

Brussels, 5 november 2008

**TOWARDS THE END OF THE TRANSLATION SERVICE:
COMMISSION DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE QUALITY OF DOCUMENTS**

Commission translators will be requested to translate documents into another language in addition to those in their mother tongue (for which they were recruited). As from 1 November, the Directorate-General for Translation decided that Greek translators would no longer only translate documents into Greek but they should also translate from Greek into English. Spanish translators will not only be obliged to translate texts into Spanish, but should also translate from Spanish into French.

This is a new attack aiming to weaken multilingualism and the Commission Translation Service. What will be the result of this operation?

Will translation costs be reduced? NO! Greek and Spanish translators rightly request that their texts be revised by the English and French departments. Those departments have already declared that they need three times longer to revise a text written by non Anglophone/French-speaking persons than to directly translate it.

Will there be an improvement in translation quality? NO! It is not logical to ask translators to certify the final quality of their translations in a foreign language. The result will be that the quality of this translation will be average (or even bad) and services will have to suffer the consequences created by the lower quality of translated documents.

Do the new tasks match the translators' training? NO! Commission translators learned to translate into their mother tongue. The new tasks required will not therefore be guaranteed by their university training. In Spain, for example, translating into a foreign language is not included in the curriculum or in university training programs for translators.

Does the new competence comply with the requirements of the job description? NO! No Commission translator passed a competition in which this competence was necessary. Even the most recent competition for translators, which was completed last year, did not envisage in its notice that potential applicants should have this competence.

TAO-AFI supports Greek and Spanish translators who have jointly REFUSED to carry out these new tasks and asks Commissioner Orban to intervene immediately TO REMOVE this translation system which is an attack on European multilingualism.

Cc: MM Vice-president Kallas, Commissioner Orban, Director-General Chêne (ADMIN), CCP
The Executive Committee: Mr Colling, Simone R., K. Kalossakas, D. Mormile, J. Nijssen, A. Quijano-Llorens, I. Vallas

Bulletin d'adhésion à la TAO-AFI à renvoyer J-79 1/37

Membership application to TAO-AFI to be sent back to J-79 1/37

NOM / SURNAME: Prénom / Firstname: N° ident. :

Adresse admin. address : Tel. : Date :

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