Amsterdam, Netherland Academy of Sciences, 4th April 2016

Here are three points I will address:

1.
The major publishers are lobbying to impose the ‘Gold OA’ model where, in order to publish, authors or their institutions have to pay APCs to them, who fix the price at their convenience. Institutions should not negociate APCs with publishers as they were before negociating subscriptions without directly involving scientists. Indeed, the present oligopolistic situation of scientific publication is due to the fact that scientists, who do all the essential tasks (producing bew results, writing papers and peer-reviewing) are still maintained unconscious of the costs.

2.
The ‘Green OA’ model is the best solution to ensure a smooth transition from toll-access to open access. All publishers should follow the example of some academic societies (e.g., the American Physical Scociety) allowing authors to immediatly deposit the published version. Several European countries (e.g., Germany and France) are presently changing their copyright law to forbid or minimize the duration of the embargo period imposed. The European Union should follow these examples since embargos reduce and distort the dissemination of scientific articles.

3.
In 2012 our group 'The Cost of Knowledge' proposed an alternative model to 'Gold OA', where neither readers nor authors have to pay APCs. Inspired from the ‘Diamond Sutra’ of the British Library (printed in 868 in China), we called it ‘Diamond OA’. It is based on three principles:

– authors keep their copyrights and publish papers under a license CC-BY,

– editorial boards take the responsibility of the essential task of peer-reviewing and therefore owns the journal (its title and assets) while publishers are service providers and no more owners of journals,

– if a journal is recognised to be useful to scientific community and as long as its editorial board can prove good peer-reviewing practices, it is published for free using publishing platforms, which are publicly-owned and publicly-funded infrastructures using open source software, designed on the model of super-computing centres, for servicing a very large number of journals from different disciplines (e.g., SCIELO that exists since 1999 and publishes 1249 journals).