

# Establish a Cultural Creators' Intergroup in the EU Parliament

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

**Our organisations representing and supporting European authors and performers from all cultural and creative sectors (text, music, audiovisual, performing arts and visual arts) would like to invite you to set up the first Cultural Creators' Intergroup in the European Parliament to address the multi-faceted challenges these artists are facing:** threats to artistic freedom, precarious working conditions with intermittent activities or freelance work, low and unstable income, use of their works by AI companies without consent, systemic weak bargaining power and coercive buy-out in contracts, poor social protection, lack of proper remuneration for the use of their works and performances on all media, the need to further improve policies to support cultural diversity, investment in local creative production, promotion of European works, in particular on streaming platforms, and to increase the scope and budget of related EU programmes, etc.

## Why a Cultural Creators' Intergroup?

Authors' and performers' creativity and work contribute to the wealth and diversity of European culture and our economy where creative work/jobs could expand enormously with the right policies and support. It is the responsibility of EU decision-makers to ensure that they can contribute to creation and bring lasting benefits to society and the economy.

A European Creators' Intergroup would allow MEPs from different perspectives to exchange views to ensure a horizontal approach on these issues, linked to relevant committees, and strategically promoting the mainstreaming of creative professions' needs and culture in different policy areas. It would act as a think-tank, highlighting positive experiences, research and good practice, while advocating for actions where needed.

A Cultural Creator's Intergroup is especially important this time around to **improve working conditions and remuneration, collective bargaining, collective management of rights, freedom of speech and artistic expression, mobility, cultural diversity and its protection through copyright and related rights.** Such an Intergroup would ensure that European policies and legislation for Europe's cultural and creative sectors take properly into account the voices and interests of cultural creators.

## Building on the EU Parliament track record of supporting authors and performers

During its 9th legislative term, the EU Parliament:

- 1. Championed creators' rights and fair remuneration:** MEPs repeatedly reminded the Commission and Member States about the need to effectively implement the 2019 Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market so that creators can receive the appropriate and proportionate remuneration to which they are entitled. In addition, during the discussions on the EU AI Act, MEPs introduced certain safeguards to enhance transparency of generative AI services and against the use of the text and data mining exception of the Copyright Directive as a pretext to avoid creators' remuneration on the market.
- 2. Spotlights the social and professional situation of artists and other workers in the cultural and creative sectors:** following the health crisis, the EU Parliament actively worked to support the recovery of the cultural sectors and took actions by proposing concrete

measures to address the economic and social insecurity and improve the working conditions of authors and performers, including a proposal for a legal framework ([resolution](#) of 21 Nov 2023).

**3. Defended the cultural and creative sectors during the COVID-19 outbreak:**

When the pandemic hit Europe, the EU Parliament responded with a [resolution](#) (17 Sep 2020) highlighting the importance of supporting the sector to recover and of valuing culture for people's well-being in times of crisis. The Parliament called for at least 2% of the Recovery and Resilience Facility to be earmarked for the cultural and creative sectors. MEPs also successfully argued for a significant increase in the 2021-2027 budget for the Creative Europe programme, which supports cultural projects across Europe. Its budget almost doubled compared to the previous mandate.

**4. Adopted critical Resolutions denouncing buy-outs and demanding more fairness in streaming markets:**

In a number of different reports, MEPs raised serious concerns on the coercive buy-out practices imposed on European authors and performers, especially by global players in the streaming markets, and asked the Commission to introduce effective EU-wide rules to tackle them. Moreover, unfairness in the streaming market and manipulation of playlists were identified as a significant risk both to remuneration of creators and cultural diversity in Europe.

**5. Mobilised across political parties for culture and creators' rights:**

the Cultural Creators Friendship Group (CCFG) supported and promoted European culture and creators, with the adoption of a Manifesto and a working plan. The CCFG regularly engaged with the representative organisations of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the signatories of this letter. It co-hosted and partnered with several successful events organised by the sectors. These valuable and constructive exchanges further contributed to the work of MEPs in their respective committees.

**We hope that you will support this initiative to set up a Cultural Creators' Inter-group for the 10<sup>th</sup> term of the European Parliament.** It would help this institution adopt the resolutions, recommendations and proposals that are needed to continue to encourage the Commission and the Member States to put culture and creators at the top of their agenda.

We would be happy to further discuss this with you at your best convenience.

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## Signatories



## Signatories

Association of European Performers' Organisations (AEPO-ARTIS)

[aepo-artis.org](http://aepo-artis.org), 69221462428-97

Culture Action Europe

[cultureactioneurope.org](http://cultureactioneurope.org), 856201551367-02

European Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (ECCD)

[europeancoalitions.eu](http://europeancoalitions.eu), 657025624097-78

European Composer and Songwriter Alliance (ECSA)

[composeralliance.org](http://composeralliance.org), 71423433087-91

European Grouping of Societies of Authors and Composers (GESAC)

[authorsocieties.eu](http://authorsocieties.eu), 36529354479-57

European Visual Artists (EVA)

[evartists.org](http://evartists.org), 418078348255-16

European Writers Council (EWC)

[europeanwriterscouncil.eu](http://europeanwriterscouncil.eu), 56788289570-24

Federation of European Screen Directors (FERA)  
[screendirectors.eu](http://screendirectors.eu), 29280842236-21

Federation of Screenwriters in Europe (FSE)

[federationscreenwriters.eu](http://federationscreenwriters.eu), 642670217507-74

International Federation of Actors (FIA)

[fia-actors.com](http://fia-actors.com), 24070646198-51

International Federation of Musicians (FIM)

[fim-musicians.org](http://fim-musicians.org), 01953872943-65

International Artists Organisation (IAO)

[iaomusic.org](http://iaomusic.org), 490166825799-90

Society of Audiovisual Authors (SAA)

[saa-authors.eu](http://saa-authors.eu), 99336382936-11

UNI - Media, Entertainment & Arts

[globalunion.org](http://globalunion.org), 605859248462-93