

Can immigration defuse Europe's demographic timebomb?

A seminar organised by the European Liberal Forum asbl (ELF) with the support of CentreForum and Stichting IDI.
Funded by the European Parliament.

Thursday 15th October

Draft programme as of 25.8.2010

Europe's ageing society will severely test the continent's economy and its welfare systems. Immigration is one answer: migrants are usually of working age, so if employed they provide tax revenues to pay for public services. They are also a pool of labour for health, social care and other public services - jobs many Europeans are unwilling to take. Yet anxiety about immigration, both within the EU and from outside, is on the rise. Fearful of 'welfare tourism', entrenched poverty and unemployment among immigrant groups and radical Islam, governments are restricting migration flows and strengthening integration policies. As they do so, are they making Europe's adverse demography worse?

08:00 **Welcome refreshments**

08:15 **Welcome**

Alexander Graf Lambsdorff MEP, ELF President (tbc)

08:20 **Presentations by**

Philippe Legrain, author of "Immigrants: your country needs them"

David Goodhart, former editor, *Prospect*

Han Entzinger, Professor of Migration and Integration Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam

08:50 **Question and answer session**

09:20 **Close**

Venue: Nautica Room
Scandic Grand Marina Hotel
Katajanokanlaituri 7
00160 Helsinki, Finland