

**Make it simple and understandable-Finnish
views on the quality of law drafting**

**Quality of Law and Translation:
a common cause**

Karl-Johan Lönnroth, Director General

Seminar on quality of legislation
CCAB, 26/10/2006

DGT Identity Card

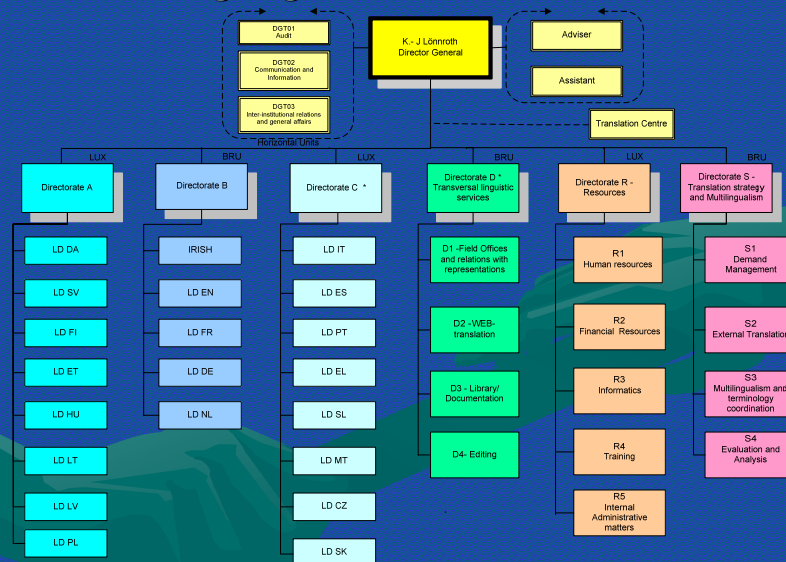
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DGT is a service provider oriented towards achievement of Commission's priorities

- Efficiency
DGT aims at providing Commission services with timely, high quality translation of their written documents (inc. Web pages) in accordance with Commission's priorities
- Transparency, legitimacy & Better Regulation
 - DGT contributes to Plan D;
 - DGT contributes to focusing EU messages;
 - DGT fosters the Better Regulation agenda

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DGT's organigramme 22 March 2006 →



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The legal basis of the EU language policy

- Council Regulation No 1/1958:
“Regulations and other documents of general application shall be drafted in the 20 official languages.”
- Treaty establishing the European Community:
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.

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Ideological base of EU language policy

- Language is the citizen’s right.
- Language is a cornerstone of democracy.
- Language is an equality issue.
- Language is part of the EU peace project.
- Language is part of a multicultural society.
- Language services contribute to the EU’s
 - ✓ legitimacy
 - ✓ efficiency
 - ✓ transparency

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Law drafting and translation: links

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Legal and language aspects are intrinsically linked

- Initial drafting
 - Non-native speakers
- Inter-service consultation
 - Non-native speakers
 - Balance between various policy objectives
- Translation of Commission's proposal
 - Review quality of originals
 - Ensure concordance of language versions
- Translation of transposition measures
- Translation of document related to infringements and complaints cases

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Legal and language aspects have shared goals

- **Quality**
 - ‘Dossier Manager’ note
 - ELISE
 - IATE
- Clarity and understandability

	1992	2005
Number of translated pages	914 649	1 287 107
Of which: freelance	12 %	20 %
English originals	35 %	69 %
French originals	47 %	17 %
German originals	6 %	4 %
Other EU languages	9 %	11 %

Legal and language aspects face common risks

- Multilingual and multicultural nature of preparatory process
- Political compromises
- Relative low attention to implementation stages at political stages

Field of collaboration DGT/LS

- Developing ELISE into an even more effective and coherent integrated process of law making.
- Pushing together the translation of the *Acquis* before accession;
- Making common cause in implementing Regulation 1/1958;
- Help the Legal Service with staff exchanges and secondments for codification and revision of legislation;
- Collaborating on terminology;
- Aiming to strengthen collaboration within CITI, by inviting lawyer-linguists to take part.

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