










Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2023/2054(INI)	Procedure completed
Cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market		
Subject		
3.30.25 International information networks and society, internet		
4.45 Common cultural area, cultural diversity		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Culture and Education	 GARCÍA DEL BLANCO Ibán	14/04/2023
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 ZAGORAKIS Theodoros	
		 FARRENG Laurence	
		 NIENASS Niklas	
		 ROOKEN Rob	
		 ANDERSON Christine	
		 KIZILYÜREK Niyazi	
European Commission	Commission DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	Commissioner SCHINAS Margaritis	

Key events			
20/04/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/11/2023	Vote in committee		
04/12/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0388/2023	Summary
17/01/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2023/2054(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/9/11751

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE750.068	28/06/2023	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE753.430	14/09/2023	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A9-0388/2023	04/12/2023	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T9-0020/2024	17/01/2024	EP	Summary

Cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market

The Committee on Culture and Education adopted an own-initiative report by Ibán GARCÍA DEL BLANCO (S&D, ES) on cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market.

The music sector is a major pillar of culture, as an essential component of cultural and linguistic diversity in the Union.

Today, the public streams music via online platforms that operate globally and offer access to millions of musical tracks available anywhere, at any time and on all kinds of devices, free of charge or for a relatively low monthly subscription fee. Streaming accounts for 67% of global music revenues.

The report stressed the need to support and create rules ensuring a fair and sustainable ecosystem for music streaming in the Union that both promotes cultural diversity and addresses the imbalances that negatively affect the sector, especially its authors and performers, and may prevent it from flourishing. To this end, all actors in the music streaming value chain need to engage in an effective dialogue that includes authors and performers and make the necessary changes.

The Commission is called on to:

- assess the impact of existing contractual practices in the European music streaming market, as well as of the current revenue distribution model for music streaming services, on cultural diversity and the principle of appropriate and proportionate remuneration for authors and performers;
- explore, in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, appropriate measures, including alternative and fairer models to reallocate streaming revenues;
- examine whether there is a high level of concentration in the music industry and to assess its impact on cultural diversity, on the remuneration of authors and on competition.

Towards a sustainable ecosystem for authors

The report emphasised that the key role of authors should be reflected through greater visibility on the music streaming services. It called on the industry to explore new models for allocating streaming revenue in order to ensure the most equal and fairest distribution possible for authors and performers.

The Commission should evaluate whether the use of new technologies, such as blockchain, and the international identification codes of rights holders, musical works and sound recordings have the potential to improve transparency and cost efficiency within the music streaming market.

According to Members, it is essential to improve the identification of anyone involved in the creation process, in particular authors and performers, on music streaming services, by ensuring the comprehensive and accurate allocation of metadata from the time of creation for any track uploaded to a music streaming service.

The report underlined the importance of authors becoming members of collective management organisations to ensure the right to collective agreements and collective representation. It emphasised the need to raise awareness, in particular among young authors, of the importance of accurately getting credited and paid for their music in the streaming market.

It recalled the need to ensure the value of authors rights, regardless of what music streaming services offer.

Prominence and discoverability of European musical works

Members called for action to be taken at Union level to guarantee the visibility and accessibility of European musical works. They welcomed the study launched by the Commission that aims to assess the discoverability of European musical works in the music ecosystem and asked the Commission to propose adequate measures, including a legal framework to ensure the visibility, accessibility and prominence of European musical works on music streaming platforms.

Towards the ethical use of AI

The report called for maximum transparency and stressed the need to ensure compliance with all Union legal requirements on the development, production and delivery of musical works by means of AI technologies. In this regard, the Commission is called on to propose legal targeted provisions to ensure the transparency of the algorithms and content recommendation systems on all relevant music streaming platforms, with a view to preventing unfair practices and streaming fraud. Members stressed the need to work towards ensuring that consumers are well-informed, and stressed the need to set up a clear, timely and visible label to inform the public about purely AI-generated works that do not involve the expression of the authors personality or creativity.

Perspectives

The Commission is called on to:

- set up a European music observatory to provide information on music markets in the Union by collecting and analysing data in the Member States;
- analyse and report on legal issues affecting the music sector, in particular the music streaming market, with a view to developing the sector;
- further improve the Creative Europe programme, through comprehensive action on music;
- establish a structured dialogue between all stakeholders to discuss current issues affecting the music streaming market and to work together to find common solutions towards a fairer distribution of the revenues from music streaming platforms, in particular for authors, performers and small and micro independent producers;
- introduce a European industrial strategy for music to make the Union play a role in promoting the diversity of its artists and musical works, focusing on the strength and diversity of the European music sector, boosting smaller players, acquiring more investment, providing more exposure to artists and quantifying the results.

Cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market

The European Parliament adopted by 532 votes to 61, with 33 abstentions, a resolution on cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market.

Music streaming services are now the main way to enjoy music via digital music platforms or platforms where online users download content, including social media or live streaming platforms and short-form video applications, which give access to 100 million tracks available anywhere, anytime and on all kinds of devices, for free or for a relatively low monthly subscription fee.

Parliament stressed the need to support and create rules ensuring a fair and sustainable ecosystem for music streaming in the Union that both promotes cultural diversity and addresses the imbalances that negatively affect the sector, especially its authors and performers, and may prevent it from flourishing. To this end, all actors in the music streaming value chain need to engage in an effective dialogue that includes authors and performers and make the necessary changes so that it can contribute to cultural diversity, by providing opportunities to discover artists, as well as by promoting local repertoires.

Noting with concern that the current imbalance in revenue allocation in the music streaming market, Members welcome any efforts towards fairer remuneration for authors and performers.

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- explore, in cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, appropriate measures, including alternative and fairer models to reallocate streaming revenues.

Towards a sustainable ecosystem for authors

Parliament emphasised that the key role of authors should be reflected through greater visibility on the music streaming services. It called on the industry to explore new models for allocating streaming revenue in order to ensure the most equal and fairest distribution possible for authors and performers.

The Commission should evaluate whether the use of new technologies, such as blockchain, and the international identification codes of rights holders, musical works and sound recordings have the potential to improve transparency and cost efficiency within the music streaming market.

According to Members, it is essential to improve the identification of anyone involved in the creation process, in particular authors and performers, on music streaming services. They called all music industry players to intensify their efforts to ensure the comprehensive and correct metadata allocation of songs by identifying and accurately reporting authors data for their musical works on streaming services.

Parliament recalled the need to ensure the value of authors rights, regardless of what music streaming services offer. It called for the revision of pre-digital royalty rates to bring them into line with fair and modern rates. It insisted on the need to end unfair competition practices by online

content-sharing platforms and music streaming service providers in the music streaming market, such as those enabling users to illegally stream or download protected content.

Prominence and discoverability of European musical works

Members called for action to be taken at Union level to guarantee the visibility and accessibility of European musical works. They asked the Commission to propose adequate measures, including a legal framework to ensure the visibility, accessibility and prominence of European musical works on music streaming platforms. Such a legal framework should include specific diversity indicators that would allow for an independent assessment of the use and visibility of European musical works and its diversity of genres, languages and independent authors.

Towards the ethical use of AI

Parliament called for maximum transparency and stressed the need to ensure compliance with all Union legal requirements on the development, production and delivery of musical works by means of AI technologies.

In this regard, the Commission is called on to propose legal targeted provisions to ensure the transparency of the algorithms and content recommendation systems on all relevant music streaming platforms, with a view to preventing unfair practices and streaming fraud. Members stressed the need to work towards ensuring that consumers are well-informed, and stressed the need to set up a clear, timely and visible label to inform the public about purely AI-generated works that do not involve the expression of the authors personality or creativity.

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Transparency				
GARCÍA DEL BLANCO Ibán	Rapporteur	CULT	20/12/2023	Midem+
GARCÍA DEL BLANCO Ibán	Rapporteur	CULT	21/11/2023	European Grouping of Societies of Authors and Composers
GARCÍA DEL BLANCO Ibán	Rapporteur	CULT	09/11/2023	Music Awareness Foundation WIPO for Creators
FARRENG Laurence	Shadow rapporteur	CULT	08/11/2023	GESAC
NIENASS Niklas	Shadow rapporteur	CULT	17/10/2023	IFPI Representing recording industry worldwide
FARRENG Laurence	Shadow rapporteur	CULT	11/10/2023	SACEM
FARRENG Laurence	Shadow rapporteur	CULT	11/10/2023	Centre National de la Musique
FARRENG Laurence	Shadow rapporteur	CULT	13/09/2023	Universal Music Group International
ROOKEN Rob	Shadow rapporteur	CULT	01/09/2023	Universal Music Group International
FARRENG Laurence	Shadow rapporteur	CULT	30/08/2023	TikTok Technology Ltd
SKYTTEDAL Sara	Member	05/12/2023	Spotify	

NIENASS Niklas	Member	08/06/2023	Association of European Performers? Organisations European Composer and Songwriter Alliance Spotify GESAC European Music Managers Alliance Independent Music Companies Alliance International Federation of the Phonographic Industry	
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