

JANEZ POTOČNIK

Member of the European Commission

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D (2006) 1063

Mr Michael Mabe
Chief Executive Office
International Association for STM Publishers
STM Secretariat
2nd Floor Prama house
267 Banbury Road
UK – Oxford OX2 7HT

Dear Mr Mabe,

Thank you for your letter of 17 November introducing yourself as the recently appointed CEO on the International Association of STM publishers and requesting a meeting.

I recognise the value of the European STM industry and the important work it is doing in ensuring modern and efficient dissemination and preservation of high-quality scientific research results. The developments related to the publication of scientific research results, linked to the digital and electronic developments as well as to the emerging alternative publishing models, is something the Commission is following closely and attentively. Not only as a major public funder of research but also recognising the role of research in driving competitiveness and growth in Europe.

The Commission's thinking and perspectives will be developed in the forthcoming Communication on scientific information. The Communication is based on open and broad consultation with all interested parties, and the scientific publishing industry has provided valuable input in this respect. I have had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the publishing industry, including with your predecessor, Mr Bohlman, at several occasions to discuss these issues and to take part of the concerns that are pertinent to your industry. You also had a recent opportunity to discuss these issues with Ms Haentzel from my cabinet and with representatives of the Directorate-General for Research.

I therefore do not consider another meeting opportune at this stage but would propose to envisage a meeting at a later stage, when further elements and policy developments could be discussed. Furthermore, the conference envisaged for 15-16 February 2007 will provide a good opportunity for further exchange of views between the Commission and the different interested parties in this process. I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,

