Nobel prize winners join calls to open research to all!

More than 12,000 academics including the Nobel
prizewinners have signed a petition urging the Euro-
pean Commission to make public-funded academic
research available free on the Internet.

A year ago the EC published an impact report
showing the price of scientific journals rose 200-
300% beyond inflation between 1978 and 1996.
The market, the study said, was worth up to £1.3bn
(US$2.2bn) a year.

The report recommended that the European Union
should follow the lead of many research funders
both public and private, and make research avail-
able to all. Academic Societies have already
sold their journals in a package deal with public
funders.

A spokesperson for the Association of British
Professional Society Publishers says: "Even open access
will need to be a gradual process. An initial con-
cession would be to publish in the full open access
version (but only the full version with all the
related material) in the full text, and then to allow
the publisher to charge for any additional user
services that the publisher deems necessary to
support the cost of the service."