



"Language Technologies and the European Commission"

Lang Tech 2008

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Evolution of the translation service in the European Commission

	1958	2007	Increase
Languages	4	23	X 6
Management	4	118	X 30
Staff	25	2500	X 100
Pages translated	17 000	1 700 000	X 100



Language Technology – a major focus of attention in the Commission/DGT

- Size of the service requires sophisticated tools to organise the workflow
- Complexity of the subjects requires translation tools for quality and language concordance
- Cost consideration requires investment in technology for productivity and cost effectiveness



DGT: Technological progress in the translation service

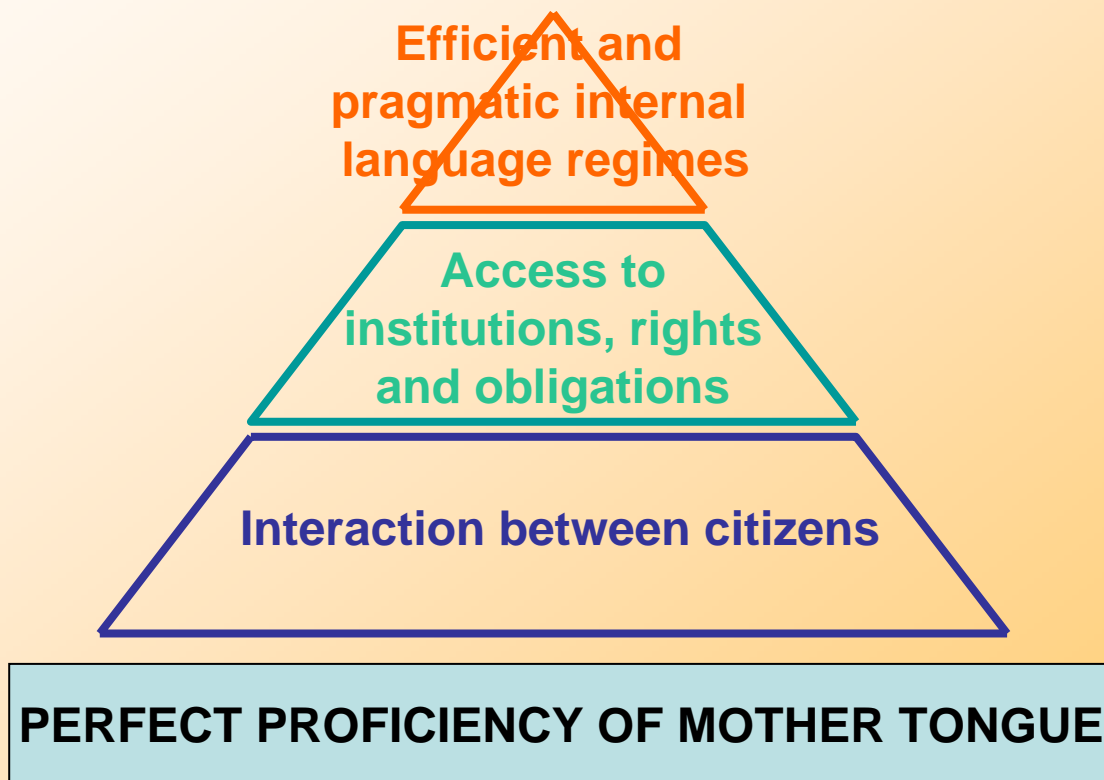
- Paper and pencil → Translator's Work Bench/CAT
- Dictating/typing → voice recognition
- Translation memories/ Dicautom → IATE, Euramis
- Machine Translation
- Sound-to-sound technology
- Workflow technology/ Pneumatic post → Poetry
- Document Management → Suivi, Dossier Manager
- WEB Content Management Systems



The three levels of multilingualism

Multilingualism is about building bridges, between people and across policies.

It has three dimensions and a base





EU language policy = the legal basis

➤ Treaty establishing the European Community:

- All languages are equally authentic (Art.314)
- Language regime of the EU institutions determined by the council (art.290)
- 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 (art.21)

➤ Council Regulation No 1 of 15/04/1958:

- Official and working languages of the EU institutions
- Regulations and other documents of general application shall be drafted in the official languages.
- Option for EU institutions to stipulate languages to be used



Commission and language technology - open access for the benefit of all

- Database EURLex and IATE (Inter-Active Terminology for Europe)
- Eurovoc system
- TED (tenders Electronic Daily) system
- European Media Monitor
- Machine translation systems
- Translation CORPORA of the whole *acquis communautaire*



Future trends?

- ✓ Growth in demand
- ✓ Expansion of multilingualism
- ✓ Stronger interaction between technology and the human brain
- ✓ Further development of the WEB Content Management Systems
- ✓ Rapid growth of the translation industry
- ✓ Improvement of tools for productivity and quality control
- ✓ Further investment in research public/private partnerships