

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004098/25
to the Commission
Auke Zijlstra (Pfe)
(17 October 2025)**

Subject: Cultural boycott of Israel

On 3 October 2025, it was announced that a significant number of Dutch and Belgian cultural organisations were imposing a boycott on Israel and all Israeli institutions and companies. ⁽¹⁾ One such cultural organisation is the Oerol Festival. The festival's website lists Creative Europe as a 'partner'. ⁽²⁾ According to the Financial Transparency Register, the Terschellings Oerol Festival Foundation received EUR 4.34 million between 2016 and 2023, of which EUR 3.89 million was paid out. ⁽³⁾ However, point 2.3 of the 2025 Annual Work Programme for Creative Europe states the following: 'The Creative Europe Programme contributes to the Commission's equality strategies under the Union of Equality priority, contributing and reporting its actions on gender equality, anti-racism and fighting antisemitism...' ⁽⁴⁾

1. Does the Commission share the view that the action taken by the Oerol Festival (and possibly other supporters of the boycott who also receive financial support from the EU) runs counter to the objective of Creative Europe, which aims to combat racism and antisemitism?
2. Does the Commission intend to take action against the organiser and signatories of this boycott, namely the Oerol Festival?

Submitted: 17.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Micallef on behalf of the European Commission
(27 January 2026)**

The Commission is deeply committed to promoting equality and preventing all forms of antisemitism, racism and discrimination. The Commission will continue to ensure that projects supported through Creative Europe promote equality, inclusion and mutual respect among people and cultures.

Grant agreements signed under the Creative Europe programme include clear obligations for beneficiaries to comply with EU law, uphold the principles of transparency, equal treatment and sound financial management, and respect values and fundamental rights enshrined in the Treaties and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which include the principle of non-discrimination to ensure that EU financial support is not used in a way that would undermine them.

Following established procedures, the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) will assess whether these organisations' actions are consistent with the conditions of their grant agreements and with the principles of non-discrimination and respect for fundamental rights.

If a breach is identified, the Commission will take the appropriate measures in line with the EU Financial Regulation and the contractual provisions, which can include withdrawing funding or taking administrative action.

¹ https://www.cultureleboycotisrael.nu/home_en.html

² <https://oerol.nl/en/support-oerol/sponsors-and-partners/sponsors-and-partners-oerol-2025/?cn-reloaded=1>

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/budget/financial-transparency-system/analysis.html>

⁴ <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-10/2025-creative-europe-annual-work-programme-C%282024%296503%2018-09-2024.pdf>