

Good Morning

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me begin by welcoming you to the European Parliament and by thanking you for having taken the time to attend this meeting at such an early hour. Let me also thank Mr Thierry Van der Pyl and our different speakers for having agreed to give the different points of view of the main stakeholders.

By way of introduction to our discussion today, I shall briefly outline the state of play in the Parliament with regard to H2020. I shall then go on to give an overview of the stakes involved in open access research before finishing with a short cry from the heart with regard to the negotiations over the budget for the period 2014-2020.

So, let me first give you an idea of the state of play with regard to H2020 in the Parliament. As things currently stand, H2020 underwent the second consideration of various amendments in the ITRE committee. The different reports will be voted on at the end of November (on the 28th in fact).

As for the stakes involved in open research, such research will create significant benefits for Europe's innovation capacity, but only if it is designed and implemented in an efficient and responsible manner.

Today, the main topics of discussion will be, in list form, how best to:

- Build a sustainable EU framework for open access to data;
- Secure funding for the implementation of open access policies;
- Support e-infrastructures to host and share scientific information;
- Ensure institutional support for researchers;
- Manage legal concerns in relation to privacy, commercial interests, intellectual property rights and so on.

Before finishing, let me say a few words about the pressure that we are currently experiencing to revise the budget.

As you may know, the MFF negotiations are still under way. In this context, the Cypriot Presidency has recently announced that *“all elements inside and outside the MFF, will have to be adjusted downwards”*. A decision on the final figures is

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Speech from Maria da Graça Carvalho

expected for the third week of November (between the 22nd and the 23rd).

These “adjustments” will inevitably have a considerable impact on the whole structure – and for that matter on the viability – of H2020. It is to be hoped that the different governments – and not least those with a reputation for academic excellence – will make an effort to attribute an at least adequate budget for H2020.

Well that is enough from me. However, before handing over to our first speaker Mr Thierry Van der Pyl, could I ask our speakers to introduce *yourselves* briefly before starting your talk? Could I also ask you to keep your talk to a maximum of 5 minutes so as to have enough time to answer the many questions that I am certain our audience are eager to ask?