

**Question for written answer E-004716/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Universal Music Group's intended acquisition of Downtown Music

Growth and competitiveness within Europe's cultural sectors are essential. Cultural industries in Europe rely heavily on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, which contribute via innovation and diversity but are also the most susceptible to market concentration. The Commission cited concerns about market concentration in its justification for its decision last summer to launch a phase-two investigation into Universal Music Group's proposed acquisition of Downtown Music. The final decision of its investigation is expected on 6 February 2026.

This is a strategic case with a significant national interest and worldwide visibility. The issues it raises regarding the digital marketplace and the possible dangers extend beyond an individual merger. It addresses the future framework of Europe's music industry and the ability of European creators to prosper within that industry.

Therefore:

1. From a cultural policy perspective, how would cultural diversity be affected by any market concentration in the music sector?
2. How will the Commission ensure European music businesses, consumers and artists are able to enjoy a fair and diverse music market?
3. What is the Commission's long-term strategy to promote Europe's cultural industries, which are predominately made up of micro, small and medium-sized businesses?

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