

Mr. Minister, Mr. Public prosecutor, Mr. president of the bar council, representatives of the Flemish bars, Chief of police and all of you, ladies and gentleman, organizers and participants of this meeting.

Misses Van Den Bossche, Yolanda, thank you for your kind introduction.

My task as president of de court of first instance in Antwerp, today, is very modest, but very honorable.

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you, organizers and participants of this important meeting, in Antwerp and in this so called Butterfly palace.

As judge I'm very aware of and very concerned about the fundamental Human Rights.

The European Convention on Human Rights states them perfectly.

Among this fundamental rights we have to, and at this moment we can emphasize Art. 6 . 3

Everybody charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:

To be informed, IN A LANGUAGE WHICH HE UNDERSTANDS, of the nature and cause of the charge against him.

This fundamental right can only be realized thanks to a competent, trained and reliable interpreter.

I'm very grateful, on behalf of all judges searching for the truth that your association, EULITA, and his members will guarantee the required quality so that this fundamental right shall be realized.

Given the globalization, your skills are crucial, day in day out, night and day.

Without your assistance, the mentioned human rights would not be realized.

Thank you all, honorable and obliging interpreters and translators.

I wish EULITA all the best and I'm sure that your founding meeting will be very fruitful.