

## **European Translation Platform**

### ***POSITION PAPER***

#### **Code of Practice for Translators, Interpreters and Translation Companies**

It will be recalled that in accordance with the instructions of the meeting of the European Translation Platform held on June 17, 1997, I wrote to translator, interpreter and translation company associations in Europe inviting them to submit (1) any codes of practice established by their association, and (2) any definitions they may have made of the various activities of the profession. A number of associations replied (listed in my report to the European Translation Platform meeting of April 20 1998, where a first draft of this document was presented). At the meeting of the European Translation Platform held on April 20, 1998 it was decided that a sub-committee, consisting of the secretary and one representative each of FIT, EUATC, CIUTI and SdT would proceed to elaborate a further draft, including provision for elements appertaining to translation companies, individual translators and training institutions, the details of such elements to be subsequently established by EUATC, FIT and CIUTI respectively, with possible additional elements, such as a code for sub-titling, produced by other bodies, and an outline of what might be included in a specification for translating or interpreting work, based on DIN 2345, which could be circulated to work-givers.

The sub-committee met in Paris on July 20, 1998, with those present being Liese Katschinka (FIT), Fernand Boucau (EUATC) and myself (apologies being received from the CIUTI and the SdT). It was agreed that there should be a general introduction incorporating such concepts as fidelity to the source text, confidentiality, the necessity for qualifications, and the need for a translator to possess competence appropriate to the task (which might include good knowledge of source and target language, translating skills, ability to use relevant equipment). Other points agreed at that meeting (reference to the desirability of Europe-wide recognition of diplomas, other standards to be quoted where relevant, the desirability of an appropriate Europe-wide certification system, the emphasis on the professional nature of our work, the importance of safeguarding translators' rights under copyright legislation and international agreements), have been incorporated into the new text, as has the order of sub-sections. The section on copyright is based on the first draft, which relied heavily on submissions by the UK Translators Association and the Finnish translators' association (SKTL), and on comments made by Liese Katschinka at the sub-committee meeting. I have added some points on translation memory as a consensus seems to be emerging on this point. As the European Translation Platform does not have an independent operating fund, we have not been able to take legal advice on copyright, but such advice is probably essential at some stage, and by some means, before publication.

*Geoffrey Kingscott, Secretary, European Translation Platform*