

**Minutes of Steering Committee meeting held
in Bern at BEA Conference Centre
on 30 September 2006**

The meeting started at 12.40 p.m.

Present: João Esteves-Ferreira (JEF), Chair
Terence Oliver (TO), Secretary
Sandro Corradini (SC)
Andrew Evans (AE)
Reiner Heard (RH)
Javier Sancho (JS)

Apologies were received from Birgitte Jensen (BIJ), who at the last minute was unable to attend.

Pascale Amozig-Bukszpan of the Israel Translators Association was unanimously admitted to this committee meeting as an observer, as were Johann Amkreutz (BDÜ), Nicole Carnal (ASTTI) and Chris Durban (SFT).

The suggested agenda was adopted. (Since it emerged later that this agenda contained two items numbered 3, these items are identified here as 3a and 3b.)

1. Report on Luxembourg meeting of 29 April 2006

TO gave a brief summary of the content of the Luxembourg meeting (see circulated minutes of that meeting, dated 10.06.2006). It was stressed that as an informal meeting this could only put forward suggestions for adoption by a formal meeting of the Steering Committee.

The Luxembourg meeting considered what could be done with limited technical, financial and human resources to:

- Coordinate and publicise translator activities at European level
- Promote image of translators and underline professional status through clear profile and emphasis on quality issues

Main approaches and suggested action:

- Publicise existence of FIT-Europe
- Raise awareness of FIT-Europe
- Small independent website for FIT-Europe?
- Contact with EU (Lönnroth) on European Masters (suggest advisory group?)
- Establish contact with international translator groups that are not FIT members, e.g. Commission, Parliament, Auditors, Council, Council of Europe, Interpol.
- Monitor progress on international standards

2. Report on FIT Council Meeting

AE briefly reported on the FIT Council meeting held in Johannesburg.

The two main items of interest to FIT-Europe were:

HTT Extranet proposal

Serious doubts were expressed about the wisdom of adopting a translator database run by a commercial provider which is itself a translation provider. AE reported that there were still some strong advocates of the proposal within Council and urged Steering Committee members to encourage their associations to make their views known to FIT Secretariat.

FIT-Europe

Formal name is FIT Regional Centre for Europe. Unless and until changed, this must appear on letterheads, newsletters etc. Informal use of FIT-Europe continues to be possible.

3a. Report on ISO meeting in Beijing

TO reported briefly on the results of the TC37 / WG6 meeting on 23/24 August.

Four proposals:

1. Technical Report: Comparative study/analysis of existing standards for translators.
ASTM F2575, CS GB/T 19363, EN 15038
2. Development of terminology database for terms used in standards relating to translation, to increase clarity and avoid confusion
3. Technical Specification for translation projects:
Set of parameters for target text quality
4. ISO Standard for interpreting services, taking into account ASTM F-2089, existing Chinese standard, existing Austrian standard

TO mentioned that there was some controversy in Germany about the issue of certification/ registration under EN 15038, and said the German position on these items would not be finalised until a meeting in Berlin on 24 November.

3b. Informal meeting in Bern on morning of 30 September 2006

with Nicole Carnal (ASTTI) and various representatives of European associations attending the ASTTI conference.

JEF gave a summary of the items discussed at the meeting, saying that there was general dissatisfaction with the world structure of FIT. The following requests or suggestions were made by a number of European associations:

1. Follow-up of CEN: Certification criteria
Voluntary undertakings
2. Standards for quality of product/service
3. Rules of good practice
Common suggestion: European code of ethics
4. Information on bad payers
5. Observer status for Israel
6. Community interpreting as transnational problem
7. Competition from eastern countries
8. Website / page at European level

3c. Observer status for Israel (Item 3b.5 above)

The temporary observer for Israel was asked to leave the room while the SC considered the question of observer status for Israel within FIT-Europe. It was stressed that the geographical restrictions in the rules of FIT-Europe prevented Israel being admitted as a full member of FIT-Europe, but the meeting unanimously voted to approve observer status. Pascale Amozig-Bukszpan was informed of the decision and voiced her thanks.

4. **Brussels training institutions meeting in October**

JEF reported that various informal contacts had expressed a desire that FIT-Europe be represented at this meeting in Brussels on 17/18 October.

It was decided that BIJ and JEF would agree between them as to who would attend.

5. **Decision on projects to be run by FIT Europe**

JS FIT Europe website

RH Code of ethics

TO Follow-up to CEN

JEF Communication

SC Bad payers

6. **Assignment of tasks**

All Steering Committee members were asked to improve reporting within the committee, keep JEF informed and use the Yahoo list.

Communication	JEF, TO	31.12.
Code of ethics	RH	31.12.
Bad payers	JS, SC	31.12.
CEN	TO	31.12.

7. **Next meeting**

To be held on the fringe of the ITI meeting in London on 21/22 April 2007, probably on Sunday 22 April

8. **Miscellaneous**

No other business.

In his closing remarks, JEF made the following points:

- a) FIT-Europe is part of the overall structure of FIT and, as such will not work against the interests of FIT.
- b) FIT-Europe will decide which topics it will continue to pursue for the benefit of its members in Europe, and will keep FIT Council informed.
- c) If FIT-Europe cannot show its membership any progress on the targeted projects within the agreed deadlines, the SC will conclude that there is no point in keeping FIT-Europe in existence artificially.

The meeting closed at 2.10 p.m.

07.12.2006

Terence Oliver, Secretary