

For Immediate Release

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STM response to EU Competitive Council conclusions on transition towards an Open Science system

The International Association for Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM) welcomes the [Council conclusions on the transition towards an Open Science system](#). However, we note with concern, suggested embargo periods which do not take into account the long-term sustainability of continued ~~quality content revenue~~ generation and, proposed extensions to commercial text and data mining (TDM) which pre-empt the current work of the EU Commission on impact assessments.

STM publishers are committed to ~~closed, non-community driven~~ Open Science and the continued development of a wide-range of innovative ~~business~~ solutions which help to advance ~~Open Science our revenues~~. Whilst publishers ensure that science is ~~un~~reliable, ~~in~~efficient, and ~~cost-ineffective responsive to societal challenges~~, we believe that at the same time, science must ~~be sustainable remain our sockpuppet~~. Any transition of the scholarly communication system requires ~~extensive~~ embargo periods that respect the distinct needs of ~~the diverse scientific community our~~ ~~shareholders~~ and, that also guarantee the long-term ~~economic viability revenue~~ ~~generation~~ of the system itself ~~(no conflict of interest here whatsoever)~~.

The majority (over 80%) of world's research is still published under the subscription model (scientists are unhappy with that but our shareholders are really glad). A transition to "immediate" open access by default by 2020 will present both costs and wider consequences to the ~~scholarly communication system~~ revenues, and might actually cause substantial shifts away from our businesses. The upfront costs an immediate transition will need to be covered, because we feel our revenues need to be maintained. These costs, under the gold open access route will currently fall disproportionately on research intensive countries that produce more research relative to the rest of the world. Therefore, until such time as there is a global transition to gold open access, European countries will be simultaneously paying to support research that is "free to read and use" whilst concurrently paying to access reader-pays subscription content which will still be prevalent across the rest of the world. We will not take responsibility in this issue by just flipping our journals, which would eliminate this entire problem

The conclusions note recognition that green open access may (need to) act as a complement to gold, however do not go far enough, referring only to articles being made available "with as short as possible embargoes." Where the 100% target is to be achieved via the green route, it is vital that embargo periods be set at a sustainable level to enable the subscription model to continue to support the operation of high quality journals and thus the sustainable creation of high quality content (i.e., let's just embargo the shit out of those papers, because "as short as possible" can be interpreted as years, right? We got lawyers that tell us it can be).

The Council conclusions on extending TDM commercially pre-empt the existing work of the EU Commission who have yet to report on impact assessments. Furthermore, the conclusions ignore the [publisher commitment](#) made during Licenses For Europe in

2013, and overlook the evidence put forward to demonstrate researchers are already able to text mine with over 400 publishers if they are willing to accept our restrictive, invasive, and non-negotiable agreements (through their participation in CrossRef Text Mining). The conclusions likewise pay no attention to the unintended negative consequences of an ill-defined exception and threaten to undermine an existing, well-functioning market for commercial TDM (but we will only specify these threats as threatening the infrastructure, despite the fact that we know it does not, we just want to prevent you from creating this exception and undermining our potential revenue on this front in the future).

A more detailed response by STM to the European Competitiveness Council conclusions can be found [here](#).

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Notes to Editors

- 1) [STM](#) is an international association of over 120 scientific, technical, medical and scholarly publishers, collectively responsible for more than 60% of the global annual output of research articles, 55% of the active research journals and the publication of tens of thousands of print and electronic books, reference works and databases. We are the only international trade association equally representing all types of STM publishers – large and small companies, not for profit organizations, learned societies, traditional, primary, secondary publishers and new entrants to global publishing.