

**Question for written answer E-000385/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Sandra Pereira** (The Left)

Subject: Open access to scientific publications (II)

In its reply to a previous question (E-000587/2022)<sup>1</sup> on open access to scientific publications, the Commission sets out the efforts it makes to provide open access to scientific and academic publications, stating that public funds can be allocated to cover the necessary costs.

Recent data shows that the cost of publishing is going up and up. It is a source of business for the sector's publishers. In 2022, one in four scientific articles in Portugal published by the five largest scientific publishers paid publication fees.

For scientists and researchers, metrics like 'impact factor' are what causes the problem. Evaluation systems used for science funding place too great an emphasis on impact factor, at the expense of other aspects. Researchers feel obliged to publish because funding hinges on publications. Although access to those academic articles is then free, publication itself uses allocated public money.

1. What does the Commission make of publishers' making money from public funds and the work of researchers and revisers?
2. Is the Commission, alongside the scientific community, willing to promote other impact factors that also acknowledge research results?

Submitted: 6.2.2024

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2022-000587-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2022-000587-ASW_EN.html)