

Attention: news desks/science and education correspondents

For immediate release

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EUA welcomes EC proposal for Copyright Directive, but calls for more clarity

The European University Association (EUA) has published its response to the European Commission's recent proposal for a Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market. [In the statement](#), EUA welcomes the proposal but stresses the need for further clarification and dialogue to make European copyright laws efficient, future-proof and innovation-friendly.

EUA describes the [Directive](#), proposed on 14 September 2016, as an important step towards more modern copyright laws for the digital age, fair remuneration of authors, and more transparency and balance in the publishing system. EUA particularly appreciates the three mandatory exceptions for research based on text and data mining (TDM); for cross-border off-site education; and for the preservation of cultural heritage.

As anticipated in EUA's February 2016 [response](#) to the Commission's December 2015 [communication](#) on a modernised framework for copyright, the Association urges the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to implement seven recommendations for the benefit of education, research and innovation in Europe. The recommendations were formulated by [EUA's Expert Group on "Science 2.0/Open Science"](#), chaired by EUA Council member and former EUA Board member Professor Jean-Pierre Finance.

"The current proposal remains silent on open access to publications, data and teaching materials," explains Finance, "while easy accessibility would improve the quality of research and stimulate its valorisation in academia and beyond."

"Providing innovators, educators, students and researchers with more legal certainty on the rights and duties linked to the use of materials is a seminal step forward," explains David Drewry, EUA Vice-President and Chair of the [Research Policy Working Group \(RPWG\)](#). "However, we need to foster collaboration among citizens, researchers outside academia and fledgling commercial organisations, like spin-offs and start-ups, thus the exception for TDM has to be broadened."

To see the "EUA response to the European Commission proposal for a Directive on copyright in the Digital Single Market," [please click here](#).

To see the Commission "Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on copyright in the Digital Single Market," [please click here](#).

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The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 33 national rectors' conferences (NRCs). The EUA Council is made up of the president, the members of the Board, and of the presidents of all of Europe's NRCs. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.