

**Question for written answer E-004185/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Girls and women banned from the Mystery Play of Elche and its children's choir

The Mystery Play of Elche is a sung drama that traces its origins back to the Middle Ages and was proclaimed a Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2001. Women are not allowed to participate in the performances and, since 2001, girls have been excluded from the children's choir – the public music education body – to which they had been admitted since the eighties. The board of trustees has also lost the gender parity it had had since 2018.

Feminist organisations have reported the matter to the regional authorities as sex discrimination, and a motion to rectify the situation was brought before a plenary session of Elche Municipal Council.

Given that Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union and Articles 21 and 23 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights guarantee equality between women and men:

1. Does the Commission consider it compatible with those principles to bar girls and women from a public music education institution and from a display of intangible cultural heritage?
2. Has the Mystery Play of Elche's board of trustees or its children's choir received EU funding? If so, how does the Commission ensure that those funds respect gender equality?
3. What action can the Commission take, under the Gender Equality Strategy, to promote equality in Member States' intangible cultural heritage?

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