



Working as an Interpreter in the EU

Institutions, Bodies & Agencies

Let's talk interpreting!

Maynooth University 9/2/2021

Who are we?

The European Commission's interpreting service.

The world's largest interpreting service

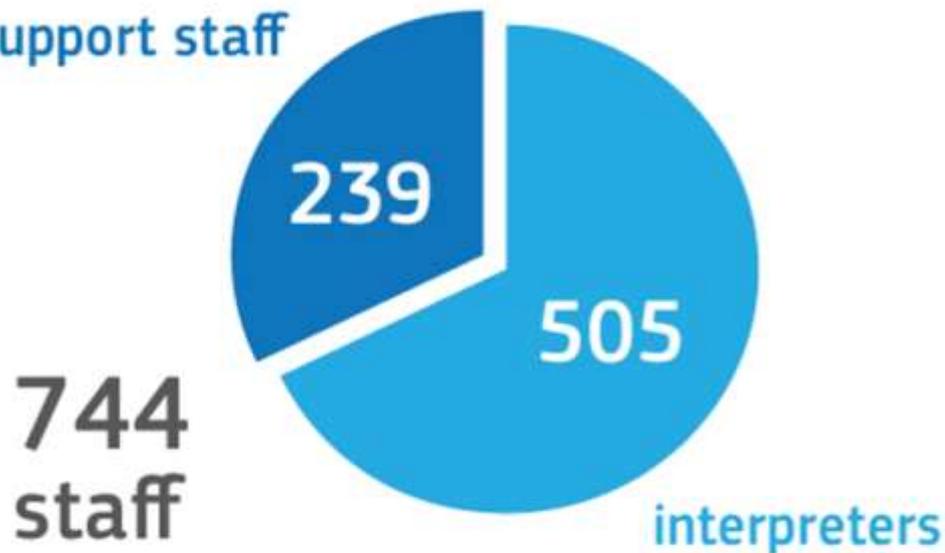
Covering 24 official languages



So how do people communicate in all these languages?

- **DG Interpretation (otherwise known as DG SCIC): the largest interpreting service in the world**

support staff



3000+
accredited
freelance
interpreters



Who do we work for?

- **European Commission**
- **Council of the European Union**
- **European Council (heads of state & government)**
- **Rotating Presidencies of the Council**
- **Economic & Social Committee**
- **Committee of the Regions**
- **European Investment Bank**
- **Other bodies, offices & agencies of the EU**

*** The European Parliament and the European Court of Justice have their own interpreting services.**

- **Every day, in Brussels, there are around 50 meetings**
- **From small meetings needing just 2 languages (mostly English and French) and 4 interpreters**
- **To large meetings with 23 languages**
- **A meeting with 23 official languages requires a team of 69 interpreters**





European
Commission

Emploi du Temps pour **MCCARTHY-KEY**

[Previous week](#) | Week from Mon 27 Jan 2020 to Sun 02 Feb 2020 | [Next week](#) | [Today](#) | [Goto](#)

Date	Hour	Vol	Title/Subtitle	Regime		
			Colleges	Booth/Tel	Mode	Place
Mon 27 Jan	1000 - 1300		A15 Autres Tâches Pour L'Unité/Département/Service			
	<i>PM</i>		---			
Tue 28 Jan	0845 - 0900		ORAL HEARING (BRIEFING) [MEDATA (ABO)] - COMPETITION [START BLOG]	FR-EN-ES- FR-EN-ES-		
			WARD Resp: SORIN (ES)	EN	CON	ALBERT BORSCHETTE 0.20
	0900 - 1300		ORAL HEARING [MEDATA (ABO)] - COMPETITION [START BLOG] ENREGISTREMENT: OR	FR-EN-ES- FR-EN-ES-		
			WARD Resp: SORIN (ES)	EN 73632	SIM	ALBERT BORSCHETTE 0.A
	1430 - 1738		ORAL HEARING [MEDATA (ABO)] - COMPETITION [START BLOG] ENREGISTREMENT: OR	FR-EN-ES- FR-EN-ES-		
			WARD Resp: SORIN (ES)	EN 73632	SIM	ALBERT BORSCHETTE 0.A
Wed 29 Jan	0900 - 1000		ORAL HEARING [MEDATA (ABO)] - COMPETITION [START BLOG] ENREGISTREMENT: OR	FR-EN-ES- FR-EN-ES-		
			WARD Resp: SORIN (ES)	EN 73632	SIM	ALBERT BORSCHETTE 0.A
	1000 - 1100		MED Médecin			
	1100 - 1230		ORAL HEARING [MEDATA (ABO)] - COMPETITION [START BLOG] ENREGISTREMENT: OR	FR-EN-ES- FR-EN-ES-		
			WARD Resp: SORIN (ES)	EN 73632	SIM	ALBERT BORSCHETTE 0.A
	1400 - 1710		ORAL HEARING [MEDATA (ABO)] - COMPETITION [START BLOG] ENREGISTREMENT: OR	FR-EN-ES- FR-EN-ES-		
		WARD Resp: SORIN (ES)	EN 73632	SIM	ALBERT BORSCHETTE 0.A	
Thu 30 Jan	1000 - 1830		COMITE DE L'EDUCATION [MEDATA (ABO)] - CONSEIL DE MINISTRES [BLOG]	FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-EL-PT-EL-HU-RO- FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-EL- -EL- - -		
			HUMPHREYS-C. McDONALD Resp: PANTAZIDOU (EL)	EN 9091	SIM	JUSTE LIPSE 20-B
Fri 31 Jan	0900 - 1130		IRISH TRAINEES INTERPRETING EXERCISES FR/EN [MEDATA] - INTERPRETATION [START BLOG] ENREGISTREMENT: OR	FR-EN- FR-EN-		
				EN	CON	RUE VAN MAERLANT 18 -1032
	1200 - 1300		PRESS BRIEFING [MEDATA] - COMMUNICATION [BLOG]	FR-EN- FR-EN-		
			Resp: LEMAIRE J (FR)	EN 20516	SIM	BERLAYMONT SALLE DE PRESSE

Becoming an interpreter

Some misconceptions:

- **I need to be perfectly bilingual**
- **I need to come from a family of diplomats**

So, what are the language requirements?

First, a bit of interpreting jargon.



A and C languages

- **A language: your mother tongue – into which you work from all your working languages.**
- **B language (otherwise known as a "retour") – a language which is not your mother tongue, but in which you are perfectly fluent. In other words, an active language.**
- **C language – a language you can understand perfectly, but into which you do not work. Most EU interpreters work from a number of C language into their A language.**

Skills of an interpreter

A cultural interface

A human, not a robot

Translates concepts, ideas and messages – not words





So how can I work for the English unit in DG SCIC?

- **First, you'll need a University qualification in Conference Interpreting**
- **NUI Galway**
- **Language profile: English A, French or German C, plus one other EU language**
- **This VERY MUCH includes Irish**
- **Derogation for Irish expires end 2021**



DG SCIC training and universities

- **SCIC sends trainers to teach in universities**
- **SCIC provides student bursaries**
- **SCIC receives students on study visits – 600 per year**
- **SCIC provides online resources**
- **https://ec.europa.eu/education/knowledge-centre-interpretation/sites/kci/files/list_of_universities_scicnet_september_2019_rev.pdf**



Financial support

- **Grants for universities**
- **Student bursaries –€2,400 if you study in an EU Member State, €1,600 if you study in any other country (nationals of MS)**
- **https://ec.europa.eu/info/education/study-or-teach-abroad/scholarships-and-student-finance/find-scholarship/bursaries-conference-interpreting-students_en**
- **2018-2019 academic year 14 bursaries granted to English As**
- **Bursaries also available for Irish As**



I have my qualification, what now?

- **The first step for most interpreters is to sit the inter-institutional accreditation test**
- **ACI = Auxiliary Conference Interpreter (freelance)**
- **Once you have passed, you are placed on a common list and can work for all the institutions: DG SCIC, European Parliament, European Court of Justice**
- **Can be any nationality**
- **Paid by the day – net rate €330-€420 (plus pension contributions)**
- **SCIC provides significant support to newcomers**

Staff positions

- **Temporary agents**
- **Internal competition**
- **Must be an EU national**



The EU still needs you!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6ID0KVLpIY>

Find DG Interpretation online

For more information, visit...



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Europa: bit.ly/2NC50ZN

Recruitment at DG Interpretation: bit.ly/2KzJUK8