



Directorate-General for Translation

Is machine translation useful for translators?

The technological environment in the European
Commission DG Translation

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Head of the IT Unit
Translingual Europe
Prague, 14-05-2009

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION



Commission translators have at their disposal

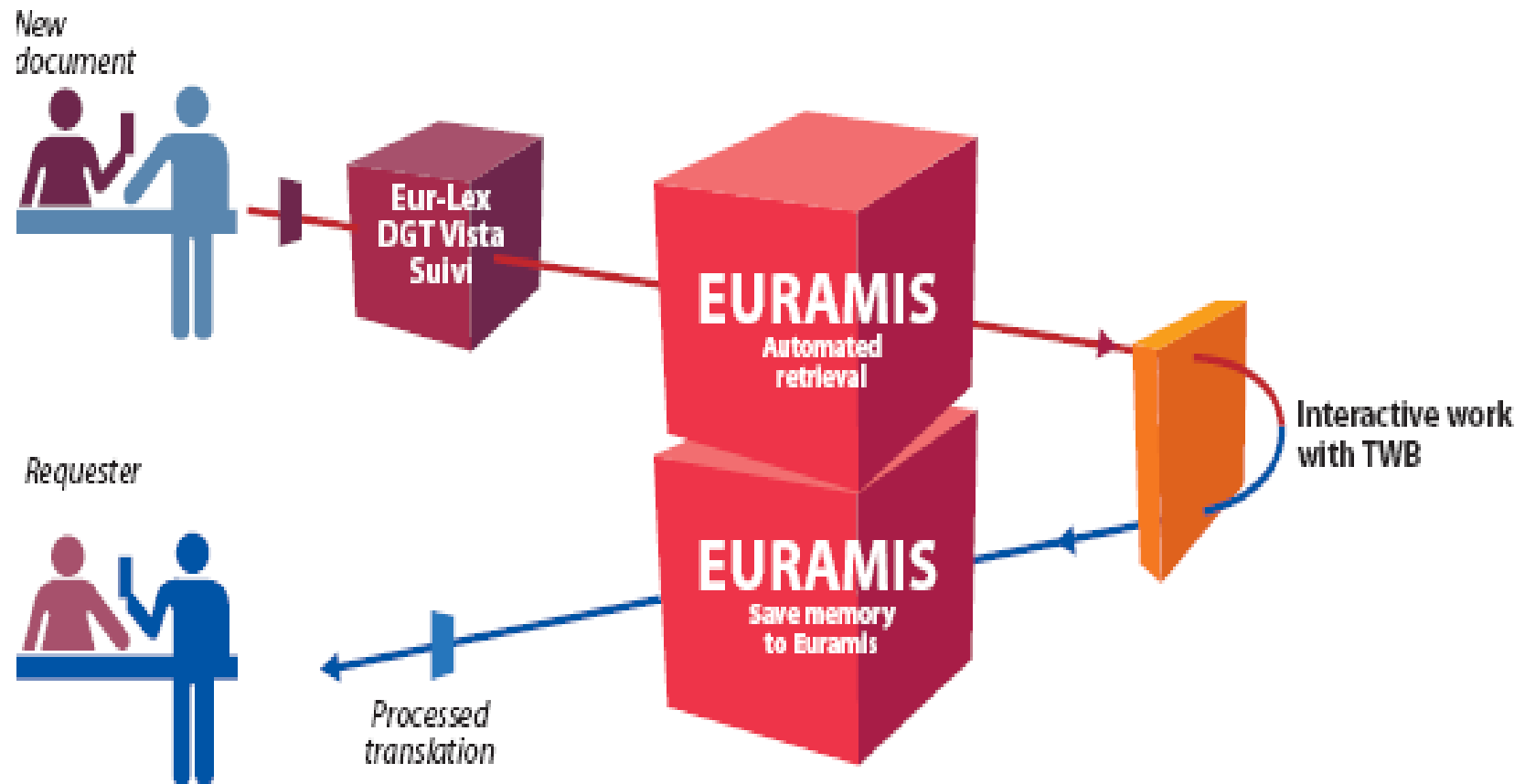
■ Linguistic tools

- huge translation memory (Euramis, more than 300 million segments + supporting services)
- local workbench (local memory, SDL TRADOS)
- huge terminology database (IATE, partly available to the public)
- metasearch engine to query several databases simultaneously (Quest)
- voice recognition
- machine translation system (ECMT)

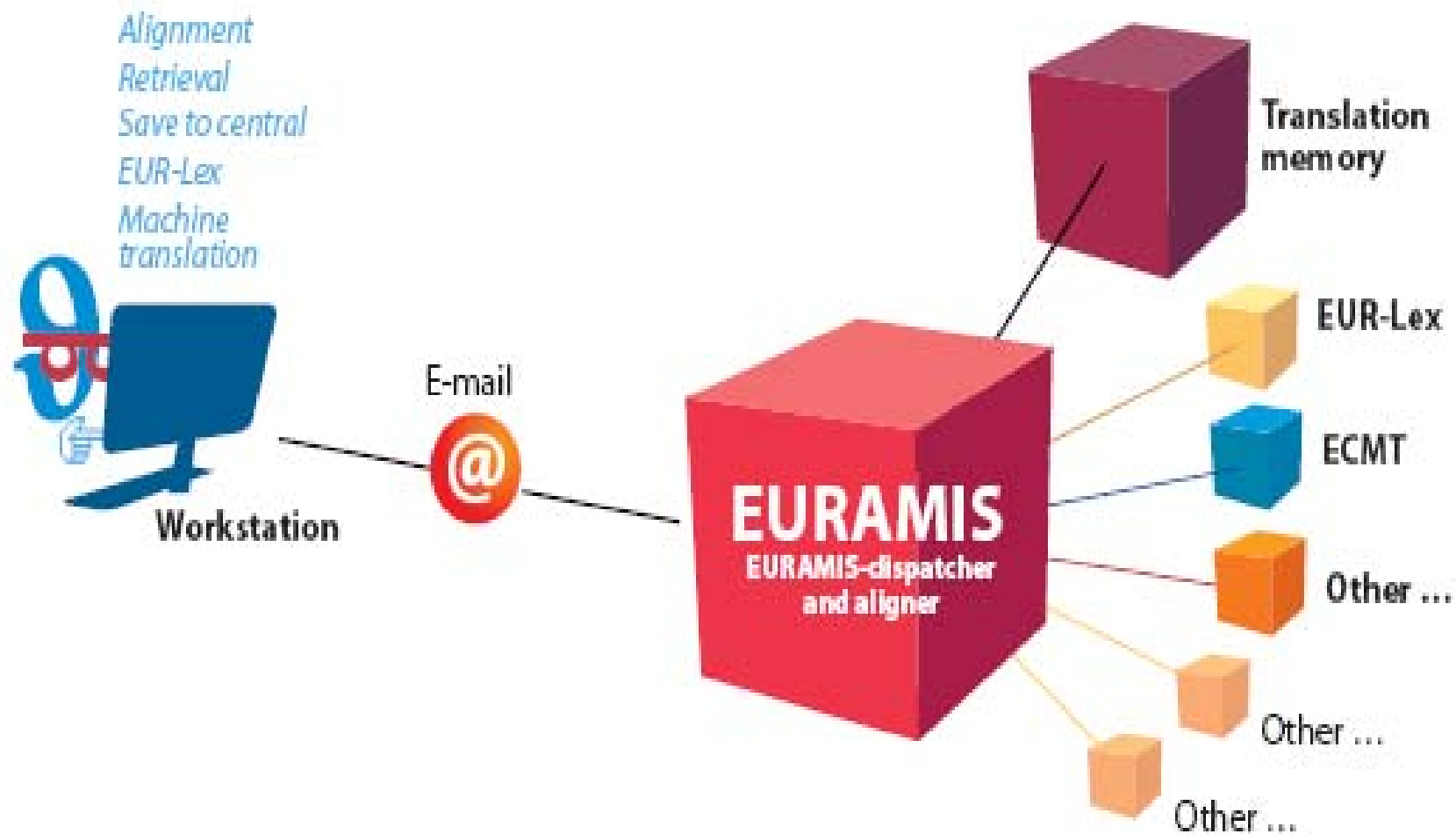
and

- administrative tools (Poetry, Suivi)
- document management tools (Dossier Manager, DGT-Vista)
- electronic documentation (Eur-Lex, Multidoc, electronic dictionaries, other EU and international institutions)
- internet

Translation process



ECMT in the translation process, manual or automated



Euramis Machine Translation

Current user: Josep BONET (DGT)



- Alignment
- Translation Memory
- Search
- Manager
- Other
- Help

Document(s) to translate:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Browse..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Browse..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Browse..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Browse..."/>

Type in text to translate:

Source language:

DE EL EN ES FR IT NL PT

Target language(s):

DE EL EN ES FR IT NL PT

Options

 [Extract Celex references](#) **Output format:** TWB Word

[Do not keep copy on server](#)

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Euramis Retrieval + MT

Current user: Josep BONET (DGT)



- Alignment
- Translation Memory**
- Search
- Manager
- Other
- Help

Search documents:

Retrieval
Retrieval + MT
Machine Translation
Save

Source language:
 DE EL EN ES FR IT NL PT

Match rate: 90%

Matches per database: 3

Include most relevant documents

Add reverse/indirect translations:
 Direct only
 Reverse
 Indirect and reverse

Extract Celex references

Do not keep copy on server

Output format: TWB Word

Database:
 ExternRelations
 Policies
 Services
 Archive
 OtherDoc
 Web

Database sequence:

- Target language(s):**
 DE EN FR NL
 EL ES IT PT
-

Created: 1 July 2004 - Modified: 27 November 2007 - [Contact](#) - Copyright © 2003-2007 EC.

Other access

- **Web interface**
 - Commission staff
 - other EU institutions
 - national public administrations

- **Webservices**
 - IMI, TED,

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User: Josep BONET → Feedback → Log out → Help → FAQ → Privacy

→ Translate file **Translate text** Translate text online Translate web page online

1. Source:

- Spanish
- Danish
- German
- Greek
- English**
- French
- Italian
- Dutch
- Portuguese
- Swedish

2. Target(s):

- Spanish**
- German
- Greek
- French
- Italian
- Dutch
- Portuguese

3. Domain(s):

... ▾
... ▾
... ▾

4. Other options:

User Codes:
... ▾
 Minutes Letter Instruction manual
 Celex
 Confidential

5. Provide text:

6. Action:

IMI offers machine translation for free text

- Questions regarding the exercise of the profession
 - Right to pursue a profession
 - 1. Which age range and which subjects can be taught by the migrant [Ms. Tiia MOORES]?

Attachments

[Hide translations](#)

Name

Comments

[Hide translations](#)

When entering free text please indicate the language you are using in the dropdown next to the text box. If possible use a language which is understood by the Responding Authority. The Responding Authority has indicated that it understands the following languages: eesti keel (et), English (en), Deutsch (de), eesti keel (et)

Comments	User	Date
<p>It is possible to translate free text entered in several languages. This is because IMI is linked to the machine translation service of the European Commission</p> <p>Es posible traducir el texto libre inscrito en varias lenguas. Esto es porque la IMI está ligada al servicio de traducción automática de la Comisión Europea - es</p> <p>Il est possible de traduire le texte libre introduit dans plusieurs langues. Cela est parce que l'IMI est liée au service de traduction automatique de la Commission européenne - fr</p> <p>Είναι δυνατό να μεταφραστεί το ελεύθερο κείμενο που εισάγεται σε διάφορες γλώσσες. Αυτό είναι επειδή imi συνδέεται με την υπηρεσία αυτόματης μετάφρασης της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής - el</p>	Translate into <input type="button" value="nl"/> <input type="button" value="pt"/> <input type="button" value="de"/> <input type="button" value="it"/>	AUTHORITY Test 21/11/2008

Save comment

European Commission
Internal Market & Services DG



TED

TED - Tenders Electronic Daily

Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union

English (en)

Machine translation

The *Machine translation* feature enables the user to translate a selected document into certain official EU languages.

To translate a selected document:

1. Select the document you wish to translate from the result list. The selected document with the corresponding document number in the top left-hand corner will be displayed.
2. Choose the following option to translate the document, as shown below:



Document 242644-2008-EN

Document search | Print document | Save document | View document | **Machine translation**

Address Document: <https://ted.europa.eu/ufut/ted/notice/242644-2008-EN/html>

Current language | Original language | Summary View | Data

20/09/2008 S183 European Communities – Services – Design contest notice
I, II, IV.

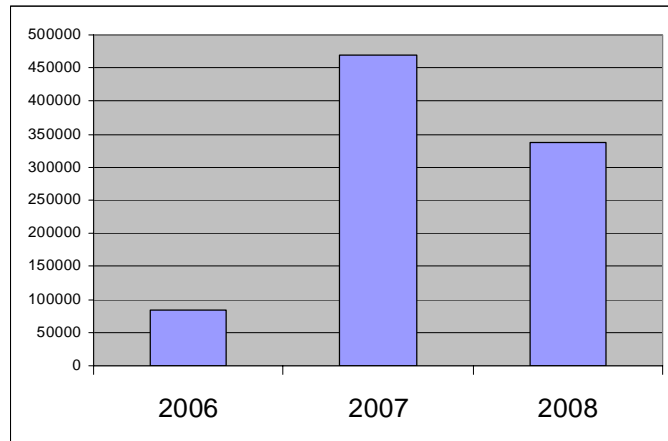
F-Vitry-sur-Seine: architectural services for buildings
2008/S 183-242644
DESIGN CONTEST NOTICE

SECTION I: CONTRACTING AUTHORITY/ENTITY

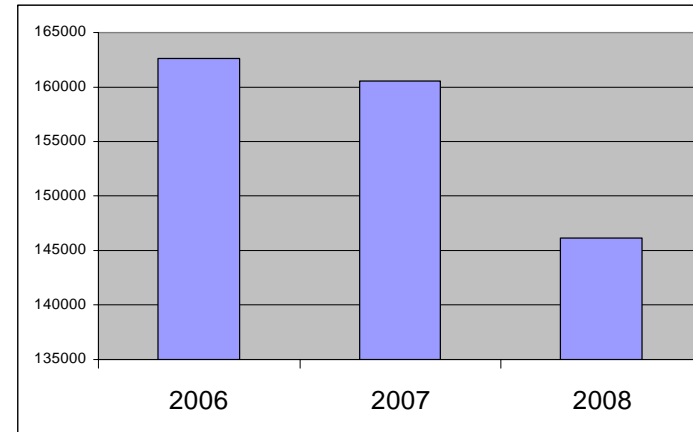
I.1) **NAME, ADDRESSES AND CONTACT POINT(S):**
OPHLM de Vitry-sur-Seine, 4, rue de Burnley - BP 98, F-94400 Vitry-sur-Seine, Tel. (33) 147 18 11 20, Fax: (33) 146 81 71 28.
Internet address(es):
Further information can be obtained at: As in above-mentioned contact point(s).
Further documentation can be obtained at: As in above-mentioned contact point(s).
Projects or requests to participate must be sent to: As in above-mentioned contact point(s).

Statistics

Synchronous requests



Asynchronous requests



- Increased preference for online translations, through web interface and webservices (faster and directly available on screen)
- In line with market trends evident in other MT systems available on the Internet

Future of MT

- MT: extra CAT-tool for translators, but also necessary to support multilingualism in Europe
- MT can be used by:
 - readers for gisting
 - translation and localisation service providers to increase productivity
 - citizens to search across countries/languages
- Current ECMT system : rule-based
 - labour-intensive, expensive
 - cost difficult to justify (low quality)
- Current trend: statistical machine translation (SMT)
 - cheaper; baseline already with minimum resources
 - learning from human translations
 - larger corpora needed

DGT and MT: prepare the future

- Review MT needs in the Commission
 - MT integrated in translation workflow (DGT)
 - if no match, use MT?
 - paraphrasal MT?
 - post-edition for freelance translators?
 - MT available for other DGs (staff, webservice for citizens)
 - all languages, gisting tool
- Two important developments:
 - Multilingualism policy: Commission communication (18/09/2008) + Council resolution on a European strategy (21/11/2008)
 - Funding for research (7th R&D Framework Programme) and innovation (CIP ICT Policy Support Programme) in language technologies and machine translation - DG INFSO

DGT and MT: prepare the future (cont'd)

- **MT strategy for DGT**
 - exploring alternatives in the language technology watch activity (LTW) of DGT
 - in-house testing of SMT
 - conferences, desk research
 - collaboration with other DGs (JRC, DG INFSO)
 - data providing (TMs on JRC website, updates)
 - *Euromatrixplus* (providing data and/or evaluation resources)

DGT and MT: prepare the future (cont'd)

- **Contributing to MT strategy for the Commission**
 - inter-service discussions on MT to assess needs and propose strategy
- **Outcome:**
 - action plan, so that Commission and DGT are ahead of the developments



Directorate-General for Translation

Thank you

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