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## **Conference Services**

Please find attached the contribution by Prof. Anis Bajrektarevic to the Closing Plenary of the 13<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic Forum, Prague, 23 -27 May 2005.

– green policy paper –

# TOWARDS THE CREATION OF THE OSCE TASK FORCE ON HUMAN CAPITAL

*Anis H. Bajrektarevic*

13th OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM  
Prague, Czech Republic 23–27 May 2005  
*Closing Plenary:  
OSCE as a Platform for Dialogue and Co-operation*

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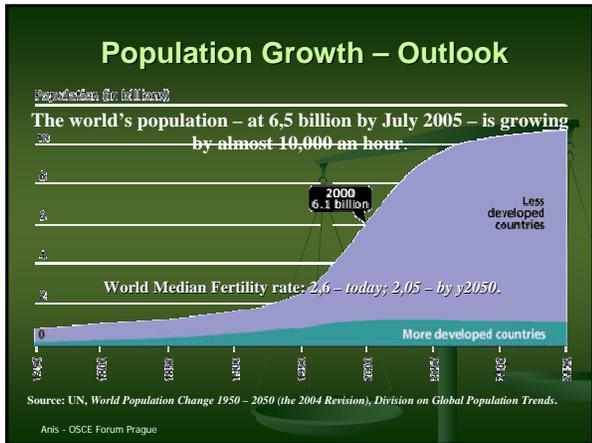
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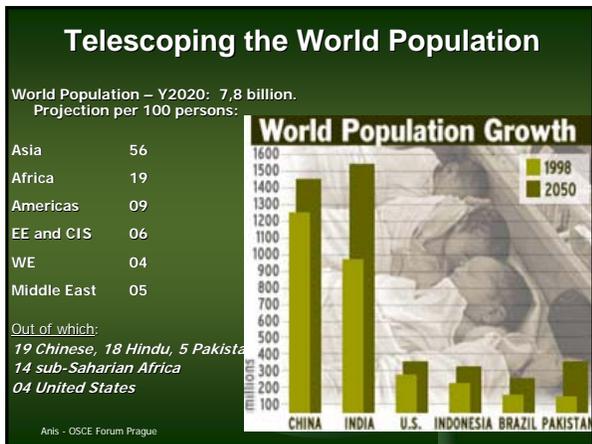
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## Life Expectancy – History and Outlook

- Roman Empire: LE about 22 to 25 years
- LE rose rapidly in the 20th century
- Worldwide: male – 61 years  
female – 63 years
- Russia – a huge LE gap between male & female: 14 years  
Russia and CA states are projected to have a lower LE in 2010 than they did in 1990
- Outlook – WHO estimates LE for Y2020:
  - 82 for the OECD countries and 65 for the III World
  - EU/OECD: LE rising at rate of 1,5 extra years per decade.

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## Fertility Loaming

- The fertility rate (the no. of children per woman's life span) is the ultimate driver of the old-age dependency ratio (population size and composition)
  - birth-rate plus eventual immigration/naturalization, minus mortality is a net increase of population.
- In the decade 1993 – 2003, the EU–15 population was officially estimated to have risen by 10,4 million people. But only 3,0 million can be attributed to an excess of births over deaths – meaning the rest should be ascribed to naturalization.
- The EU–12 total fertility rate was about 2,5 in the early '90s (baby-boomers generation), and has fallen – in a straight line – to 1,5 in the late '90s – crossing the 2,1 replacement ratio in about 1976.  
(in 2001 – France and UK: 1,7; Germany: 1,4; Italy and Spain: 1,2; etc.)
- Why our fertility has started loaming ... ?!

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## Fertility crisis

- Spirit of our age is that woman should achieve equality with man: thus social policies are designed to permit/encourage greater participation in the labor force by women – of all ages.
- Social pressures to remain an active part of the labor force through a cross-gender equality of (economic) activity – officially encouraged – are raising the economic cost of the woman's career-break to have children:
  - Current response is to postpone starting family, and therefore CFS (complete family size) is in the end lower than intended/hoped (e.g. EU median age of woman giving the first birth is already close to 30)
- Answering the question of what is to be a dominant driver of population (composition) dynamics – fertility or immigration, takes us to **two taboo subjects**:
  - The (current and future) role of woman in society, and
  - Societal readiness for a (further) migration/naturalization in-takes (including the limits of social absorptions – social cohesion threat).

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## Limits of Ad Hoc Responses – Intakes

### Limits of non-combined policy – uncontrolled migrant intakes

- Rapid ageing of western societies gives additional element to already dangerous dividing line between the developed West (of median age close to 50) and the III World (with the median age in the early 20's).
- with the increased migrant intakes (non-combined with other domestic measures), such an age-divide is inevitably imported in each and every of the Western European societies:
  - domestic/indigenous population dominated by elderly females (well-off; employed and otherwise socially protected); and
  - immigrant population dominated by young angry males (as oft unemployed, marginalized and /self-/isolated on linguistical, cultural, racial and religious ground).

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## Limits of Ad Hoc Responses – Ageing

### Limits of non-combined policy – unchecked ageing

- Humans are by nature social/status-conscious animals who tend from an early age to arrange themselves in a variety of dominance hierarchies many of these hierarchies are age-graded.  
(Age-graded hierarchies make functional sense insofar as age is correlated with physical prowess, learning, experience, judgment, achievement. But, past a certain age, the correlation between age and ability begins to go in the opposite direction.)
- In case of unchecked societal ageing, the natural tendency of one generation to get out of the way of the newly coming one will be replaced by the simultaneous existence of three, four or even five generations.
- Political, social and economic change (including the major technological breakthroughs) primarily occurs at generation intervals (people born in the same age cohort experience major life events, and once the life's views and preferences have been formed by these experiences, they only adapt to new circumstances in small, modest ways).
- With three or more generations active and working at the same time, the younger go-getters will never constitute more than a small minority, and generational change in future will never be fully decisive.

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## How do we register claims on future resources

- **Be the world Kantian or Hobbesian (thus, be it driven by the sense of higher civilizational mission or by the need to soften the external dependencies including those of energy), the very projection of Europe beyond its borders especially as regards the EU political model heavily depends on its economic might – and this one is closely conditioned by the Europe's social cohesion and demographic composition.**
- **That's why the future composition of our Human capital poses a three-dimensional challenge:**
  - Security (it's both components: external and internal/JHA);
  - Economic (including the hindrance of sustainable development);
  - Socio-political – therefore, Human Rights– related.

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## How do we register Our Claims

- To address the three-dimensional challenge (Security, Economic, HR) we need a coupling effort:
  - to decontaminate the expectations of Europe's electorate from anti-politics of so-called „right-wing“ xenophobia-fixated parties; and
  - to re-focus it on long-range policies (effective security is NOT restriction, but promotion).
- To develop the long range-policies, we need both institution and instruments, that are:
  - Pan-European; and
  - Possibly dimensional as linking/including the Mediterranean, Asian and trans-Atlantic stake-holders.
- Institution and Instruments comprehensive enough as to offer:
  - Basic principles and framework for non existing (national) policies including the Early warning (i); Conflict prevention (ii) and Crisis management (iii) Capacity;
  - Clearing House for the harmonization among and adjustment of the existing policies; as well as the
  - Monitoring of compliance (in operationalization of policies).

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## Which FORA Shall register Our Claims

Search for the FORA of appropriate geographic scope and adequate mandate & instruments ...

- Council of Europe – geographic scope, but no mandate & instruments;
- OECD – no appropriate geographic scope;
- EU – acquis for members, NNP (from Morocco to Russia) – everything but institutions;
- OSCE – matching the geographic scope and three-dimensional mandates – baskets (since its OSCE times, the FORA has transformed from a normative to an operational organization with the FO presence)
  - Senior Council/Economic Forum could be the Institutional frame provider in lieu of formation of the Special Task Force: Inter- and within FORA Standing Coordinator;
  - Troika/Presidency – Permanent Council – Ministerial Council – to facilitate, consequently to carry on the appropriate decision for the mandate inclusion.

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## OSCE – Towards the Concept of societal dynamism

Three goal orientation for the OSCE Area – Economic, Social & Human dimension:

- Prosperity: Support to all three sides of the knowledge triangle: research (creation of knowledge); development/innovation (application of knowledge); education (dissemination of knowledge);
- Solidarity: developmental solidarity of (primarily human dimension) through promotion of cohesion policies. This is also about preserving and developing cultural and environmental diversities;
- Security: Enhancing the Human-centered safety, based on freedom, justice and inclusive collective security.

Be it external or internal, effective long-range security cannot be based on restriction and denial but on promotion and inclusion (active, not reactive).

The very same could be told for other two dimensions: prosperity and solidarity.

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