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## The Demographic Crises of Neighbouring Regions

of Andrea Paganini\*

Innovative developments in the academia suggest that long term sustained migration flows are mostly driven by two regions having sharp labour supply differentials generated by opposing demographic trends. Hanson and McIntosh (2016) were able to forecast for the next decades permanent North-Africa/Middle-East-to-EU migration flows of similar magnitude to the Mexico-to-US one.<sup>1</sup> Such turn on migration implies that EU policy interventions must be placed within a broader demographic environment. Beyond EU borders, the management of the youth bulge phenomenon should be prioritized by inducing economic development through the demographic dividend – thus stabilizing the local labour market. Moreover, fertility rates must be lowered by allowing women to have only the desired number of children, policy proven to be effective through 3 pillars: education; health care; contraceptives. Within EU borders, Member States should safeguard the security dimension and the internal labour market by promoting integration, fairness and reciprocal solidarity; a severe tightening of border control should be regarded as an *extrema ratio*.

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<sup>1</sup> Hanson Gordon and McIntosh Craig, (2016), *Is the Mediterranean the New Rio Grande? US and EU Immigration Pressures in the Long Run*, Journal of Economic Perspectives, 30 (4): 57-82.