

**Speaking points of Ann D'haen-Bertier at the Foundation meeting of EULITA –
European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association
Antwerp, 26 November 2009**

- DG Interpretation had never dealt with legal interpreting until we convened the *Reflection Forum on Multilingualism and Interpreter Training*, on Commissioner Orban's suggestion, last year. Our "normal" day-to-day role is to provide interpretation for various European Institutions, but we also provide pedagogical assistance to universities that teach conference interpreting.
- The founding of EULITA represents **a new dawn** for the world of legal interpreting and translation in Europe. We are glad to see that, under the auspices of DG JLS, the Criminal Justice Programme has produced a very concrete result - EULITA.
- DG Interpretation hopes that, despite the difficulties that still exist in many countries in the field of legal interpreting and translation, EULITA will be able to gather all possible expertise in order to grow and **become the reference point for best practice** in Europe. By saying this I am not denying that some countries have already established best practice in legal interpreting and translation, of course.
- One of the main results of the existence of EULITA will probably be that the **establishment of associations** of legal interpreters and translators in Member States will be **encouraged**. Let's hope for a **domino effect** that will encourage some countries to copy what is currently done elsewhere to establish a legal interpreting and translation system.
- Also, **cooperation in the field of training** will hopefully be a spin-off of the existence of EULITA. And this is certainly something that DG Interpretation can be happy with, given our experience in interpreter training and the whole project that we supported, the work of the Reflection Forum.
- I would like to congratulate Prof. Erik Hertog for his commitment to legal interpreting and translation over the years. His contribution to the Reflection Forum on Multilingualism and Interpreter Training was greatly appreciated.
- I wish EULITA a lot of success and a long life, hoping that its activities will indeed make a difference to the life of all those citizens that need access to justice in another language than their own.