

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2702/09

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to the Commission

Subject: Promotion of cultural diversity in relation to copyright and related rights

Article 151(4) of the EC Treaty states that the Community is to take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of the Treaty, in order to respect and to promote the diversity of its cultures.

The Commission has repeatedly stated its intention to pay suitable attention to promoting culture and cultural diversity in connection with decisions of a legislative, policy or financial nature. According to the Commission, support for culture and creativity is enshrined in European legislation in relation to copyright and related rights. This legislation protects the rights of authors, performers and producers and enables them to receive suitable remuneration for their efforts. In this way broad dissemination of protected works and services is ensured, leading to the promotion of citizens' access to Europe's rich and diverse culture.

1. What measures have been taken by the Commission to ensure that its obligations pursuant to Article 151(4) of the EC Treaty are being complied with in relation to the multi-territorial licensing of music rights, in the light of the impact of its 2005 recommendation on online music services?
2. How will the Commission, as part of its policy of respecting and promoting cultural diversity, protect the interests of the numerous right-holders with respect to copyright and related rights who do not have the economic power to secure the exclusive provision of services by a single, powerful collective management organisation, as recommended in the 2005 recommendation?