

# **Open Access and the Plan S: Noble idea, overhasty implementation? A Chemists point of view**

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# Comments on the Status Quo

- **The current publishing systems has ist benefits**
  - It is well established and accepted
  - It guarantees a broad selection of options to publish
  - It secures scientific quality
  - Publishers are trustworthy
- **The current publishing systems has ist flaws**
  - Costs
  - Objectivity of peer reviewing system

# The Plan S – A premature release?

Plan S launched on September 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

**“After 1 January 2020 scientific publications on the results from research funded by public grants provided by national and European research councils and funding bodies, must be published in compliant Open Access Journals or on compliant Open Access Platforms.”**

- Consists of additional 10 bullet points
- Some of these are suitable to create great insecurity in the scientific community
- Details on how it will look like in reality are not available
- **However, it starts already 1.1.2020**

# The Plan S – Our major concerns

- **Open access is a revolution in the publishing system**
- **A revolution needs to be well prepared and well communicated**
- Many scientist are unsettled due to several points mentioned in the Plan S
  - **Ban of hybrid journals** (most journals in the chemistry and generally natural science community would not be accepted including Science and Nature
    - **Alternatives** of similar quality and reputation are **not available**
    - **Researchers are evaluated** in grant applications inter alia **by the number of publications in prestigious journals**, on the other hand, in the current status the **Plan S forbids publishing in such journals...**
    - What will be the effect on publishing with cooperation partners outside Coalition S?
  - **Sanctions** are mentioned, what will they look like?

# The Plan S – Our major concerns

**“In case such high quality Open Access journals or platforms do not yet exist, the Funders will, in a coordinated way, provide incentives to establish and support them when appropriate; support will also be provided for Open Access infrastructures where necessary;”**

- Have all fields been identified where this is necessary?
- How should it be possible to create a high quality open access journal within a year?
- How much longer will it take to gain reputation?

**Will the careers of a considerable part of European Scientists be sacrificed?**