



The Director-General

Brussels,
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Kristen Kovach
IUPHAR Executive Officer

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Sent only by email

Dear Ms Kovach,

I would like to thank you for your email about Plan S.

I very much support the valuable work that professional and learned societies do for research, innovation, education and for society, in general. I am aware of the fact that the revenue generated by journals is often the main source of income of many of these societies. I take note of your concerns with regard to Plan S.

Open access is one of my priorities and one of the core elements of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. As such, I welcome Plan S and the coalition of research funders committed to the transition to immediate open access to scientific publications. The Impact Assessment on Horizon Europe published by the Commission in June 2018 (before the launch of Plan S in September 2018), already announced that Article Processing Charges (APCs) would be eligible for purely open access publishing venues, i.e. not hybrid journals.

The Commission believes that research institutions and Member States that negotiate subscription and open access deals with publishers are best positioned to cover the open access publication fees of hybrid journals, as illustrated by the 'offsetting agreements' for open access that some publishers may offer to institutions in the frame of subscriptions to their journals. The Commission does not interfere with researchers' choice in publishing venues. In Horizon Europe, beneficiaries will be able to publish in hybrid journals; however, they would have to find alternative sources to cover APCs. Until there is an effective way to verify that by supporting APCs for hybrid journals the Commission would not be paying for what could potentially be already paid under institutional agreements, authors publishing in hybrid journals would need to comply to their Horizon

Europe open access obligation through self-archiving in repositories which does not incur any costs.

My services are currently working on the further definition on the Horizon Europe policy on open access. I look forward to working with you on further developing and implementing Open Science policy in the European Union.

Yours faithfully,



Jean-Eric Paquet

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