed, ageing produces paramount impacts on all generations while posing an issue of Intergenerational Fairness, namely of a fair distribution of opportunities between all generations.

From this perspective, framing this challenge in terms of the increasing amount of aged citizens in our society seems rather limiting; rather it should be framed within a broader view on how to foster a new dialogue and collaboration between all generations. The challenge is to build a fair and sustainable society able to encompass on an equal footing the emerging needs and demands that are threatening all, from the elderly to the youngest. Such a challenge requires to open the problem and the solution space to a wider perspective,
tackling issues that range from the condition of women to institutional reforms, from labour policies to education, from new life styles, mind-sets and forms of social aggregation.

Yet, the current mainstream policy thinking is focusing on healthy living and active ageing. On the other hand, active ageing and healthy living is not likely to be able to provide alone a solution to the same economic and social impacts generated by the ageing of our societies. They would be better framed if seen as part of a wider mix of policies and actions at different levels that shall be inspired by both economic and ethical concerns of fairness.

This event aims at opening the problem and solution space generated by the ageing of our societies involving European stakeholders, policy makers and high-level representatives of the European Commission and the European Parliament in a debate which looks at what some has referred to as a “time bomb”: the current crisis is exacerbating the potential political and social impacts of these demographic trends. Chaired by Maria da Graça Carvalho and promoted by What-IF International, it builds on a Policy Paper that will be made public by mid-March 2013, and will involve high-level experts of the research, business, education and policy world. This paper, together with the result of this event, aims at feeding the current debate on how to tackle such a challenge without assuming solutions that, however important, might be too narrow when considering the scale and scope of the impacts of ageing.

How to register and to be always updated
The number of participants is limited. If you wish to register, please fill the form at http://www.whatifinternational.org/ where you will also find additional information and the forthcoming Policy Paper. Any update, the final agenda, and the same Policy Paper will be sent also by mail to those that filled the registration form.

About What IF International (WII)
What-IF International (WII) is a non-profit organization that proposes an intergenerational reading of today's major societal challenges and a member organization of EMIL (European Map of Intergenerational Learning). Its aim is to build a network, vision and concrete pathway for sustainability based on the main idea that the challenges of tomorrow can only be faced IF a new pact between generations – what we call Intergenerational Fairness - is established.

WII indeed stresses its focus on all generations since the current crisis impacts all age cohorts, and all are called to find new pathways for a sustainable world. Such an effort cuts across all domains, from energy to ICT, from financial markets to R&D, from demography to social sciences.
WII is first and foremost composed by people that share a vision, a willingness to act and that aim at making a difference. Therefore, it is not based on legal agreements between institutions nor its associates are considered as representatives of institutions. Associates represent themselves, their personal capacity and can trigger, when needed and appropriate, institutional involvement to pursue a project, a policy action or any other initiative consistent to its vision. Patron of WII is Maria da Graça Carvalho.

WII has no religious or political colour. For more info see: [http://www.whatifinternational.org/](http://www.whatifinternational.org/)

**About Maria da Graça Carvalho**

Maria da Graça Carvalho is a member of the European Parliament in the EPP group since 14 July 2009 (member of the ITRE-Industry, Research and Energy Committee, substitute member of the Budgets Committee, member of the ACP-UE Joint Parliamentary Assembly where she was elected co-President of the Economic Development, Finance and Trade Committee of ACP-UE Joint Parliamentary Assembly).

She has been Principal Adviser of President Barroso in the areas of Science, Higher Education, Innovation, Research Policy, Energy, Environment and Climate Change from 2006 to 2009.

She is a Full Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico (Technical University of Lisbon) and she has a 30 years research experience in the areas of energy, environment and climate change. She is also Patron of What-IF International.

Maria da Graça Carvalho  
Member of the European Parliament

Matteo Bonifacio  
President of What-IF International