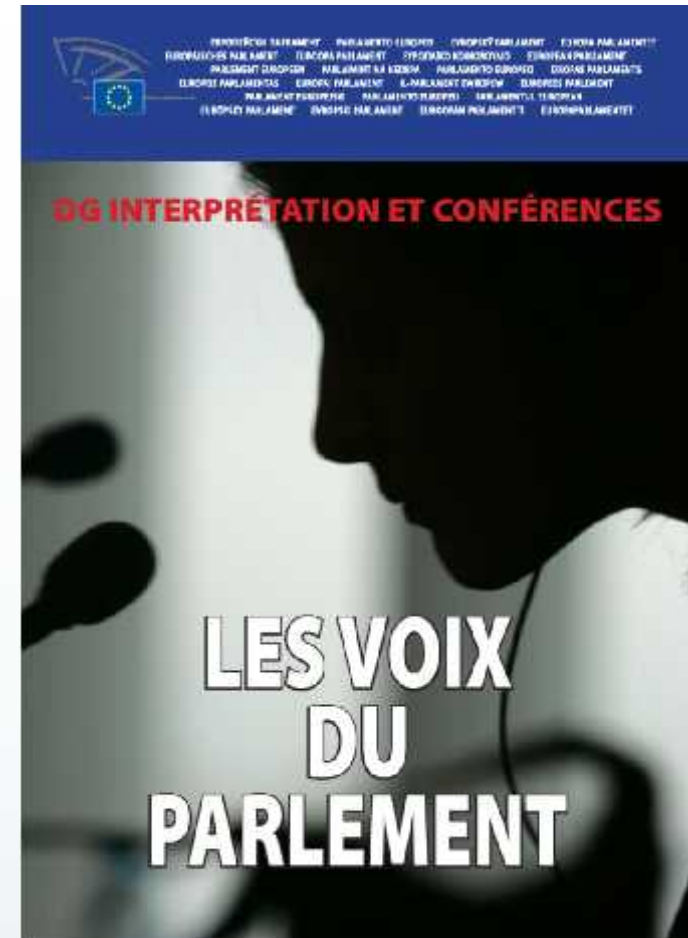




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Interpreters at work – a peek into a day (or two) at the European Parliament

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DG INTE, European Parliament





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Objectives



- To describe what it is like to interpret at the EP
- To highlight the challenges faced by interpreters daily
- To describe what technologies can be used to support interpreters



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Multilingualism in the EP:

- 24 language in our daily work plus non-EU languages (started with 4)
- Up to 552 language combinations (started with 12)
- Different modes (sim, cons)
- Multilingual interpreters
- Up to date conference technology
- Several places of work



A unique multilingual and political Institution



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Profile

- university degree
- training as conference interpreter
- interinstitutional test (freelance) or EPSO competition (civil servant)
- perfect command of mother tongue
- specific language profile
- good general knowledge



Interpreters at work

- 313 staff interpreters
- approx. 2800 accredited freelance interpreters
- 1488 of them worked for EP in 2015
- up to 1000 interpreters on site during Plenary Session
- teams of up to 69 members
- different types of meetings



PLENARY SESSION

05.07.2016 **LOWHEM (Strasbourg)** Team 16:00 - 18:30

Active languages: 24L

Passive languages: 24L

FR † DE GEOFFROY DE EN ES IT PT DUPONT EN ES IT NL HENDRICKX DA DE EN ES NL SV	DE † NGUYEN-TAT EN FR IT STRECKER EL EN ES FR IT NL PT WOLLBERG DA EN ES SV	IT † AQUINO DE EN ES FR HU NL PARASCANDOLO DE EN ES FR PT SV ZANNELLI EL EN ES FR PT	NL GOETHALS EN ES FR PT LAMBRECHTS DA DE EN FR MT VAN EYNDE-NEUTENS DE EN ES FI FR IT	EN † CAMERON DE FR IT NL CRAINE DE ES FR PT DORAN DE ES FR GA DORAN ES FR GA MINIER-SARMANTO DA ES FI FR NL	DA DAVIDSEN DE EN ES NL HENRIKSEN EN FR IT MEYER DE EN NL SV
EL GHINOS EN FR / EN PETROU EN FR IT PT TSAGARAKI DE EN ES FR NL	ES HOYOS DE EN FR HU IT RUSINOL VILA CA CS EN FR PT TEJERA DE EN FR NL	PT FALCAO DE EN ES FR NL SV FONSECA DE EN ES FR PAPPAMIKAIL EN ES FR IT	FI KALAJOKI DE EN FR SV KEKKONEN DE EN ES IT MEHTO-DAHAN ES FR / FR	SV CARLEN EN ES FR NORDBERG DA DE EN FI FR NL NO ROSELL EN FR IT	CS GROSS DE EN PL SK / EN HLAVACOVA EN FR IT SK REJHOLCOVA EN SK / EN
ET KLOCK DE EN / EN PODAR EN / EN PUSSIM DA EN FI FR	HU BONA EN FR GULYÁS DE EN FR / DE VOLFORD DE EN FR / DE	LT KUBERTAVICIUTE EN RU / EN MISERKEJEVAITE EN FR RU / EN PILKIS DE EN FR NL RU	LV BERZINA DE FR RU / DE GOBINS DE EN HU / DE JAKOBSONE EN	MT AGIUS EN ES / EN GERADA EN IT / EN PACE DE EN ES IT / EN	PL KARPINSKA EN FR IT KOKOSZYCKA DE EN / EN SKRZYPCZAK BG DE EN ES FR / EN
SK KRAJCIROVA CS DE EN FR / DE NOVAKOVA CS DE EN HU PL / DE POLACEK CS DE EN IT	SL HOCEVAR DE EN / DE KREMLJAK DE EN FR HR IT SR / DE ROMIC BS EN ES FR HR IT SR CG	BG FILIPOVA EN ES FR / EN HRISTOVA EN FR IT / EN STARIRADEV DA DE EN / EN	RO ALDEA EN FR / EN DRAGMIRESCU DE EN FR IT GHERASIM EN FR / EN	HR BARBIC-POROPAT BS EN IT SR CG / IT SUCUR PERISIC DE EN URAVIC EN IT / IT	GA
Retour info	from				
FR	FI				
EN	PL BG LT ET CS RO EL MT				
DE	LV SL SK HU				
IT	HR				



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What do we do on a daily basis?

Communicate meaning,
do not translate words

Workflows

Meeting specific (ad hoc)	General (systematic)
assignment	
documentation / research / brainstorming	
thematic briefing	thematic training
domain specific knowledge (ad hoc)	domain specific knowledge (systematic)
	general knowledge
specific terminology	(general) terminology
brainstorming on the spot	
	language maintenance
	language learning





Main challenges for the interpreter

- Speed, written speeches
- Different speakers / accents
- Confusion (e.g. names)
- Information overload
- Technicality
- Access to non-verbal information (e.g. layout, visibility)
- Obvious mistakes
- Highly complex and political environment
 - Complexity of legislative procedures
 - Coded style of political discourse
 - Lack of stable/consistent/predictable coalitions
- Fatigue
- Complacency versus curiosity





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The working environment of interpreters is changing...

- paper-smart strategy of the EP
- more dynamic workplace
- new possibilities offered by mobile technologies (e.g. tablets)
- reduced budgets and scarce resources call for more effectiveness and efficiency at work
- technology helps saving time while at the same time maintaining or even improving quality standards



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Where can technology be deployed in the EP context?

Given the highly multilingual and politically sensitive context of work in the EP, fully automated machine interpretation for 552 language combinations is not realistic/possible with the currently available technology, however technology is helpful for:

- Interpreter training
- Interpreter testing
- Interpreter support



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Knowledge Management Portal

The screenshot displays the Knowledge Management Portal dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Dashboard', 'Search', and 'Calendar' options. The main content area is organized into several columns and sections:

- Left Column:**
 - News:** A list of recent news items, including '11.07: Temporary closure of the József Andrák (JAN), Willy Brandt (WB) and Atrium (ATR) entrances', 'EPIweb news and updates 08.07.2016', '07.07: New Director for Interpretation', '06.07: Interpreter Support Tool - looking for volunteers to participate in a pilot user group', '06.07: MBA feedback session on Monday 11 July 2016', '05.07: Interpreter access to the Court of Auditors', 'EPIweb news and updates 01.07.2016', and '01.07: Interim reports on the management commitments are available'.
 - EPIweb:** A section titled 'EPIweb homepage' with the subtitle 'DG-IRTE's internal information website'.
 - Webmail of the European Parliament:** A section titled 'Webmail of the European Parliament'.
 - Event calendar:** A section titled 'Event calendar'.
- Middle Column:**
 - MBA:** A section titled 'MBA' with a sub-section 'Pericles'.
 - Interpreter documents:** A section titled 'Interpreter documents'.
 - Contacts current week:** A section titled 'Contacts current week'.
 - Contacts AGI Recruitment:** A section titled 'Contacts AGI Recruitment'.
 - Contacts programming team:** A section titled 'Contacts programming team'.
 - Contacts LUX meetings:** A section titled 'Contacts LUX meetings'.
 - Vocal members:** A section titled 'Vocal members'.
 - Programming rotation:** A section titled 'Programming rotation'.
- Right Column:**
 - public: IATE - The EU's multilingual term base:** A section titled 'public: IATE - The EU's multilingual term base' with the subtitle 'The terminology database of the European Union'.
 - IATE - internal version:** A section titled 'IATE - internal version' with the subtitle 'IATE is a terminology database containing 8 to 9 million terms across a great variety of domains in the official EU languages and even some non-EU languages. For the internal...'.
 - EUR-Lex:** A section titled 'EUR-Lex' with the subtitle 'Access to European Union law. EUR-Lex provides free access, in the 24 official EU languages, to: - the Official Journal of the European Union - EU law (EU treaties, directives, ...'.
 - Wufl, AcM, JN, Brush up EN (B):** A section titled 'Wufl, AcM, JN, Brush up EN (B)'.
 - Terminology on EPIweb:** A section titled 'Terminology on EPIweb' with the subtitle 'The terminology section on EPIweb is the result of voluntary contributions by interpreter colleagues. The input by the volunteers is assembled in different sections: Words and...'.
 - European Commission - Interpretation - SOCAEL:** A section titled 'European Commission - Interpretation - SOCAEL'.
 - DG TRADE - Terminology:** A section titled 'DG TRADE - Terminology'.
 - Glosbe:** A section titled 'Glosbe' with the subtitle 'the multilingual online dictionary'.
 - Linguee | Dictionary for German, French, Spanish, and more:** A section titled 'Linguee | Dictionary for German, French, Spanish, and more' with the subtitle 'English Dictionary and Search Engine with 200 000 000 example sentences from human translators. Languages: English, German, French, Spanish, and Portuguese'.
 - Eurovoc:** A section titled 'Eurovoc, the EU's multilingual thesaurus - choose your language'.
 - GlobalVoc - database of over 4000 terms in 10 languages:** A section titled 'GlobalVoc - database of over 4000 terms in 10 languages'.



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Bridges Across the Language Divide
www.eu-bridge.eu





supported by
Glosbe.com

Filespace About

Demo User

Return to Filespace



100 / 951

importance: descending

Download Save Save As

Selected Documents (click to open full text)

- Communication from the Commission to the _EN.pdf
- KYLLONEN - Draft opinion on the Communic_EN.pdf
- Position of the Council at first reading_EN.pdf
- RECOMMENDATION FOR SECOND READING on the _EN.pdf
- TORVALDS - Draft

Min. Occurances 6

Max. List Length

100

English

German

French

<input type="checkbox"/>		indirect land-use		
<input type="checkbox"/>		indirect land		indirect land
<input type="checkbox"/>		non-biological origin	nichtbiologischer Ursprung	
<input type="checkbox"/>		final consumption	Letzter Verbrauch Endverbrauch Konsum	consommation finale (f) consommation finale consommation
<input type="checkbox"/>		electric road		
<input type="checkbox"/>		natural gas	ng Naturgas beim Erdgas Erdgasfördervorhaben von Erdgas zur Erdgasförderung für Erdgas Erdgas Gas	gaz naturel gaz GN gaz souterrain du gaz naturel de gaz naturel gaz naturels le gaz naturel
<input type="checkbox"/>		scientific evidence	wissenschaftliche Erkenntnisse wissenschaftlichen Beweise wissenschaftlichen Erkenntnissen nicht wissenschaftlich	preuve scientifique évidence scientifique données scientifiques preuves scientifiques

< 11.03.2014

15:00 - 23:00 Debates

US NSA surveillance programme, surveillance bodies in various Member States and impact on EU citizens' fundamental rights



Report

A7-0139/2014

User Files 0/2

A7-2014-0112.pdf
86A245FD00.txt

Limit list length

200

Word specificity 5



Generate

< Terminology List >

1 - 100 / 181

Download

Translate to

-- choose a language --

Sort by

Importance: descending



the US	0.81	★★★★☆
Member States	0.79	★★★★☆
data protection	0.76	★★★★☆
personal data	0.76	★★★★☆
having regard	0.75	★★★★☆
EU citizens	0.75	★★★★☆
fundamental rights	0.75	★★★★☆
mass surveillance	0.75	★★★★☆
intelligence services	0.72	★★★★☆
Safe Harbour	0.72	★★★★☆
European Union	0.70	★★★★☆
national security	0.70	★★★★☆
intelligence agencies	0.70	★★★★☆
rule of law	0.69	★★★★☆
surveillance activities	0.69	★★★★☆
law enforcement	0.69	★★★★☆
EU institutions	0.67	★★★★☆
third countries	0.67	★★★★☆
EU data	0.67	★★★★☆
IT security	0.67	★★★★☆
contractual clauses	0.66	★★★★☆
EU Member States	0.66	★★★★☆
Data Protection	0.66	★★★★☆
EU Member	0.66	★★★★☆
the data	0.66	★★★★☆

< 11.03.2014

15:00 - 23:00 Debates

US NSA surveillance programme, surveillance bodies in various Member States and impact on EU citizens' fundamental rights



- location
- organization
- person
- number
- amount
- percent
- date
- time
- abbreviation
- article reference
- rule reference
- resolution reference
- directive reference

< Live

- 1 The **Commission** shall establish an informal dialogue with the **European Parliament** on development policy issues regardless of their source of financing.
- 2 The scrutiny of the **European Parliament** of the European Development Fund (EDF) will be aligned on a voluntary basis to the scrutiny rights that exist under the general budget of the **Union**, specifically in relation to the Development Cooperation Instrument, pursuant to detailed arrangements to be fixed in the informal dialogue.
- 3 The **European Parliament** and the **Council** note that the **Commission**, with a view to, inter alia, enhancing the democratic scrutiny of development policy, intends to propose the budgetisation of the **EDF** as of **2021**.
- 4 The savings implied by the ceiling for heading **5** as set out in the Annex to the **MFF** Regulation, shall be proportionately shared between all institutions as well as other **Union** bodies based on their respective share of the administrative budgets.
- 5 Each institution, body or agency is expected to present estimates of expenditure in the annual budgetary procedure consistent with the orientations referred to in the first paragraph.
- 6 To neutralise the additional capacity built up by the increase of working time to **40** hours per week, the **European Parliament**, the **Council** and the **Commission** agree to progressively render **5%** of the staff as in the establishment plan on **1 January 2013**.
- 7 This reduction should apply to all institutions, bodies and agencies, and be effected between **2013** and **2017**.
- 8 This does not prejudice the budgetary rights of the **European Parliament** and the **Council**.
- 9 The **Commission** shall ensure that the **European Parliament**, the **Council** and the **Court of Auditors**, at their request, receive any information and documentation related to **Union** funds spent through international organisations, obtained under the verification agreements concluded with those organisations, which are considered necessary for the exercise of the competences of the **European Parliament**, the **Council** or the **Court of Auditors** under the **TFEU**.
- 10 In the evaluation report provided for by **Article 318 TFEU**, the **Commission** shall distinguish between internal policies, focused on the Europe **2020** strategy, and the external policies and shall use more performance information, including performance audit results, to evaluate the finances of the **Union** based on the results



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Voting Session Translation Experiment

<https://www.eu-bridge.eu/parliament.html>





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What's next?

- Speech-to-text feasibility study
- Support for interpreters in the booth but also accessibility of parliamentary debates
- Test state-of-the-art speech recognition in parliamentary environment (challenges: unconstrained speech, multilinguality of debates, accents, modes of speech, background noise...)
- Is text input actually a support or an obstacle?



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