



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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**MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES DIRECTORATE
Multilingualism and External Assistance**

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Standing Committee on cooperation with Universities

1. Background

At its Annual Meeting in Geneva in July 2003, IAMLADP mandated the Working Group on Training (WGT) to establish a Standing Committee (SC) to act as a liaison point for the further development of relations and co-operation between IOs and training providers.

The Meeting concluded that collaboration with Universities is important for a two-way exchange: organisations could apprise training institutions of their requirements and training institutions could make their contribution to the profession. There is general agreement that intensified contact with training institutions and universities would be mutually beneficial and that information exchange should be increased.

A Standing Committee is therefore set up to take the necessary measures to ensure a seamless transition from university to professional life.

2. Mandate

The Standing Committee has a clearly defined mandate:

- (a) to be the contact point between IOs and training providers
- (b) to promote information exchange
- (c) to promote co-operation and better relations between the two constituencies
i.a to anticipate better future developments.

In order to fulfil its mandate the Standing Committee shall:

- (a) be a discussion forum for matters of common interest to both constituencies
- (b) define an annual work programme and priorities
- (c) draw up recommendations and best practices guidelines

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(d) provide information on developments interesting to both sides

3. Membership

All interested IOs and members of the WGT become members of the SC.

The Standing Committee represents various interests and groupings (e.g. the United Nations System, the European Institutions and others).

Training institutions participate in the SC through their groupings' spokespersons. These groupings/networks, such as EMCI, CIUTI, ELC, TNP and PLUG (i.e. European Masters in Conference Interpreting, Conférence internationale d'instituts universitaires de traducteurs et interprètes, European Language Council, Thematic Network Project for Languages and Professional Languages in Universities Group, respectively) have appointed their representatives.

Applications for membership by other networks/groupings will be considered by the WGT on their merits.

Individual Universities/training institutions may contribute to the debate through written contributions or suggestions.

4. Working method

The Standing Committee will not:

- (a) duplicate work carried out elsewhere (e.g. SCIC-Universities Conference, other dedicated conferences and committees)
- (b) become a wide, free-for-all public forum for theoretical open-ended agenda items.

On the contrary, the SC will:

- (a) encourage discussion through an electronic forum (or a web site designed to this end) and limit general meetings to the necessary minimum
- (b) hold an annual meeting (in the margins of IAMLADP annual Meetings and/or SCIC-Universities conferences) to establish and approve its annual work-plan and priorities and deal with procedural matters
- (c) produce proposals, reports, discussion papers, information bulletins and any other material necessary to carry out its mandate
- (d) report directly to the Working Group on Training, which ensures that the SC's work be related to and of interest to IAMLADP overall activities, as well as to those of the SC's members.

The WGT receives, discusses and decides on the follow-up to the SC's proposals. The WGT reports annually to IAMLADP on the SC's activities.

5. Procedure

The SC will operate mainly through an interactive electronic forum. The most rational solution is to include a link in the general IAMLADP web site currently being examined subject to approval by the IAMLADP Annual Meeting in July 2004.

During its inaugural meeting on March 11 2003, the SC adopted its mandate and rules of procedure.

These rules are as follows:

The SC shall:

- nominate two co-chairpersons, one from the IOs, members of the SC and one from among the university networks
- elect a secretary
- renew annually all mandates
- take decisions and make recommendations by common agreement.

6. Annex:

Background information on items of common interest, as identified by IOs and by Training Institutions

Both sides have expressed an interest in promoting systematic exchange of information and dialogue, leading to increased co-operation on:

- quality requirements and skills profiles for new recruits by IOs
- life-long-learning needs for IOs' language staff: input and possibilities offered by training institutions (distance learning, refresher courses, special modules, joint training projects)
- practical initiatives for increased co-operation (visits by students to IOs, placements, teaching assistance, lectures by IO staff, teaching material)
- promoting the status of language professions and attracting more highly qualified young graduates/students from a wide range of disciplines
- new technologies and their impact on language professions
- new qualifications /skills for language professionals and how they can influence academic curricula.

In this respect it should be underlined that the SC will have a clear and limited mandate, to be the discussion forum on points of common interest, as identified jointly by both sides. IOs and training institutions alike have their own fora where they raise policy and general matters. The SC should in no way hinder, duplicate

or interfere with these activities, although input from other research work should be welcome and could be of valuable help.