

THE DIGEST

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members,

To those of you who are just getting back to work after the summer break, welcome back! To those of you for whom it's neither summer nor break time, it's great to be back with you!

ExCo is gearing up for a busy season ahead. Having hit the ground running as soon as we came into office in January, we spent the first few months doing the basic spadework towards the various projects announced in our [Strategic Plan](#). Several of them are maturing nicely and, fingers crossed, we hope in the foreseeable future to put to good use the written procedure instigated by the previous ExCo in order to consult members now, rather than awaiting the next Assembly.

Talking of which, Assemblies require a lot of planning, so we will soon be sending the Regions a call for expressions of interest for the 2025 edition. It promises to be an interesting one, particularly if the written procedure provides us with some leeway to innovate...

On that somewhat cryptic note, may I conclude by wishing everyone an excellent rentrée or continuation and by thanking, as always, the volunteers who make it all happen- I'm looking forward to our continued work together to bring about the promised change.

Jenny



MESSAGE FROM THE EU ND



The EU ND would like to remind all AIIC members that if you are contacted by any interpretation provider other than DG LINC to work for an international organisation, or an EU Institution or for the EP (the information will probably be vague), you should seek further information from the provider and turn down the offer. They also ask that you notify them of any such attempts due to the ongoing strike.

EU sector work is subject to a hard-fought legal framework, which includes the EU-AIIC Agreement, Implementing Rules, Interpreters' Working Conditions, NCRSI Agreement, the Code of Conduct on Multilingualism, the Regulation laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, etc.

These texts require the EU institutions to recruit interpreters directly, to only recruit accredited interpreters, and importantly enshrine the principle of equal pay for equal work for all interpreters. Our collective agreement with the EU institutions is the only guarantee that you will continue to enjoy the benefits we may take for granted today, but which are the results of hard fought negotiations.

Please do not jeopardise the work they do to defend our rights and help them stop the uberisation of our profession.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

AIIC UK & Ireland

On Monday 13 June 2022, students from the MA and PGDip programmes in Conference Interpreting and Translation Studies attended a talk on the interpreting profession by Barbara Bethäusser-Conte, a freelance AIIC conference and consultant interpreter of AIIC UK & Ireland, and a tutor of German interpretation at the University of Leeds. The talk gave the students an insight into the impact of the pandemic on the daily working lives of conference interpreters in the UK, whilst offering further guidance on how to start out in the profession.

As a member of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC), Barbara also provided information on professional practice, ethics and the standards set out in the code of conduct followed by professional conference interpreters. It was an excellent opportunity for students to receive advice and practical tips from a professional conference interpreter, which will stand them in good stead as they prepare to begin their careers as conference interpreters in the post-pandemic new normal.



AIIC ADVISORY BOARD



Following the annual meeting in Geneva in July, the Steering Committee, who had been a person down since January, were joined by Jenny Taylor. Jenny sits on the Advisory Board for the Staff Interpreters and is an active member of the Belgium Region and Anniversary Organising Committee. Welcome Jenny!

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Staff Interpreters

From 26-28 August 2022, Staff Interpreter Representatives from international, regional and national organizations around the world came together for the annual CdP meeting. Fifteen institutions were represented in-person, with an additional two joining online, thus ensuring a representation of over three quarters.

The meeting was hosted by NATO in Brussels, where local staff members had put a lot of work into making the meeting possible. Be it by providing excellent meeting facilities, supporting the committee with security procedures and wifi connections, or hosting the welcome drink on Friday evening – the NATO organising committee made CdP members feel very welcome!



Back from left: Julia Antony (UNOG), Blandine Jeanne (FAO), Lara Rivard (WCO), Christelle Petite (CPS), Mateo Reyes (WTO), Nicole Forstenzer (OECD), Lam Chung Pollpeter (US State Department), José Manuel Sanz Follana (UNOV), Marie-Eve Racette (Canadian Translation Bureau), Sylvie Nossereau (OPCW), Carlos Pulido de la Vega (EUCJ), Francisco Garcia Hurtado (UNNY)

Front from left: Jennifer Taylor (SCIC), Jakub Renner (EP), Rachel Cuzin (NATO)

Staff Interpreters continued...

Friday's session was dedicated to an exchange with Frédérique Pillet, Head of Interpretation and Conference Services at NATO, followed by an insightful presentation by Dr. Bart Defrancq from Ghent University on the deployment of AI-assisted speech recognition in the booth. There was a very lively debate surrounding the technical and above all ethical implications of such technological advancements.

Saturday and Sunday provided a much-needed opportunity to hold internal discussions and exchanges on working conditions in the various institutions, as well as a joint session with representatives from the Agreement Sector. Remote working conditions, technical RSI requirements, auditory health, unity between freelance and staff interpreters and negotiations with management were the main topics covered during these debates and exchanges.

During the social dinner on Saturday night, members had a chance to meet other colleagues from the Belgian region and catch up with friends and acquaintances both old and new. It also provided a spectacular view of Brussels' Grand Place, a variety of local beer-tasting options and a long-awaited photo opportunity!

Colleagues return home with a honed awareness of the current issues facing interpreters. The experience shared and knowledge gained will be invaluable in communicating with colleagues and management going forward, in the best interests of our institutions and our profession. Avenues for increased cooperation were explored, ideas shared, networks strengthened, mutual understanding fostered.

We are extremely grateful to all our NATO colleagues who made this meeting come together. Thank you! Our profound thanks also goes out to all members who travelled to Brussels in order to meet in person and to those who braved two days online. It was so good to finally be able to meet again!

If you are a staff interpreter who would like to learn more, please contact your institutions' CdP representative. If you are employed by an organization that does not yet have a representative, the CdP bureau would love to hear from you at cdp-bureau@aiic.org!

[Read the AIIC Staff Interpreters' Committee resolution on auditory health of 01 September 2022](#)

NEWS FROM AIIC HQ

Changes to AIIC email addresses

Following numerous phishing attempts over the last year, steps are being taken to restrict unwanted and malicious access from outside AIIC. In September, the email addresses of AIIC bodies and the Secretariat, which have been publicly available, will start to change.

Contact forms will be added to the website and members' portal, and the info@aiic.org address will cease to exist. Members will be able to continue to communicate with the Secretariat through a new private email address that will be shared in due course. A second phase will begin in October concerning the Regional bureaux, following a consultation with them.

All changes will be communicated through the [News section](#) of the website.

Job Announcements

The Secretariat would like to remind members who are looking for work that AIIC regularly receives [job postings](#) from around the world, which are kept up-to-date in the members' portal.

2022 Dues

Penalties for late dues payments will not be imposed this year. Members in arrears have until 1st October to pay their dues before being suspended from the online Directory, while those who are two years in arrears will cease to be members of the Association. Any members who are unable to make the payment by this date but wish to continue their membership of AIIC, should immediately contact the Executive Secretary.



NEWS FROM THE ANNIVERSARY ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Q: Jenny F, tell us about the plans for celebrating 70 years of AIIC



We considered various possibilities before opting for a TEDTalks style of event intended to give AIIC and its Regions the opportunity to showcase who we are and what we do. It will take place during the day, with speakers joining either in person or remotely, and our idea is to invite any Regions who may so wish to propose speakers on issues of interest to interpreters albeit not necessarily directly about interpreting. Speakers would be asked to present in their mother tongue, to be interpreted by members from the Region in a celebration of their skills and competence and of multilingualism. Expect more information about this shortly.

Then it's party time! On the evening of the same day, we are planning a much less sedate celebration, a proper party, where members will be able to meet and mingle to celebrate the past 70 years and plan for the next 70 in a more informal setting.

Q: Katja, Belgium will be hosting the in-person celebrations. Is the region planning anything special to coincide with the anniversary weekend?



In Belgium we are very happy that our region has been chosen to host next year's anniversary weekend and we are looking forward to welcoming all those who want to join us in Brussels!

As the Friday events are focusing more on the past and present of AIIC and multilingualism, we are planning to complement them at regional level by an event oriented more towards the future of our profession. We have a great number of young colleagues, candidates, and pre-candidates in our region, so we are planning to organise an on-site event at the University in Brussels in cooperation with, among others, our local network of interpreter trainers and our regional mentoring program. Not only will the event be open to students and young colleagues, but also to all other interested colleagues, AIIC and non-AIIC members alike.

Q: Jenny T, how can the whole Association get involved in the celebrations?



The 70th anniversary is a great opportunity to show off the international dimension of AIIIC. Many regions are already making their own plans for local celebrations. Given the technological possibilities we have nowadays, regional initiatives can easily be shared with the world! Why not share photos from a birthday party your region may be organising? Or open up a thematic talk or presentation you are organising to the rest of the interpreting community by recording or web streaming it? Get in touch with your regional bureau to see what fun and creative ideas your region can come up with!

Groups, sectors and their members are also invited to get involved. This is a chance to show off the immense contributions that are being made and to raise awareness about the issues colleagues are working on. Be it ISO standards, accessibility, interpreter training or any other topic - a short video introducing the group and its work will go a long way to increase visibility!

Contributions will be collected on a dedicated website. This will act as a repository for interpreters wishing to learn more about AIIIC. Members can use the material there to advertise the benefits of being connected via a global Association and to learn more about what colleagues are doing around the world.

Keep a look out for the AIIIC at 70 portal on the website in the coming weeks and will provide you, and your region, group or sector with more ideas and support to make the AIIIC at 70 campaign a success!

EVENT CALENDAR

8-10 Sept

[Consecutive Note Taking](#)

In-person training course at KU Leuven University in Brussels with trainer Helen Campbell

18 Sept

[Conference Interpreting: What we know and how](#)

In-person seminar in Lima, Peru with Franz Pöchhacker