

**Question for written answer E-001966/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Concentration in the music market

The EU must respect cultural diversity - a principle enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the EC Treaty.

In its resolution of 12 May 2011 on unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries, Parliament stressed ‘the importance of considering the best way to adapt the regulatory framework – and in particular the rules on competition policy – to the specific situation of the cultural sector to ensure cultural diversity and consumer access to a range of high-quality cultural content and services’.

In its 2010 Green Paper on unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries, the Commission underlined the fact that ‘creating and maintaining the level playing field ... will require combined efforts in different policy fields, especially competition policy’.

In November 2011, Universal and Sony announced that they had won the bidding for one of their nearest rivals, EMI.

Figures from a recent study show that Universal, Sony and EMI together account for 76.5% of top 200 downloads and 76% of top 200 airplay in Europe. US repertoire accounts for 50% of the tracks played on radio and downloaded in Europe. In the top 1000, fewer than 10% of artists are signed to independent labels, though they account for 80% of new releases.

- Will the Commission take these figures and sector-specific factors into account when assessing the Universal and Sony bid for EMI?
- Does the Commission consider that the above figures demonstrate the required level of competition, cultural diversity and consumer choice?