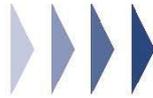




20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year



## Institute of Translation and Interpreting

Fortuna House, South Fifth Street, Milton Keynes, MK9 2EU, UK

Tel: 01908 325250 Fax: 01908 325259

Email: [info@iti.org.uk](mailto:info@iti.org.uk) Web: [www.iti.org.uk](http://www.iti.org.uk)

### Report on Meeting of European T/I Associations

21 April 2007

The Rembrandt Hotel, London, UK

Number of participants: 25  
Number of associations represented: 19  
Number of countries: 16

The meeting, chaired by Catherine Greensmith (Chairman, ITI), began at 10.45 a.m.

**Item 1: Welcome** by Catherine Greensmith, followed by a brief round of introductions of those attending. Terry Oliver (ADÜ Nord) presented apologies from Natascha Dalügge-Momme, who was unable to attend due to her association's own birthday conference, and said he was therefore representing ADÜ Nord. Sandro Corradini, (President, AITI) was unable to attend because of a last-minute flight cancellation and sent his apologies.

**Item 2: The draft agenda was approved**, with the addition of two items for Any Other Business:

- Cooption of replacement member for FIT Council
- Trans-border internships

In response to requests for a volunteer, Terry Oliver (ADÜ Nord) agreed to prepare a brief summary of the meeting for distribution to participants and observers.

**Item 3: Outline of Brussels meeting.**

Agnès Feltkamp (Belgian Chamber) gave a brief run-down on the topics covered at the meeting in Brussels on 3 February 2007.

- Standards for translators (new European, future ISO)
- Standard for interpreters (future ISO)
- EU plans for database of interpreters (including recordings)
- Admission criteria of European associations
- Codes of ethics/conduct of European associations
- Need to improve communication between associations

**Item 4: Overview of arbitration structures**

Chris Durban (SFT) gave a brief introduction to the pros and cons of arbitration procedures. On the one hand associations could be a great provider of expertise; on the other, arbitration tended to be a lose/lose situation. A quick survey of the associations present showed that most associations had structures in place, but these were largely dormant. The main exception here was Belgium, which reported several arbitration cases in recent years.

There was unanimous agreement on a proposal by João Esteves-Ferreira (FIT-Europe) that European associations be invited to send their arbitration rules to FIT-Europe for inclusion on the website. These could be submitted in the original language with a summary in English and/or French.

**Item 5: FIT-Europe mission statement and organisational consequences**

João Esteves-Ferreira asked the European associations for feedback on a draft mission statement which was to be submitted and discussed at the FIT-Europe Steering Committee meeting that afternoon. No clear deadline was given, but comments were requested "before the summer holidays". The steering committee would set up a working group to assess the feedback and make any necessary amendments to the mission statement.

Alan Wheatley stressed that a European level within FIT was essential for representing and coordinating the interests of European associations.

The question of existing **structures and fees** was raised by several participants. Since the bylaws made provision for voluntary fees, no problem was seen here at present. Changes might become necessary depending on the conclusions reached by the mission statement working group.

The participants agreed that the working group should consider whether it would be appropriate to maintain, adapt or change the existing bylaws and structure.

The question of FIT-Europe's **rules and regulations** was raised. After a brief discussion, FIT-Europe was asked to consider providing relevant information on its website.

#### **Item 6: Report by certification working group**

John Graham (ITI/Aticom) gave a brief introduction to the development of the new European standard for translation service providers (TSPs) and outlined the issue of conformity and certification. He explained the purpose of the working group's recommendations on certification criteria, which were handed out to the members present. The recommendations were to be submitted to FIT-Europe Steering Committee that afternoon and would shortly be distributed to all European associations and placed on the FIT-Europe website. European associations were strongly requested to ensure broad dissemination of the document.

The participants warmly thanked the working group members (John Graham, ATICOM (Germany), Jackie Reuss, SFT (France) and Eva Leitner, Universitas (Austria) for their work.

Volunteers were requested for the task of translating the English recommendations into French (ASTTI, CBTIP, SFT ?). Chris Durban said she would investigate the possibilities within SFT.

#### **Item 7: Progress reports on other European projects (FIT-Europe SC members)**

Reiner Heard (Aticom) reported that some **codes of ethics**/conduct had been received and were being analysed, but more were needed before any meaningful synthesis could be attempted with a view to drafting a basic European code. The codes received had been uploaded to the FIT-Europe website.

Javier Sancho (ASETRAD) reported similar results for the "**bad payers**" project and drew attention to the information already on the FIT-Europe website.

Terry Oliver (ADÜ Nord) reported on behalf of Natascha Dalügge-Momme that the **admission criteria** project was making good progress, but more contributions were needed.

#### **Item 8: Copyright and intellectual property of TMs and termbases**

Javier Sanchez and João Esteves-Ferreira drew attention to the problem of intellectual property and copyright in connection with translation memories and terminological databases. It was hoped to hold a one-day seminar on this topic in Barcelona, probably in October 2007. Several participants made the point that this event should not be confined to translators, but should also involve relevant people from outside the profession. There was a unanimous request that FIT-Europe SC ask for a meaningful FIT contribution towards the costs of such event.

#### **Item 9: Run-up to Shanghai 2008**

Agnès Feltkamp pointed out that the cost of sending one or more representatives to Shanghai could be prohibitive for the smaller associations. She suggested that associations might share the cost by sending joint representatives. João Esteves-Ferreira noted that the latest FIT rules allowed any member association at the closed congress to have up to two proxy votes in addition to its own vote.

FIT-Europe was asked to mail all European associations drawing attention to the relevant possibilities and asking associations to make sure that they used their vote, at least by proxy, and to centralize information on this. Agreeing to this, João Esteves-Ferreira pointed out that this was an internal matter and would not appear on the website, which was public.

#### **Item 10: New category of ITI membership (Police & Court Interpreter)**

Alan Wheatley reported that a new agreement had been reached in the UK on police and court interpreters, with provisions on how they should be recruited and the rates, terms and conditions for their work. To take account of this, a new ITI membership category had been set up. Details on ITI website.

## **Item 11: Next meetings**

João Esteves-Ferreira listed the following, after various consultations prior to the meeting:

- FIT-Europe Steering Committee would meet that afternoon (observers possible)
- The Barcelona Copyright event (see Item 8) in October 2007 might be the next good opportunity for an informal European meeting
- The last good opportunity for an informal European meeting before Shanghai 2008 would probably be the AITI meeting in Italy in May 2008.
- There must also be a FIT-Europe General Assembly in 2008, date and venue to be decided later

## **Item 12: Any Other Business**

### *Cooption of replacement member for FIT Council*

Chris Durban (SFT) explained that SFT had withdrawn its support for its member on FIT Council and had nominated Sabine Colombe for cooption as a replacement. She asked the European associations present to support this nomination.

### *Cross-border internships*

Chris Durban pointed out that in many cases companies and institutions were more ready to offer internships to native speakers of foreign languages than to their own nationals. She urged associations to look into ways and means of facilitating such contacts. Terry Oliver pointed out that while FIT-Europe could help with communication at a European level, it did not have the human, financial or time resources to assume an organising role here.

### *Working group on interpreters*

A need was voiced for a working group on interpreting issues at European level. It was decided this would include Catia Lattanzi (AITI), Natália Rószka (VÚD) and Annette Schiller (ITIA). This group was asked to first draw up a catalogue of issues identified and submit it to FIT-Europe SC within 3 months, together with any resulting recommendations or action proposals.

The meeting closed at approximately 12.40 p.m.

Terence Oliver, ADÜ Nord

1 May 2007

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
Meeting of European T/I Associations  
21 April 2007  
The Rembrandt Hotel, London, UK

**Chair:**

Catherine Greensmith – Chairman, ITI

**Participants**

Emanuel Bod - A.T.R, Romania  
Cristiana Coblis - A.T.R, Romania  
Fátima Dias – ATELP, Portugal  
Chris Durban – SFT, France  
Andrew Evans – ITI, United Kingdom + \*  
Agrès Feltkamp – CBTIP, Belgium  
Eyvor Fogarty – UTR, Russia  
John Graham – EN15038 Expert  
Reiner Heard – ATICOM, Germany +  
Per Lindegaard Hjorth – DUCLP, Denmark  
Clare Keller – ASTTI, Switzerland  
Terence Oliver – ADÜ Nord, Germany +  
Natália Rózsa – VÜD, Germany \*  
Javier Sancho Durán – ASETRAD, Spain +  
Annette Schiller – ITIA, Ireland  
Kath Starsmore – VZV, Netherlands  
Anni Therkelsen – DSAT, Denmark  
Alan Wheatley – ITI, United Kingdom  
Robert Williams – SFÖ, Sweden  
Kees van der Zwart – NGTV, Netherlands  
João Esteves-Ferreira – FIT Europe +

**Observers from other regions**

Latin America: Silvana Debonis – Vice-President, Colegio de Traductores Públicos de Buenos Aires

North America: Marian Greenfield – President, American Translators Association

Asia: Huang Youyi – Vice-President, Translators Association of China \*

+ FIT Europe Steering Committee Members

\* FIT Council Members