

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Colleagues

Could I begin by welcoming you to Brussels - for those of you that have travelled from afar - and by thanking you for taking the time to attend this working breakfast?

The main purpose of this breakfast is to see how innovation in publishing can contribute to furthering research excellence and innovation in general.

My introductory remarks briefly touch on 3 key areas. These are

the need to ensure scientific publications of real quality,

secondly, the use of new technologies in the drive to further excellence and cooperation between the top researchers,

and finally, the use of new technologies as a tool in their own right (and not simply a support for traditional printed media)

Quality of EU Publications

1) I know that the EU-27 is the single largest producer of scientific publications in the world (EU 37%, USA 31%). However, the EU contributes less to high impact publications and, at the moment, there is phenomenal

growth in scientific publication in China (which has more than doubled in the last six years) and which is now larger than the Japanese contributions in the field.

One of the indicators of the success of H2020 will be that Europe maintains its lead in publishing but outdoes the USA in so far as high impact publications are concerned. To that end, we need to devote as much energy as possible to financing and designing appropriate EU research programmes but we also need to liaise with the publishing industry, something that, I hope, we are actually doing at the moment.

*Electronic Media Based Scientific
Publication*

2) Turning now to my second point, the situation of scientists with regard to publication is somewhat particular. In order to further our research, we require a network of reputable, reliable and internationally recognised publication outlets.

Our interest in this world - by comparison with that of artists and authors - is not commercial. Indeed, we often actually have to pay for publication ourselves, rather than the other way around.

In this respect, were it possible - through the new electronic media - *to create similar reputable, reliable and internationally recognised outlets for publication* this would be a highly desirable development. Facebook already gives an idea of the kind of thing I am thinking of. This of course involves considerations of how to monetise this activity.

This is one thing that I wonder about: would it be possible - through the electronic media - to create an outlet for high quality research that was properly peer reviewed, that was really innovative and excellence orientated?

Use of New Technologies Creatively

3) As for making full use of the resources that the new electronic media make possible, publishers of scientific literature will also, of course, have to adapt to this new, emerging reality. For the moment, it sometimes seems they are seeking to preserve the legal frameworks and copyright legislation of the last century in this new world.

Moreover, they are certainly making use of the new technology but, so far, many have tended to simply upload book format texts onto the internet and have not fully thought through how best to exploit the new technological opportunities.

This being said, some have shown an ability to innovate and *Nature* - whose Veronique Kiermer will shortly be speaking - stands out in this respect. We need more initiatives of this sort.

Well, I hope that these three ideas will serve to stimulate our forthcoming conversations, and, having said this, let me hand you over to our speaker, Veronique Kiermer from the Nature Publishing Group.