DG Translation

Helping the Commission communicate

- Centre of excellence in translation and multilingual communication
- Integral part of the legislative process
- Your partner in business
EU official languages over time
The legal basis

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

- Citizens have a right to address the official EU bodies in any of the EU’s official languages and to receive a reply in that language.

Council Regulation No 1/58

- Regulations and other documents of general application shall be drafted in the official languages.
Translation is part of the legislative process

- Translation is central to the legislative process
- Translation and editing contribute to better regulation
DG Translation

- ± 1700 highly trained native speakers
- Linguistic and thematic expertise
- State-of-the-art tools
Half of the DGT staff are posted in Brussels, another half in Luxembourg. In addition, a few dozens translators work at DGT Field Offices in the Member States.
1.76 million pages translated in 2012 working in 23 languages, now 24
Main document types 2012

- 1 EU law, including the legislative process: 36%
- 2 Guardian of the Treaties/Implementation of EU law: 18%
- 3 Correspondence: 15%
- 4 Political documents: 6%
- 5 Relations with other EU institutions: 1%
- 6 Communication, web, media, publications: 11%
- 7 Budget, budgetary procedure: 1%
- 8 Documents linked to international organisations and non-EU countries: 1%
- 9 Notices for publication in OJ: 2%
- 10 Commission working or internal documents: 3%
- 11 Other: 5%
Translation strategy
Communication SEC(2006)1489

- Balance between translation needs and available resources

- Length restrictions for:
  - Explanatory memoranda/Communications from/to the Commission/White Papers/working papers: 15 pages
  - Summary of impact assessments: 10 pages
  - Legislative financial statements: 4 pages
  - Green Papers: 30 pages
Requests with derogations represent between 0.4% and 4.6% (peak Nov 2012) of all requests, middle value 0.8%
Our products and services

- Efficiency for all
- Fit-for-purpose quality
- Reliability
- Stand-by on evenings and weekends
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Quality assurance

1. **Before translation:** editing of originals, Clear Writing campaign and training, preparatory work

2. **During translation:** consistent terminology, multilingual concordance

3. **After translation:** spot-checking; evaluation; feedback
Making a request

- **POETRY** – for "normal" translations
- **e-GREFFE** – for documents belonging to the Commission's decision-making process

A new machine translation system

- all the EU’s official languages
- used by EU institutions’ translators and other staff
- July 2013: in use by the whole Commission

➢ Does not replace human translation!
Clear Writing campaign

- Be concrete not abstract
- KISS! Keep It Short and Simple
- Cut out excess nouns
- Ask before you start: what, who, when, where, how, why, how much?
- DGT can help!
Useful contacts

Translation and summaries: DGT-DEMAND-INFO

Translation hotline: DGT-HOTLINE

Editing service: DGT-EDIT

Linguistic advice: DGT-EDIT-HELPLINE
Useful contacts (2)

Corrigenda: DGT-CORRIGENDA

Translation correspondent in your DG
For more details:
Thank you for your attention!