

**Question for written answer E-002771/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Anthony Smith (The Left)

Subject: Combating attacks on artistic freedom

On 30 November 2024, around 200 European cultural institutions launched a call for action against attacks on artistic freedom. While the attacks come in various forms, they are always orchestrated by far-right political parties, whether in power or not, and by groups sharing the same ideology.

Budget cuts, politically motivated dismissals, ultranationalist attacks on cultural venues and institutions, speeches against cultural initiatives deemed not ‘traditional’ or ‘national’ – these actions all hinder or seek to hinder the democratisation of art and artistic freedom.

Admittedly, it is not the EU’s place to intervene in the cultural policies of the Member States. However, the sector is in crisis and is the victim of the toxic political-cultural strategy used by the far right, which runs counter to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the EU work plan for culture 2023-2026.

1. Can the Commission comment on the threats to artistic freedom posed by far-right actions in the Member States?
2. Will it introduce an EU law on freedom of culture in the context of the rule of law?

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