

## NEWS RELEASE



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 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 Open Science and the continued development of a wide-range of innovative solutions which help to advance Open Science. Whilst publishers ensure that science is reliable, efficient, and responsive to societal challenges, we believe that at the same time, science must be sustainable. Any transition of the scholarly communication system requires embargo periods that respect the distinct needs of the diverse scientific community and, that also guarantee the long-term economic viability of the system itself.

The majority (over 80%) of world's research is still published under the subscription model. A transition to "immediate" open access by default by 2020 will present both costs and wider consequences to the scholarly communication system. The upfront costs an immediate transition will need to be covered. 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.

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.

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 (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.

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.