

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001635/24
to the Commission
Catherine Griset (PFE)
(5 September 2024)**

Subject: The spread of ‘wokeism’ in theatre

The spread of ‘woke’ ideology, initially confined to cities and academic institutions, is now gaining ground in rural areas, going against the cultural and social realities of those who live there.

Cultural events in some villages in France promote concepts — like gender fluidity and abolishing the patriarchy — which are entirely out of step with residents’ needs and expectations. Such events, under the guise of awareness raising, ultimately exclude local residents and serve the interests of event producers rather than those who should benefit from them.

The situation raises questions about equitable access to culture and respect for local characteristics in how cultural programmes are devised.

1. Does the Commission intend to take measures to ensure EU funding for culture respects local identities and does not promote a single ideology?
2. What monitoring mechanism does the Commission intend to put in place to preserve the objective of cultural universality?

Submitted: 5.9.2024

**Answer given by Ms Ivanova on behalf of the European Commission
(26 November 2024)**

Cultural policy is primarily a Member State responsibility under Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) ⁽¹⁾, where the EU plays a supporting role.

The Commission collaborates with Member States to share best practices, promote mutual learning, and address common challenges. The Commission supports cultural projects that respect local identities, promote diversity, and encourage cultural exchanges.

The Creative Europe Programme ⁽²⁾ upholds values enshrined in the Treaties by safeguarding and promoting Europe’s cultural and linguistic diversity. It aims to enhance the competitiveness of cultural sectors while fostering transnational cooperation, intercultural dialogue, and social inclusion.

Monitoring mechanisms, including project reporting and regular evaluations, ensure that projects meet these goals and deliver a European added value.

The programme funds projects reflecting Europe's diversity without endorsing any ideology. In its European Cooperation Projects call, the programme prioritises inclusion and diversity, encouraging participation of audiences facing geographical obstacles ⁽³⁾.

It also co-funds actions that safeguard local cultural heritage and support linguistic diversity, such as the Circulation of European literary works, the European Capital of Culture, and the European Heritage Days.

EU cohesion policy supports Member States and regions’ efforts to strengthen equal access to culture and its role in socioeconomic and territorial development and social inclusion, especially in rural areas.

At all stages, Member States must ensure respects to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, gender equality and non-discrimination ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12008E167#&text=Article%20167%20%28ex%20Article%20151%20TEC%29%201.%20The,bringing%20the%20common%20cultural%20heritage%20to%20the%20fore>

⁽²⁾ <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe>

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/crea/wp-call/2024/call-fiche_crea-cult-2024-coop_en.pdf

⁽⁴⁾ Article 9 of Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1060>