



Olga Cosmidou

Studies:


- 1988 - 1989 M.A. in International Relations, *Université Libre de Bruxelles*
- 1977 - 1978 Advanced Studies in Conference Interpreting, *University of Geneva*
- 1974 - 1977 Studies in Law, *Athens University*
- 1971 Diploma in Greek and French Literature, *Athens University*
- 1967 Diploma in French Teaching, *French Institute of Athens*

Professional experience:

- 2008 - 2014 Director-General for Interpretation and Conferences in the *European Parliament* (DG INTE)
- 1994 - 2007 Director of Conference Interpreting in the *European Parliament* (DG IFIN)
- 1980 - 1994 Head of Greek Interpreting Division in the General Secretariat of the *European Parliament*
- 1978 - 1980 Senior Lecturer at *Corfu University* (translation/interpretation)
- 1967 - 1980 Translator and freelance interpreter
- 1974 - 1976 Journalist presenting the French news on Greek radio and television
- 1971 - 1978 Translator for Greek railways
- 1965 - 1978 Language teacher (Greek, French)

Responsibilities as Director-General:

- Leading one of the most human-intensive DG's in the *European Parliament* (EP)
- Developing and implementing the multilingualism policy of the *EU*
- Coordinating with the highest policy-makers and decision-takers in designing and implementing the relevant services of the *EP*
- Organization of all conferences at the *European Parliament*, including technical, human and linguistic infrastructure
- Organization of all interpretation services of the *EP*
- Collective bargaining arrangements with trade union and staff representatives

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- Development and implementation of training, promotion and career schemes for staff
 - Contacts with the current and prospective EU Term Presidency in preparing the countries for Term-Presidency
 - Contacts with EU and non-EU countries on all aspects of the policy of multilingualism
 - Contacts with national policy-makers on all aspects of multilingualism, including highly sensitive political aspects such as the designation of national languages, status of minority languages, etc.
 - Contacts with local and international media in promoting the language policy of the EU, preparing countries for Term-Presidency, awareness-raising, dealing with controversial issues such as the budget of multilingualism, etc.

Training:

Senior-level management courses on negotiating skills, budget, grading, equality; courses in the *European Administration School* (Brussels, Maastricht, Milan, Barcelona); Salzburg seminar, *Stanford* seminar on „*Converting strategy into action*“; *Harvard* seminar on „*Leading change and organizational renewal*“.

Activities:

- Founding member of the association “*Amitié franco-hellénique*” (1968)
- Co-founding member of the *EMCI (European Masters in Conference Interpreting-1997)*
- Co-founding member of the *HINTS (Heads of Interpreting Services-2006)*
- Member of the board of In-Zone, platform of the *University of Geneva* for blended training of the refugees
- Various seminars, articles, interviews and conferences on interpretation, multilingualism, languages within the European Union, etc.