

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002771/24
to the Commission
Anthony Smith (The Left)
(4 December 2024)**

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?

Submitted: 4.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr Micallef on behalf of the European Commission
(10 February 2025)**

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU enshrines the fundamental right to the freedom of the arts. According to its Article 13(1), ‘the arts and scientific research shall be free of constraint’ ⁽¹⁾.

The Charter also safeguards the freedom of expression (Article 11) and cultural diversity (Articles 11 and 22), which are integral to artistic freedom.

Freedom of expression, which includes freedom of artistic expression, is a core EU value and crucial for democratic societies. The Commission attaches great importance to it.

Responsibility for cultural policy and legislation lies with the Member States. Nonetheless, the Commission works closely with them to facilitate mutual learning and cooperation, share best policy and practice, and address common challenges in this field.

The Commission works with Member States in addressing threats to cultural diversity and artistic freedoms, through such initiatives as the Creative Europe programme ⁽²⁾, which offers funding and support to cultural institutions and initiatives that promote cultural diversity, inclusion, and freedom of expression; the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026 ⁽³⁾, which recognises artistic freedom as a fundamental part of cultural work, and the protection of artistic freedom as an essential element for strengthening the link between culture and democracy.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng

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

⁽³⁾ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022G1207(01))