

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002376/26
to the Commission
Nicola Zingaretti (S&D)
(9 June 2026)**

Subject: The Spotify-Universal Music Group (UMG) AI music deal and its impact on competition and culture

Though the deal struck by Spotify (whose 761 million users make it the world's biggest audio streaming platform) and global music industry leader UMG concerning AI-generated covers and remixes could bring about some positive developments (including as regards consent, credits and remuneration), it still raises serious competition and cultural diversity concerns.

I therefore ask the Commission:

1. Does it hold that this exclusive agreement between two of the world's biggest music industry stakeholders could undermine competition and close off the market to indie music, non-UMG artists, small labels and independent producers, and does it therefore intend to open a formal investigation into the matter?
2. Does it agree that the 'turning one song into ten thousand' model will drive down artist incomes and systematically penalise originality by devaluing and disincentivising creativity and by undermining financial support and prospects for artists? If so, what measures will it adopt?
3. Are Directive (EU) 2019/790 and its compensation mechanisms applicable to business models such as the one described above and, if not will the Commission propose a regulatory revision to this effect?

Submitted: 9.6.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission
(14 September 2026)**

The Commission is closely monitoring the music streaming sector, including any relevant impact of AI-related developments.

The Commission may initiate a competition investigation where there are reasonable indications of either anti-competitive agreements (Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)) or the abuse of a dominant position (Article 102 of the TFEU) affecting trade between Member States.

While the Commission is not conducting a competition investigation at the present stage, it remains committed to ensuring the full respect for EU competition law in this sector.

The Commission notes the possibility to create remixes or covers, including through the use of AI, but all such uses should take place in compliance with applicable EU copyright rules including any relevant exception.

Chapter 3 of Directive (EU) 2019/790 ⁽¹⁾ (Fair remuneration in exploitation contracts of authors and performers) applies to the relationships entered into by authors or performers and the parties to whom they have licensed or transferred their rights, with the aim of strengthening transparency, contractual balance and fair remuneration. Therefore, Chapter 3 is not confined to a particular form of exploitation.

As required under Article 30 of the directive, the Commission has started a review process to examine the impact of the directive on the relevant stakeholders ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 130, 17.5.2019, pp. 92-125.

⁽²⁾ Call for evidence, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-seeks-views-review-eu-copyright-rules>.