

EN

E-001339/2025

Answer given by Mr Micallef  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(23.5.2025)

Freedom of expression and freedom of the arts are recognised in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU<sup>1</sup> (Articles 11 and 13), which applies to Member States when implementing EU law.

The topic of artistic freedom is included in the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026<sup>2</sup> under the priority ‘Artists and cultural professionals: empowering the cultural and creative sectors’. The Swedish Presidency of the EU organised a conference on this topic in February 2023 and published Council conclusions on ‘At-risk and displaced artists’ on 16 May 2023<sup>3</sup>. Moreover, the report ‘The Status and Working Conditions of artists and culture and creative professionals’ was published in 2023 by a group of Member States experts under the Open Method of Coordination<sup>4</sup>. The report includes specific recommendations to the Member States on how to protect the freedom of artistic expression.

The Commission recalls that by virtue of Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)<sup>5</sup> culture remains a competence of Member States. The Commission is committed to contributing to the support of the rich diversity of the cultures of the Member States (Article 167(1) TFEU) by carrying out efforts to support, coordinate, or supplement the actions of the Member States in the field of culture (Article 6(c) TFEU). While the Commission recognises the concerns regarding acts of vandalism, it is primarily the responsibility of the Member States to ensure that artists and cultural institutions are protected from those acts.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text\\_en.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> [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)).

<sup>3</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9260-2023-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/01fafa79-1a13-11ee-806b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

<sup>5</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu\\_2008/art\\_167/oj/eng](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2008/art_167/oj/eng).