

Science Europe Press Release: *for immediate release*

New Copyright Communication: Science Europe Welcomes the EC Stand on Content Mining

(Brussels, 9 December 2015) Science Europe welcomes the European Commission's position on Text and Data (Content) Mining in its new Communication '*Towards a modern, more European copyright framework*', released today.

As the association of major European research funding and performing organisations, Science Europe had been advocating for a future 'research-friendly copyright law' over the past year, and in particular for the necessity of a broad mandatory provision ensuring that Text and Data Mining (TDM) for research purposes – meaning techniques which allow the search and analysis of the steadily-growing amounts of digitally available content – does not infringe copyright.

By stating that it will consider legislative proposals "*in order to allow public interest research organisations to carry out text and data mining of content they have lawful access to, with full legal certainty, for scientific research purposes*", the Commission is taking an important step towards contributing to improvements of the scientific environment.

As Science Europe pointed out in a briefing paper published last April ('*Text and Data Mining and the Need for a Science-friendly EU Copyright Reform*': scienceeurope.org/urls/tdm), "*TDM is regarded as a driver for improving the performance of all sciences*", by both enabling new research methods and hence facilitating insight that cannot be gained without the use of TDM techniques, and thereby accelerating already existing research processes.

"Progress has been made with this Communication; safeguarding an exception for research is a significant step in paving the way to efficiently exploit the potential of the mining technologies" said Christoph Bruch, Adviser at the Helmholtz Association Open Science Co-ordination Office and lead author of the Science Europe paper. *"It is now crucial that the upcoming legislative process builds on what has been announced in this Communication, by making the TDM exception mandatory and by defining the concept of 'public interest research organisations'"*.

Science Europe is an association of major European research funding and research performing organisations in 27 countries, established in 2011 to promote the collective interest of its members and to foster collaboration between them. For more information, see www.scienceeurope.org.

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