

**Young Scientists Council resolution of 5 September 2020  
on costs of the open access publications in the European Union (10/2020)**

*The Young Scientists Council, an advisory board of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland comprising scientists from various fields of science:*

- considering the free competition, which is a key element of an open market economy, as well as European Union competition policies, the transfer of knowledge and innovation ensures that competition should not be distorted in the internal market in the light of articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
- A. whereas ten main European public research organisations associated in the Coalition S have decided to support an open science policy, under which “all scholarly publications on the results from research funded by public or private grants provided by national, regional and international research councils and funding bodies, must be published in Open Access Journals, on Open Access Platforms, or made immediately available through Open Access Repositories without embargo\*”;
- B. whereas the market of scientific publications in Europe is dominated by a few publishers controlling the price conditions of open science publications. Not only these costs are variable and high – ranging from 2,500 to 4,000 USD (for the open access publications), excluding taxes – but also do not represent the actual market prices;
- C. whereas, if scientists working in the European Union have to pay for open access publications due to national open science policies, the public financial resources allocated to research will be ultimately reduced, presuming no additional financial support;
- D. whereas currently publication fees are being paid singly by particular European scientific institutions, what weakens their position in negotiations with scientific publishers;

*Seen in this light:*

1. appeals for a common European policy on the costs of open access publications to create equal, transparent, non-discriminatory financial framework bringing terms and conditions of these costs for all scientific institutions in the European Union;
2. appeals to the European Commission for intervening on distorting practices in the creation of publication fees by leading scientific publishers. These fees do not correspond to the actual costs of publication procedures;
3. appeals to the European Commission to negotiate access to the open access publications for European scientists with leading scientific publishers. This access should cover an equal pan-European subscription concluded with particular publishers. A single European subscription, negotiated and paid by the European Union, would have a positive impact on pricing policy;
4. instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Commission, the Commissioner of Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, the European Parliament, as well as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, the Minister of Science and Higher Education of Poland, Polish members of the European Parliament and the President of the European People's Party.

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\*The Plan S Principles on the Coalition S:

[www.coalition-s.org/addendum-to-the-coalition-s-guidance-on-the-implementation-of-plan-s/principles-and-implementation/](http://www.coalition-s.org/addendum-to-the-coalition-s-guidance-on-the-implementation-of-plan-s/principles-and-implementation/)

President of the Young Scientists Council



dr Piotr Wojtulek