

CONV 18/02

NOTE

from the Secretariat
to the Convention

Subject : Interpretation from the languages of Applicant Countries

1. In responding to the Convention debate on 22 March, the Chairman asked the Secretariat to explore, with the European Parliament, whether it would be technically feasible to adopt a suggestion (made by Mr Krasts from Latvia) which would permit members of the Convention from Applicant Countries to address the Convention in their own languages, with translation (by an interpreter provided by the speaker) into one EU language (and subsequently by the usual interpreters into all eleven EU languages).
2. The exploration has been completed. The proposal is technically feasible. The Praesidium have decided to implement it, and have asked the Secretariat to explain, in this note, how the facility will work.
3. The modalities are as follows:
 - a) anyone wishing to use the facility should notify the Secretariat (Mme Martinez Iglesias, tel. no. 02 285 50 61, fax no. 02 285 50 60, e-mail: maria-jose.martinez-iglesias@consilium.eu.int), 48 hours before the Convention session, giving the name of accompanying interpreter, and the EU language which would be used. (Interpretation into the other 10 languages would follow);

- b) the interpreter would be given a seat in the hall, to follow the debate, and would be called to the interpretation booth, by the Secretariat, 10 minutes before the intervention which he/she would interpret;
 - c) the Secretariat would ensure that the speakers' list did not result in consecutive interventions by speakers using this facility (a gap is essential in order to permit the change of interpreter in the booth);
 - d) it will be for the speaker to decide whether the verbatim record of the intervention should be in the language of its delivery, or the language of its initial interpretation. (If the former, the speaker should give the text to the Secretariat.) It would be helpful if the choice could be signalled when an intention to use the facility is notified in advance (point a)).
4. The Praesidium express their thanks to Mr Krasts for the suggestion, and to the staff of the European Parliament for their co-operation, and their conviction that the Convention will welcome the introduction of this facility.
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