Question for written answer E-002013/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Nicola Zingaretti (S&D), Mario Furore (The Left), Carolina Morace (The Left), Sandro Ruotolo (S&D), Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: The proposed Italian performing arts law's new organisational model and its potential breach of Directive 1999/70/EC

Chapter IV of the proposal for a new performing arts law – which the Italian Government has submitted to the country's regional authorities and the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) – establishes a national ballet company for outstanding talents, all of whom would be hired on fixed-term contracts of 36 months – which can be extended by a further 24 months – and also perform in Italy's most prestigious opera houses.

There is a risk that these precarious contracts will become the new norm, as setting up a national company will come at the expense of reconstituting the resident troupes of 10 of Italy's 14 flagship venues, which would offer stable working conditions to their employees.

Having regard to Directive 1999/70/EC on the abuse of fixed-term contracts, the objectives of the cultural compass on decent work, the European Pillar of Social Rights's principles concerning employment stability and the CJEU's judgment in case C-331/17 (which found that the misuse of successive fixed-term contracts in Italian operatic and orchestral foundations was unlawful), could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is setting up the aforementioned national ballet company and opting for precarious contracts compatible with EU law and/or EU objectives?

2. Will the Commission monitor the proposed performing arts law's legislative process and will it consider activating the relevant procedures laid down in the Treaties if any incompatibilities with EU law arise?

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