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NEWS RELEASE - COPYRIGHT

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Balanced, effective and realistic: Creative sector urges European Commission to support a fair copyright framework at WIPO

The International Association Scientific Medical Publishers (STM) and a broad coalition of creative sector organisations have issued a joint letter to European Commission President Jose Barroso highlighting the perils of the proposed World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaty on copyright limitations and exceptions.

WIPO's Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR) are discussing wide-ranging mandatory copyright exceptions for libraries and archival services. These changes to the existing copyright framework would have far-reaching implications and risk putting Europe's creative industries at a severe international disadvantage.

Calling for an approach to copyright which "…facilitates the exchange of experiences as well as technical cooperation and assistance, whilst maintaining an appropriate balance between exceptions and corresponding exclusive

rights.", European creative organisations are united in their call to ensure that any future changes to the copyright framework are not only effective and realistic, but also balanced.

STM's CEO Michael Mabe said: "STM applauds the firm stand taken by the Commission and many European countries to date at the WIPO SCCR. We look forward to their continued support in the battle for a balanced, effective and realistic international copyright regime."

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors

1) Letter to Jose Barosso, President of European Commission

2) 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.