

EN
P-000898/2021
Answer given by Ms Gabriel
on behalf of the European Commission
(31.3.2021)

The Commission takes note of the findings included in the report on artistic freedom, mentioned by the Honourable Members.

Freedom of expression and freedom of the arts (and sciences) are enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU¹, which applies to Member States only when they implement EU law.

The Commission is committed to contributing to the rich diversity of the cultures of the Member States² by carrying out actions to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the Member States in the field of culture³.

The New European Agenda for Culture (2018)⁴ includes a number of specific initiatives in order to support the rich diversity of European cultural expressions. Furthermore, the current legal basis of the Creative Europe programme 2021-2027⁵ recognises that cultural and creative sectors are important for the freedom of expression and that artistic freedom is at the core of vibrant cultural and creative industries.

The topic of artistic freedom is included in the current Council Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022⁶ under the priority ‘An ecosystem supporting artists, cultural and creative professionals and European content’. In accordance with the EU competencies in the field of culture, the content and topics of Work Plans for Culture are decided by the Member States, while the Commission supports their implementation.

In 2021, the topic of artistic freedom will also be tackled (among other topics) in the framework of ‘Voices of Culture’, the structured dialogue of the Commission with the cultural sector, as part of the theme ‘Status and working conditions of artists and cultural and creative professionals’.

¹ Articles 11 and 13 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12012P%2FTXT>

² Article 167(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02016E%2FTXT-20200301&qid=1614618544569>

³ Article 6(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02016E%2FTXT-20200301&qid=1614618544569>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/culture/document/new-european-agenda-culture-swd2018-267-final>

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2405

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018XG1221%2801%29>