Priority question for written answer P-002758/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Support for artists during the health crisis

With the onset of the health crisis, art has re-emerged as a determining factor for our quality of life. It is doubtful whether the lockdown measures could have succeeded, and indeed whether we could have ever stayed sane, without the support of our artists and without their works to buoy us up. At the same time, however, the probable cancellation of events scheduled for the coming period has now left many artists high and dry.

According to Eurostat figures for 2018, the cultural sector accounted for 8.7 million jobs in the EU-28, that is to say 3.8% of the total.

In Greece, the figure is 125 000, many of them self-employed.

Indeed, this is the case for one-third of those making their living in this sector throughout the EU and a relatively low percentage of the total workforce is employed full time.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission adopt a comprehensive and effective set of measures to assist those European actors, musicians and dancers who, even under normal circumstances, work on a part-time and undeclared basis, bearing in mind that only a few countries (France and Belgium, soon to be joined by Spain) make provision for the electronic registration of days worked by artists, entitling them to benefits for the remainder?

2. Can any European resources be deployed, in conjunction with Member State public or private sector funding, to support the various categories of artist, enabling them to make creative use of their time during this crisis?