

As President of AIIC, I am very sorry for not being able to attend your conference and convey to you personally my greetings and the greetings of my Association. I am however very grateful to Ms Christiane Driesen, one of our members who needs no introduction in circles related to court and legal interpretation, for having accepted to forward this message and represent us at your first official EULITA meeting.

As the only international association of conference interpreters, AIIC enjoys a long history and claims to be a reference point in all matters related to our profession. It is therefore with great interest that we are following all further developments in professions closely related to ours, like sign language interpreting, or, as in your case, court and legal interpreting.

The very roots of the modern form of conference interpreting lie in the Nuremberg trials, which were probably the first and most visible form of court interpreting at an international level. Even nowadays, many conference interpreters are still working in international tribunals or international court-like settings. Legal and court interpreting is therefore still very much directly linked to our concerns.

We also recognize how important it is for any person to be able to understand what is happening in a legal setting and express himself/herself in front of a court, including in a national context. We also entirely share the view, recently expressed by Prof. Hertog, that training is the key to professionalism, which in turn is the key to quality, which in turn again is the key to the visibility of our professions and, in due course, to their official recognition.

We therefore have every reason to be extremely happy that EULITA is being officially created, and we congratulate its founding fathers for their courage and their vision.

We wish EULITA a long and fruitful life, and look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration between EULITA and AIIC.

Benoît Kremer
President of AIIC