

For Immediate Release

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STM response to the public consultation on reduced VAT rates for electronically supplied publications

The International Association for Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM) have responded to the European Commission's public consultation on reduced VAT rates for electronically supplied publications.

The consultation represents another step toward the EU Commission's goal of allowing EU Member States to apply zero, super reduced or reduced VAT rates to printed scientific journals and books in the digital environment. STM's response to the consultation reiterates the urgent need for this legislative change to VAT rates as a mechanism to support the further transition into a full digital environment in the academic and not-for-profit sectors.

STM submitted that the current high VAT rates are forming a barrier to realising the goals of the Digital Single Market project by being effectively a form of tax discrimination. Reducing VAT would provide direct benefit to the academic and not-for-profit sectors which are often not VAT exempt. Therefore lowered rates would assist with the further enhancement of the knowledge economy across Europe.

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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.