

**Question for written answer E-007183/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Open-access scientific publishing

Commission Regulation No 2012/417/EU encouraged the publication of results obtained through publicly-funded scientific research in line with the principle of open access, by which scientific information is made available for access free of charge around the world. Owing to the current economic crisis, a number of state universities and institutions in Spain have had to go without subscriptions to publications so as to ensure they comply with the economic criteria laid down in the austerity policies, which has prevented researchers from accessing scientific results not published in this format. Furthermore, the cost per article accessed in such publications is very high, making them very difficult to afford in view of the low budgets currently available.

Is the Commission satisfied with the results of its recommendation? How does it think the current climate might affect the differences that already exist between the Member States in terms of accessing scientific information?

Is there any existing initiative aimed at publishing and maintaining peer-reviewed scientific publications on an open-access basis, available free of charge to the public?