Language tools and technologies at the European Commission

TRALOGY International Conference
Paris, 3-4 March 2011
SUMMARY

I. Translation services of the European institutions

II. DGT tools
   - Workflow tools
   - Translation tools

III. Machine translation from past to future
    - Old ECMT system
    - Development of the new MT@EC system
    - The future: new system in 2013
### Number of translating staff in the EU institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Parliament</td>
<td>760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation Centre</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court of Auditors</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court of Justice</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>1750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council of the EU</td>
<td>650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee of the Regions and Social Committee</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Investment Bank</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Central Bank</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Workflow tools:

- **POETRY** (‘client portal’ to introduce translation requests and retrieve translations)
- **SUIVI** (follow-up of translation requests by planners, managers and translators)
- **TRANSLATOR’S DESKTOP** (used by translators to create and edit translations and to gain access to translation dossiers)
DGT: a giant laboratory for technology

Translation tools:

• **Terminology:**
  – IATE
  – QUEST

• **Translation memories:**
  - Euramis
  - Trados Translator’s Workbench

• **Machine translation**
QUEST (terminology) --> IATE, EURLEX...
Search Text: precompetitive development activities
EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

On 16 May 2007, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Council Decision in accordance with Article 122(2) of the Treaty, proposing that Cyprus fulfills the necessary conditions for the adoption of the single currency and that the derogation of Cyprus is abrogated with effect from 1 January 2008.
Machine translation for the EU

- **ECMT (European Commission Machine Translation):** a rule-based system used since 1976; development and maintenance activities stopped in 2006; service discontinued as a result of a ruling from the EU court.

- **EU interests are many and manifold:**
  - internal market information system, including patents;
  - research and technology;
  - e-EU, for example e-Justice;
  - multilingualism policy.
• *statistics-(data-)based* system (SMT)
• at least all EU languages
• basic general MT service with the possibility of customised MT engines for ‘clients’:
  – EU institutions and bodies;
  – public bodies in MS;
  – online services and information systems for raw translation
• **full control of the system, making maximum use of internal resources and ensuring confidentiality**
Conclusions

• Translation is a human activity!

• Translation should be approached in a holistic way

• Language technologies are indispensable for promoting multilingualism in Europe

• The European Commission is open to cooperation
Thank you for your attention