

**Question for written answer E-004682/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Closure of the European Union Youth Orchestra - state of play and solution

Musicians and friends of the European Union Youth Orchestra, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, have been informed that it is to close owing to a lack of EU funding.

The orchestra's difficulties date from 2014 and stem from changes in the institutions' rules on financing cultural activities with the entry into force of the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020. These rules – which mean that projects can only be funded from the Creative Europe programme – have proved unsuitable for funding the orchestra project.

Each year over a hundred young musicians play in the orchestra, which tours around Europe's grandest concert halls, offering them an unforgettable experience. The orchestra also recruits thousands of young people from across Europe as staff each year, offering them evidence and the opportunity to learn and practice playing music and instruments.

Could the Commission therefore say:

1. What is the state of play regarding the Youth Orchestra?
2. Whether it will come up with a solution to allow the project to continue, recognising in particular its specific nature and the necessary implication of this for its funding?
3. Whether it will draw lessons from this case concerning changes to its policy for funding cultural activities?