



Brussels, 22.2.2019
C(2019) 1655 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22.2.2019

**adopting Creative Commons as an open licence under the European Commission's
reuse policy**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 249 thereof,

Having regard to Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents,

Having regard to Commission Decision C(2013)573 final of 5 February 2013 conferring on the Directors-General and Heads of Service the power to take decisions on the reuse of Commission documents and setting the terms and conditions thereof in accordance with the provisions of Decision 2011/833/EU,

Whereas:

- (1) Decision 2011/833/EU enshrines the principles of reusability with regard to Commission documents and establishes the rules governing its corporate reuse policy;
- (2) Within the wider context of the European public sector information agenda, the Commission seeks to further realise the full potential of the information society also by increasing the legal interoperability and reusability of its own documents;
- (3) Emerging digital technologies represent an opportunity to modernise and further improve the effectiveness of the reuse policy, with particular regard to digital documents and data;
- (4) Under Article 6 of Decision 2011/833/EU, Commission documents shall be made available under an open licence setting out conditions explaining the rights of reusers and, in accordance with Article 11 thereof, those conditions shall be non-discriminatory for comparable categories of reuse;
- (5) Under Article 12(3) of Decision 2011/833/EU, the terms of an open licence shall be settled in agreement by the Directors-General responsible for the same Decision and for the administrative execution of decisions related to intellectual property rights at the Commission, after consultation of an inter-service group;
- (6) DG CNECT and the Joint Research Centre, as the aforementioned Directors-General, having assessed various options for an open licence. After consulting with an inter-service group, they consider the adoption of Creative Commons as an open licence as opportune and compatible with the principles and objectives of the reuse policy under Decision 2011/833/EU;
- (7) As a complementary measure — and acknowledging the intrinsic differences between different categories of documents — the aforementioned Directors-General consider that specific documents, such as raw data resulting from instrument

readings, bibliographic data and other metadata, may be released into the public domain in order to achieve the maximum degree of reusability by the general public.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Public License (CC BY 4.0) is adopted as an open licence for the Commission's reuse policy under Article 6 of Decision 2011/833/EU.

Article 2

Without prejudice to the preceding article, raw data, metadata or other documents of comparable nature may alternatively be distributed under the provisions of the Creative Commons Universal Public Domain Dedication deed (CC0 1.0).

Done at Brussels, 22.2.2019

For the Commission

Vladimír ŠUCHA

Director-General

Directorate-General Joint Research Centre