

EULITA
European Legal Interpreters and
Translators Association



Language and Litigation

EULITA

Founded in Antwerp in November 2009

Full members - national, regional
associations of LITs

Associate members – universities,
organizations, individual persons

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EULITA

Draft directive on the right to interpretation and translation

Article 5

- Training of LITs
- Accreditation / certification of LITs
- National / regional registers of LITs
 - Re-certification, CPD

EULITA

Draft directive on the right to interpretation and translation

Article 5

- Training of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff on how to work with LITs
- Cooperation of judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff, LITs to implement the directive

EULITA - TOP TEN

- Use credentialed, preferably certified legal interpreters and translators (court interpreters) for in-court and out-of court events. Verify the interpreter's credentials. If it is in-court proceedings, make sure the interpreter is sworn in before the proceedings begin.

EULITA - TOP TEN

- Be aware that an interpreter creates an even playing field for speakers with limited language knowledge; an interpreter provides no advantage or disadvantage.

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- Use the interpreter to facilitate direct communication with parties with limited language proficiency, not as a „go-between“

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- Check to make sure that all speech, by all parties, is being interpreted.

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- To be understood, speak clearly at a moderate speed and an audible volume.

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- The interpreter's only task is to interpret. In order to keep impartiality and confidentiality, the interpreter should not be asked to be alone with a defendant. Whenever possible, the interpreter will exit the room when the lawyer exits the room.

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- Provide interpreters with the information and support needed to get the job done.

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Thank you for your attention!

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EULITA - TOP TEN

- In order to ensure an accurate record, provide a team of two interpreters for any lengthy or complex proceedings.

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- Foreign-language evidence should be handled appropriately. The party offering the evidence should obtain prior transcripts and translation of any tape recordings. Foreign-language documents introduced as evidence should be accompanied by a translation. A sound file or tape recording should never be translated „on the spot“ in court.

EULITA - TOP TEN

- Interpreters are support staff for the court. Please help promote an atmosphere of consideration, respect and cooperation among those who work with interpreters.