

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000809/25
to the Commission**

Hristo Petrov (Renew), Irena Joveva (Renew), Jana Toom (Renew), Brigitte van den Berg (Renew), Nikola Minchev (Renew), Eugen Tomac (Renew), Laurence Farré (Renew), Marie-Pierre Vedrenne (Renew)
(21 February 2025)

Subject: Working conditions of artists and workers in the cultural and creative sectors and industries

In December 2024, the European Labour Authority (ELA) published a report on employment characteristics and undeclared work in the cultural and creative sectors (CCS). This study highlights the precarious conditions faced by the 7.7 million artists and workers in the CCS. In particular, the reliance on self-employment and temporary contracts leaves many workers without adequate social protection such as health insurance and pensions. The report also highlights the widespread practice of undeclared work, characterised by cash payments and unregistered events. Problems also stem from the rise of digital platforms and cross-border mobility of artists and CCS professionals, particularly with regard to taxation and misclassification.

In the light of the ELA report and Parliament's resolution of 21 November 2023 ⁽¹⁾:

1. What progress has been made by the Commission in implementing each of the 13 initiatives identified in its letter of 21 February 2024 in response to Parliament's resolution?
2. What measures does the Commission intend to take to make progress at both European and national level on the 2023 policy recommendations of the Open Method of Coordination expert group?
3. How will the Commission ensure that the social protection and adequate working conditions of intermittent workers are safeguarded?

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Answer given by Mr Micallef on behalf of the European Commission
(22 April 2025)

Improving artists' working conditions remains a priority for the Commission. It is explicitly mentioned in the mission letter to the Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport and will be addressed in the EU strategic framework for culture, the 'Culture Compass'. The Commission is regularly in touch with stakeholders, notably with relevant social partners via the EU sectoral social dialogues.

The Commission is following up on the actions set out in its reply ⁽¹⁾ to the European Parliament. It analysed regulatory gaps with social partners' involvement, organised mutual learning activities on social protection, gathered further evidence ⁽²⁾ on undeclared work and further improved the EU-funded online information resource ⁽³⁾ on artists' working conditions. The Commission will organise a high-level round table with relevant stakeholders to determine the scope for further EU action.

The Commission supports Member States in the implementation of the 2019 Council recommendation on access to social protection ⁽⁴⁾.

It also covers artists and workers in the cultural and creative sectors and monitors the implementation of EU labour law directives ⁽⁵⁾ setting minimum standards to protect the working conditions of workers in employment relationships, including intermittent workers ⁽⁶⁾.

¹ Resolution of 21 November 2023 with recommendations to the Commission on an EU framework for the social and professional situation of artists and workers in the cultural and creative sectors, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/4208/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ Commission reply to the European Parliament's legislative initiative report of 21 February 2024 on an EU framework for the social and professional situation of artists and workers in the cultural and creative sectors.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.ela.europa.eu/en/news/creative-sectors-ela-study-reveals-precarious-working-conditions-and-undeclared-labour>

⁽³⁾ <https://creativesunite.eu/work-condition>

⁽⁴⁾ Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/GA/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019H1115\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/GA/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019H1115(01))

⁽⁵⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/rights-work/labour-law_en

⁽⁶⁾ See in particular Council Directive 1999/70/EC of 28 June 1999 concerning the framework agreement on fixed-term work: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/1999/70/oj/eng>