

Foundation Meeting of EULITA

Antwerp, 26 November 2009

Prof. Maurizio Viezzi, Vice-President of CIUTI

On behalf of CIUTI I would like to congratulate EULITA on the day of its foundation. This is a very important day in which a very important event is taking place. There are at least three interrelated reasons why this event, the foundation of EULITA, is important.

First, because it will elevate the status of the profession. And we all know how much this is needed. We all know that translators and interpreters working in legal settings, but also in other fields, do not always enjoy the prestige and the respect they deserve. Nor is the crucial, decisive importance of their work fully recognised and appreciated.

Secondly, greater prestige and respect will translate into the opportunity to demand and obtain better working conditions. Which, in turn, will mean better quality in the services provided by translators and interpreters in legal settings. And again, we all know how important this may be.

Third, better quality in T&I services in legal settings means fairer proceedings. It means that all those who are involved in legal proceedings, and especially the weakest players, will have the opportunity fully to enjoy their rights. This is perhaps the most important aspect and the reason why the foundation of EULITA should be welcomed by everybody – professionals, lay people, EU citizens, non-EU citizens. EULITA is not just a professional association – it is an instrument for the promotion and full implementation of democracy in our countries.

CIUTI attaches great importance to the foundation of EULITA and looks forward to its future activity. As many of you know, CIUTI is an association of university schools for translators and interpreters. Owing to its academic nature, CIUTI appears mainly to be interested in education & training – of future translators, interpreters and terminologists – and in research – in such fields as translation studies, interpreting studies, terminology and everything related to interlingual communication. But of course, education, training and research have little or no sense if they are not relevant to the professional world – the world where knowledge, skills and competences acquired must be applied. CIUTI is well aware of this, as demonstrated by its close ties with professional associations such as FIT and AIIC, the latter even being an associate member of CIUTI.

It is certainly too early to talk about official links between EULITA and CIUTI. It is too early to talk about EULITA becoming an associate member of CIUTI and/or about CIUTI becoming an associate member of EULITA. But certainly this is something that may – I hope will – happen in the future. After all there is no contradiction between EULITA’s goals and CIUTI’s goals. Quite the reverse. And some form of cooperation could already be envisaged at these very early stages in EULITA’s life.

To conclude, I know that the first two letters in the acronym EULITA stand for “European”. But my classical studies lead me to see in those two letters the Greek root “eu”, which means “well”, “good”, “propitious”, “favourable”. I want to interpret this as a good omen.

On behalf of CIUTI, on behalf of the European Language Council – which I also represent here today – and on my personal behalf, very best wishes to EULITA. Its success will be a contribution to a better Europe.