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**Premise to the Rostock Debate on Demographic Change**  
**"Should Governments in Europe**  
**Push Much More Aggressively for**  
**Gender Equality to Raise Fertility?"**

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**Premise to the Rostock Debate on Demographic Change**

***“Should Governments in Europe Push Much More Aggressively for Gender Equality to Raise Fertility?”***

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2006 the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research guested, organized in collaboration with the Rostock Center for Demographic Change. Four renowned demographers, Gerda Neyer (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany), Livia Olah (Stockholm University, Sweden), Dimiter Philipov (Vienna Institute of Demography, Austria), and Laurent Toulemon (Institut National des Etudes Démographiques, France) acted as speakers and addressed the following question: *Should Governments in Europe Push Much More Aggressively for Gender Equality to Raise Fertility?*

The panelists were asked to answer this question unambiguously, in the affirmative or in the negative, in order to stimulate a lively debate and allow the most open confrontation of divergent opinions. For this reason, the arguments are expressed in a less nuanced way that they would be in a scientific paper. At the end of the debate the audience had the chance to take active part in the discussion by expressing a clear stance for one or the other position.

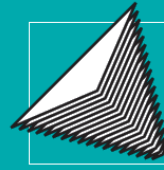
The debate has been video-taped and the panelists have been asked to produce a written text which reflects the arguments they expressed during the debate. The online documentation of the event and the related written documents aims at reaching a broader public, at making the debate available to different users and at using it for teaching purposes.

In perspective, the aim of a Rostock Debate Series is challenging social scientists to take stand on current policy relevant questions related to demographic change. This initiative provides an attractive complement to standard scientific talks with a focus on lively and wide range exchange of arguments.

The organizers

Laura Bernardi and Pascal Hetze

**Rostocker Zentrum**  
zur Erforschung des Demografischen Wandels



**21 February 2006**  
**18:15 – 19:30**

# **Rostock Debate on Demographic Change**

**"Should Governments in Europe Push Much More  
Aggressively for Gender Equality to Raise  
Fertility?"**

Johann Peter Süßmilch Auditorium, Max-Planck-Institut für demografische  
Forschung, Konrad-Zuse Straße 1, 18057 Rostock  
Organizers: Laura Bernardi (MPI DR) and Pascal Hetze (RZ)

Arguing for the **YES**:

**Livia Olah**

*Stockholm University, Sweden*

**Laurent Toulemon**

*Institut national d'études démographiques, France*

Arguing for the **NO**:

**Gerda Neyer**

*Max-Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany*

**Dimiter Philipov**

*Vienna Institute of Demography, Austria*