

# Report on Meeting of European T/I Associations

13 October 2007  
Barcelona, UPF

Number of participants:	16
Observers:	05
Number of associations represented:	17
Number of countries:	13

The meeting, chaired by Javier Sancho (Asetrad), was opened at 6:30 p.m.

## Item 1: Opening and introductions

Welcome by Javier Sancho, followed by a brief round of introductions of those attending.

## Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved, without modifications.

## Item 3: Briefing on London meeting

Andrew Evans (ITI) gave a brief run-down on the topics covered at the meeting in London on 21 April 2007, a successful event that had been attended by members or observers from China, North and Latin America and Europe.

Items covered:

- Arbitration structures.** The aim was to establish a European structure with a view to harmonising the various European associations' *modus operandi*.
- Bad payers.** The proposal consisted in ways to collect debts without taking legal action. The intention was to make the information generally available (on the FIT-Europe website, for instance).
- New category of ITI membership (police and court interpreter).** In the wake of the new agreement reached in the UK on police and court interpreters, a new ITI membership category was created. The subject nonetheless raised some controversy in connection with rates.

## Item 4: Comments on the FIT-Europe mission statement and organisational consequences

João Esteves-Ferreira (FIT-Europe) said that a draft mission statement had been circulated among the European associations for feedback before the "summer holidays".

In light of an observation submitted by AITI respecting interpreters, an working group on interpreters was created.

João Esteves-Ferreira reminded participants that the mission statement reads as follows: "to promote the status of European professional translators" ("*favoriser la situation des traducteurs professionnels en Europe*").

FIT-Europe's objectives are:

1. To coordinate the work performed by its member associations.
2. To be a hub for compiling and a vehicle for disseminating information on European translators' associations.  
\* Information provided by the associations is published on the FIT-Europe website.
3. To collectively represent European translators' associations (to European Institutions, for instance).
4. To adopt initiatives and make recommendations on specific issues (as done in respect of the European quality standard for translation services, EN 15038).
5. To foster among European translators the awareness that they belong to a specific professional community.
6. To harmonise European translators' rules and practices.
7. To promote the image of translators in Europe.

In reply to a question raised by Francesc Massana (TRIAC) with respect to the term "national associations", João Esteves-Ferreira noted that there may be one or more associations per country, all of which would be "national associations".

João Esteves-Ferreira likewise remarked in connection with FIT-Europe's situation vis-à-vis FIT that a single European voice within the federation was essential to representing European associations' interests.

He added that FIT funding of European projects, such as the recent Seminar, was insufficient (EUR 630) considering that most FIT members are European associations.

He pointed out that FIT has not increased its funding for FIT-Europe (USD 500 for 2007, nil in 2006) because it has other projects.

Terry Oliver (ADÜ Nord) observed that, under the FIT bylaws, voluntary contributions can be requested, but that this does not provide a reliable basis for planning.

Silvia Cerrella (ASTTI) then announced that her association would fund some of the projects under way, with a contribution of CHF 1000.

Some of the participants felt that voluntary contributions constituted only a provisional remedy to the funding problem, and expressed a need for a more formal basis, which might entail reform of the worldwide structure. They also suggested that European associations pay half of their FIT dues directly to FIT Europe. João Esteves-Ferreira stated that this would be rather a revolution than an evolution and requested that no radical measure be taken until Shanghai Congress.

#### **Item 5: FIT World Congress 2008, Shanghai. Arrangements for European representation: attendance, proxies and candidates**

João Esteves-Ferreira (FIT-Europe) reported that associations that were unable to attend the Congress could deliver proxies to those which are sure to attend. For the time being seven have already announced that they will be attending, i.e.: ITI / CBTIP/ SFT / AITI / ASTTI / ADÜ Nord / VDÜ.

FIT Europe was requested to circulate the list of principals and representatives by year-end 2007.

Several participants suggested that all the associations might contribute to funding the proxies' travel expenses, but no agreement was reached in this regard.

#### **Item 6: Overview of FIT-Europe activities**

Manfred Schmidt (VDÜ) briefly explained the interpreter's questionnaire that he had sent to Sandro Corradini (AITI) for review.

Manfred Schmidt left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Sandro Corradini (AITI) asked for volunteers for the interpreter project (court, community, public services and conference interpreters).

No further projects were tabled.

**Item 7: Associations' guidelines for FIT-Europe**

The associations proposed that FIT-Europe should follow the guidelines ensuing from its mission statement.

**Item 8: Revision of the 1963 FIT Translator's Charter**

Danuta Kierzkowska (TEPIS) explained that prior to Poland's membership in the European Union, recommended minimum fees were in place in her country, but that this practice contravenes EU competition law.

In light of this prohibition, she suggested that the solution may lie more in Professional Ethics than in such recommendations.

Dominique Pivard (SKTL) left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

João Esteves-Ferreira (FIT-Europe) suggested that the Polish representative contact him by email in connection with this item, for members cannot be required to establish fixed rates.

**Item 9: Sponsorship of a documentary film about St. Jerome and the modern translator**

Sandro Corradini (AITI) reported that a project was under way for a cultural film about St. Jerome and the modern translator. He proposed that FIT-Europe might support this initiative with a fund raising effort (about 15,000 euros would be needed).

Given that there are European funds available for cultural projects, FIT-Europe should explore the possibilities.

**Item 10: Date and place of next meeting**

Sandro Corradini (AITI) proposed to hold an informal meeting in Bologna, Italy in June 2008, after the AITI meeting.

João Esteves-Ferreira (FIT-Europe) noted that it would also be advisable to hold a meeting immediately after the worldwide congress in Shanghai to discuss FIT-Europe's future position with regard to FIT.

**Item 11: Any other business**

Francesc Massana (TRIAC) asked why FIT-Europe had approached only one member association, Asetrad, for in situ assistance with the recent seminar, to which João Esteves-Ferreira (FIT-Europe) replied that the intention had been to simplify organisational matters.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.20 p.m.

31 October 2007

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
Meeting of European T/I Associations  
13 October 2007  
Barcelona, UPF

**Chair:**

Javier Sancho – Chairman, Asetrad +

**Participants**

Patricia Alarcón – Chambre belge des traducteurs, interprètes et philologues, Belgium

Silvia Cerrellla Bauer – ASTTI, Switzerland

Cristiana Coblis – ATR, Romania

Sabine Colombe – SFT, France

Sandro Corradini – AITI, Italy

João Esteves-Ferreira – FIT Europe +

Andrew Evans – ITI, United Kingdom + \*

Reiner Heard – ATICOM, Germany +

Danuta Kierzkowska – TEPIS, Poland

Francesc Massana – TRIAC, Spain

Terence Oliver – ADÜ Nord, Germany +

Josep Peñarroja – ATIJC, Spain

Manfred Schmidt – VÜD, Germany

Perpetua Uiterwaal – NGTV, Nederland

Anne Verbeke – SFÖ, Sweden\*

**Observers**

Chris Durban – SFT, France

Agnès Feltkamp – CBTIP, Belgium

Monse Martín – TRIAC, Spain

Dominique Pivard – SKTL, Finland

Silvia Punzo – AITI, Italy

+ FIT Europe Steering Committee Members

\* FIT Council Members