

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002197/25
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (Pfe)
(2 June 2025)**

Subject: Increased standardisation at the cost of national diversity

The European Commission is stepping up initiatives to impose harmonised standards in areas that have historically been the responsibility of the Member States: education, culture, family law, language policies, official symbols, etc.

These technocratic moves depart from the subsidiarity principle enshrined in the Treaties and threaten the diversity of national traditions, identities and sovereignty.

They reflect a worrying drift towards the gradual erasure of national identities in favour of abstract European standardisation, disconnected from local realities. By denying the diversity of peoples, traditions and constitutional frameworks, the European Union undermines the very foundations of its legitimacy. This approach fuels the mistrust of citizens, who are seeing what makes them unique being swept aside in the name of a centralised ideological construction.

In view of the above:

1. Why does the Commission continue to try to impose a cultural and symbolic merger in Europe, with no regard for national specificities?
2. How does it justify these initiatives in the light of the principle of subsidiarity?
3. Will it review its strategy to ensure proper respect for the constitutional, cultural and linguistic diversity of the Member States?

Submitted: 2.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Micallef on behalf of the European Commission
(6 August 2025)**

According to Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the EU shall contribute to the promotion of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and promoting the common cultural heritage. The EU's action aims to encourage cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, support and supplement their actions.

Through initiatives such as the Creative Europe programme, the European Capitals of Culture, the European Heritage Label, as well as several EU Cultural Prizes, the Commission aims to nurture cultural diversity and allow for exchange, cooperation, and scalability. Erasmus+ ⁽¹⁾ and Creative Europe ⁽²⁾ have been funding numerous projects that promote linguistic diversity, including regional and minority languages ⁽³⁾.

Policy cooperation on culture at EU level aims not to replace national cultural policies but to support and enhance them by addressing common and/or cross-border challenges in full respect of the subsidiarity principle. Cultural policy cooperation is based on common priorities and actions identified by EU Member States in the multiannual EU Work Plans for Culture.

⁽¹⁾ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>.

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

⁽³⁾ Some examples can be found in the publication 'Linguistic diversity in the European Union': <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/d325c589-011a-11ef-a251-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.