



Towards a European Policy on Open Access

José C. Cotta

Head of Unit 'Digital Science'

**Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content &
Technology (DG CONNECT)**

14 November 2012

Conférence des Présidents d'Université (CPU)

Club des Organismes de Recherche Associés (CLORA), Brussels

Policy objective

The EU wants to optimise the impact of publicly-funded scientific research

- At European level in Horizon2020
- At Member State level

Expected impacts:

- Better science (build on previous results)
- More efficient science (avoid duplication)
- Economic growth (accelerated innovation)
- Improved transparency (involving citizens & society)

One way to get there: open access (OA) to scientific information

OA = online access at no charge to the user

- to peer-reviewed scientific publications
- to research data

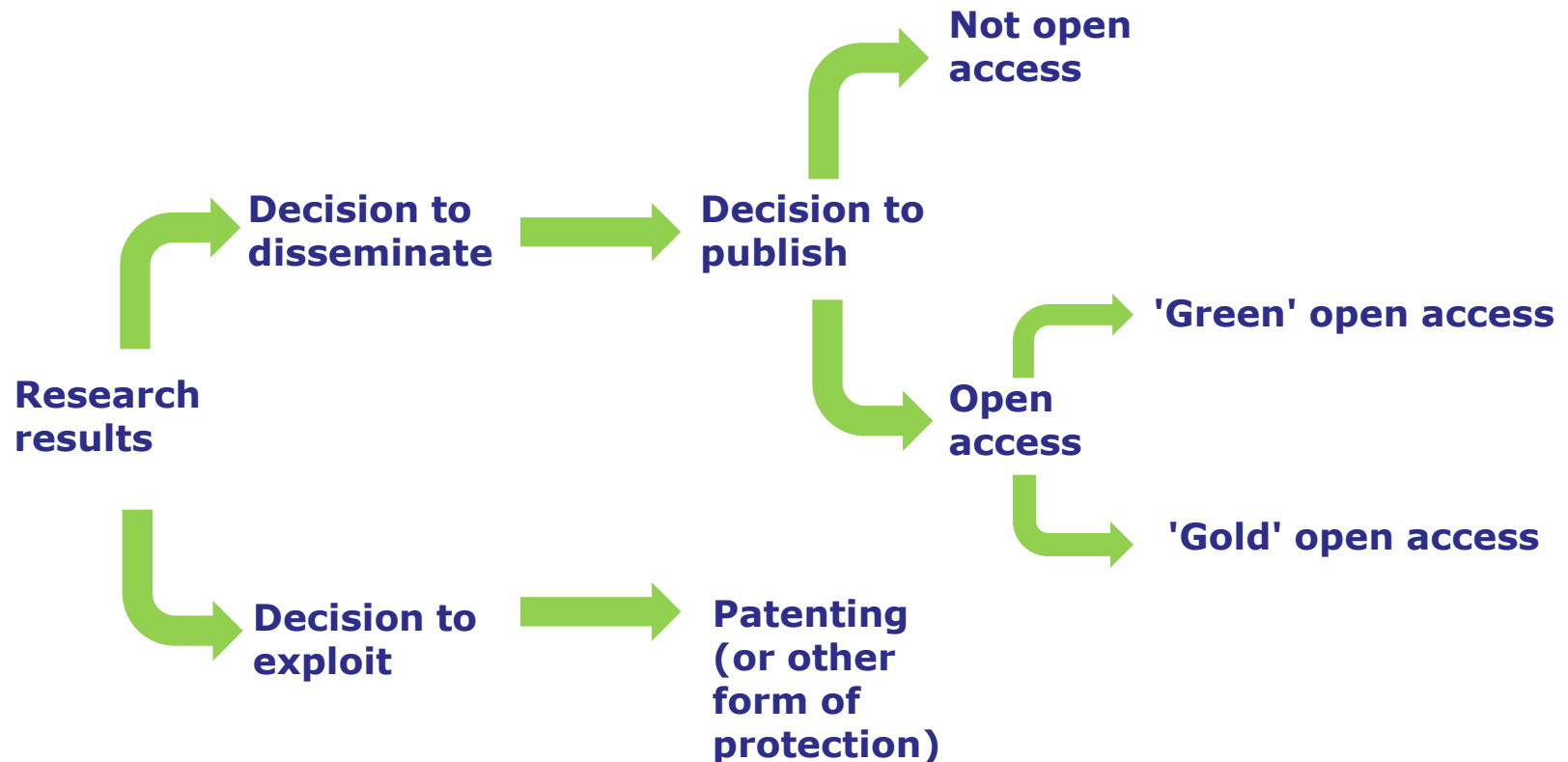
For publications:

- OA comes after a decision to publish
- OA does not interfere with patenting

Two main OA publishing business models

- **Gold OA**: costs covered by authors → **immediate OA**
- **Green OA**: deposit of manuscripts → **delayed OA**

Dissemination and Exploitation



Expected benefits of open access

- Results of publicly funded research can be disseminated more broadly and faster for the benefit of:
 - researchers
 - industry
 - citizens
- Equal access across Europe and beyond
- Drive down the costs of dissemination without sacrificing quality



European
Commission

EU politics are complicated...



<http://ec.europa.eu/>



<http://consilium.europa.eu/>



<http://europarl.europa.eu/>



European
Commission

...aren't they?

The College of Commissioners

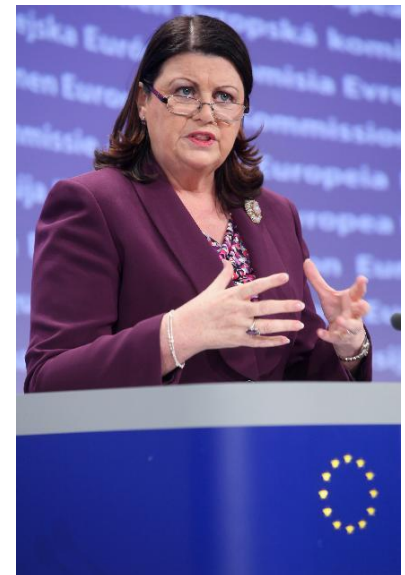


Digital Agenda



Neelie Kroes

Research & Innovation



Máire Geoghegan-Quinn

The European Commission is a...

Policy maker

- Proposes EU legislation
- Legislates with other EU institutions
- Invites Member States to act

Funding agency

- Sets access and dissemination rules for EC-funded research
- Research Framework Programmes (next: Horizon2020)

Capacity builder

- Funds infrastructure projects relevant for open access and Digital Science
- Funds projects that support EC policy



Open access in FP7

2007: Communication and Council Conclusions

2008 OA Pilot in FP7

- 7 areas (>1300 projects to date); 20% of FP7 budget (2007-2013)



OA publishing costs are eligible in FP7

- Since the beginning of FP7, for all projects
- Limited to duration of project



OpenAIRE

- EU-funded portal giving access to repositories across Europe (implements FP7 Pilot)



European Research Area

- **Development since 2000: a Europe-wide space or 'single market' for research and innovation in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely**
- **Latest developments: 2012 Communication from the Commission 'A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth' (COM(2012) 392, 17.7.2012)**
 - Action area: 2.5. Optimal circulation, access to and transfer of scientific knowledge
 - MS and stakeholder actions on **open access** and preservation
 - EC to establish **open access** to scientific publications as a general principle in Horizon 2020; experimentation with **open access** to data
 - MS and stakeholder actions related to the "Digital ERA", e.g. electronic identify for researchers, digital research services, e-infrastructures, etc.
 - Support activities to raise stakeholder awareness of **open access** and e-Science

Scientific information package

- Two texts (17.7.2012):
 - **Commission Communication (COM(2012)401):**
"Towards better access to scientific information:
Boosting the benefits of public investments in
research"
 - announces EC actions in Horizon 2020
 - **Commission Recommendation C(2012)4890** on
access to and preservation of scientific information
 - suggests actions for the MS
- Adopted together with ERA Communication "A Reinforced
European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and
Growth"

Communication: What is proposed for OA in Horizon 2020 ?

OA Pilot in FP7

- 'Best effort' to provide OA
- 7 areas
- Peer-reviewed publications
- Allowed embargos: 6/12 months

Green and
gold OA

OA *mandate* in H2020

- **Obligation** to provide OA
- **All areas**
- Peer-reviewed publications
- Allowed embargos: 6/12 months
- **In addition: pilot for research data (details to be defined)**



OA publishing costs

- Eligible while project runs

Gold OA

OA publishing costs

- Eligible while project runs
- **In addition (TBC): possibility to cover publications after project end, conditions to be defined**

Pilot on open access to data

- To be developed during 2013
- Will take into account privacy, security issues, commercial interests
- Issues to consider:
 - What data? (underlying data, raw, data collections)
 - What areas? (ERC, FET, societal challenges, others?)
 - Where should data go?
 - Use and re-use / ownership
 - More than just access: data management & curation
- Process: internal and external consultations

Recommendation to the MS

- Member States to define policies for and implement:
 - OA to publications
 - OA to research data – taking into account data-specific concerns
 - preservation and re-use of scientific information
 - e-infrastructures
- Consistency between EU H2020 policy and MS policy
- Structured co-ordination of MS at EU-level and reporting
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue to be set up

In summary ...

- Open access & related measures: a means to improve knowledge circulation and thus innovation in Europe.
- Open access to publications: a general principle in H2020. Both 'Green' and 'Gold' open access measures should be promoted in Europe.
- Open access to data: a pilot will explore possibilities and fully take into account privacy, security and commercial interests.
- EU Member States are at different stages → need to get to the same speed and co-ordinate policies.



European
Commission

In the words of Vice-President Kroes:

"We spend hundreds of billions of euros on research in Europe and we need to make sure the results can have the largest possible impact ... The EU is placing European science as a global leader and giving taxpayers the value for money they deserve."

17 July 2012 press
conference



In the words of Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn:



Open access will ... boost Europe's innovation capacity and give citizens quicker access to the benefits of scientific discoveries."

*September 2012
Stakeholder meeting*



Thank you for your attention!

José C. Cotta

jose.cotta@ec.europa.eu