

*DEBATE – Session 2.1*

**Claude Mathieu:** Just a question for clarification. Could you get back to the part where you said that France had more migrants in the 2000 years than we had in the 60s? Is that what meant? What do you mean by net?

**Elena Ambrosetti:** It's the difference between the immigrants that arrive every year and the emigrants. It is the total. This is the number of arrivals by net migration and by natural growth. There are both. So you can have a look only at a small part.

**Claude Mathieu:** Okay because the general feeling in France is that we had more immigrants in the 60s than we have today.

**Elena Ambrosetti:** Maybe there is some confusion between flows. Those aren't migration flows. People are arriving every year and people are leaving every year. You are maybe mixing with migration stocks, that is the total number of migrants. I don't know.

**Gerry Skelton:** Do you then measure the total demographic trend against population mass so that you actually get an understanding of what the population percentage profile is in relative terms to the cultural change between indigenous population and migrant population? Do you then measure – the total population number and then, as a percentage of that, what the migrant population then makes up as a percentage of the population? Because, whilst we are talking about demographic trends, another major issue is the cultural demographic trend change that is happening across Europe, particularly with the massive growth in birth rate in Muslim and Islamic populations?

**Elena Ambrosetti:** No, this is the total migrant population without cultural differences. Let's see what could happen if we ever to close the door to migration. There would be two different perspectives: with and without migration. With migration, European population will increase until 2040 and then, starting in 2040, there will be a decrease in total population. The total population in the European countries in 2015 – next year – will be about 508 million. What is going to happen if we are going to project our population in the future considering the same migration rate that we have nowadays or pattern migration to zero. With migration, in 2060, we will have a slight increase of the total population of Europe, but without migration, we are going to have a decrease; this is the general figure. Coming to population divided by age group, what is going to happen without migration? There will be decrease with or without migration of the youth population between 0 and 14 years, but the decrease will be stronger without migration. The same goes with the age group between 15 and 64. At the same time, for the total population the decrease will be very important. The old age, the tendency ratio we saw at the beginning will be 56, 57 almost with migration in 2060 and is nowadays about 30%. Without migration, it will rise to 62. With migration, the beginning of demographic decline will be in 2040-2045. Without migration it will be in 2012-2015. So, migration is helping population of Europe to survive, to increase. Without migration the situation will be worse. But at the same time, migration is not the solution to population ageing so we have to deal with this. As a demographer, I can only suggest that to do this, we have to increase the fertility rate. But it's not an easy task, of course. And the implications are there.