Panel group 1 & 5

1. Organisational support for the European platform level action to support innovative efforts for a new scholarly communication framework.

5. Awareness system.

Which standards should be met by any organisation that could eventually take care of the co-ordination of the We dynamic development that scholarly communication-publishing is undergoing.
We need a completely new structure, a not-for-profit framework, where the new methods offered by modern ICT are used for increasing the possibilities and improving the mechanisms of scholarly communication, for the benefit of a more efficient scientific research.
Solving financial problems (the serials crisis) is not our first priority. OAI is offering us in the first place a new model for scholarly ***communication*** (which frees us from the publishers); ***publication*** as a scientifically validated activity should be considered to be an added-value, which requires extra expenses. The main purpose of our actions should be the improvement of the ***communication***!

Different stakeholders are involved:

- The academic community of researchers (authors and readers)
- The libraries as intermediaries and keepers of the archives
- The learned societies (e.g., as experts on certification)
- The universities and funding agencies who have to accept the publications as valid products
- The informaticians who develop and maintain servers, metadata tools, etc.. (It should be recognised that some technical requirements are very much discipline dependent, and may be quite different from the standard bibliographical requirements..)

Since no single organisation brings all these groups together, there is a clear need for a ***new co-operative structure*** with a good ***communication plan*** between these different levels. Furthermore, one should take into account that there is a great ***diversity*** between the needs and wishes of the different disciplines, meaning that one should never come up with a strict normative solution, but one should offer an ***open forum***, which can accommodate different possibilities.

It was felt that maybe the ideal solution right now is offered by SPARC's suggestion to start a European equivalent organisation, where we would have complete freedom in determining our own goals and methods (within the general SPARC spirit), and this eventually under LIBER's umbrella.

In our opinion, it would be wise to accept this invitation, to give the new organisation a new name (no suggestion was made) with “The European SPARC” as a subtitle. We do not necessarily see a membership structure for this organisation, although some form of funding would be necessary (sponsoring by individual institutes, by organisations, by the EU’s FP6, etc...; there must be plenty of opportunities to find financial support!).

• Write a clear ***statement*** about what we want to achieve, and see which European or local organisations want to subscribe this statement.

• In order to take account of the European diversity, look for ***regional representatives***, either as persons or as organisations. This will generate the necessary PR on the national level. The formation of such a network may generate some EU-money.

Apart from the co-ordination of the general activities necessary for the improvement of the scholarly communication mechanism (i.e., e.g., the set-up of e-print servers), the following ***activities*** were suggested:

- Extend the ***examples*** of the existing initiatives (like PhysNet, Math-Net,..).
- Concentrate on the specific problems posed by the ***European*** situation: ***diversity*** of languages, of regional cultures, of different legal systems,…
- Follow closely the evolution in the ***peer review*** system. Find and stimulate the use of alternative metrics for evaluating paper quality. Support alternative ways of peer review, whenever the commercial publisher continues to make abuse of his monopoly. Force ISI to include peer-reviewed electronic publications in their citation database.

• Write an ***action plan*** for lobbying the university bodies (e.g. through the European Rectors Federation) and the individual researchers (i.e. traditionally SPARC)