

THE DIGEST

COUNTDOWN TO THE WRITTEN CONSULTATION

From the enthusiastic feedback we received from many of the 200 participants who attended the Town Hall held on Saturday, 23rd September, the exercise appears to have achieved its aim of making members feel involved in the upcoming Written Consultation. It is, after all, the chance to have YOUR say, directly, in the way in which YOUR Association is run- from the comfort of your armchair.



The 47 questions raised during the Town Hall allowed the proponents of the various amendments being proposed (all of them present!) to further explain and drum up support for their proposals. The Town Hall also provided an opportunity to debunk some of the myths surrounding the Written Consultation:

- ✓ Yes, votes taken through the Written Consultation are every bit as valid as votes at Assembly, and potentially even more democratic, with all active members able to participate directly, no proxies required;
- ✓ Yes, modifications are possible ahead of a written consultation by writing formally to ExCo, who will consult the proponent of the amendment in question (though by the time this edition of The Digest goes to press the deadline will already have passed);
- ✓ Yes, a quorum will apply, exactly as at Assembly, so make sure to do your bit;
- ✓ Yes, you can debate the issues to your heart's content- just hop over to the Forum on the AIIC website and join the discussions there, or raise any points you may have within your regional discussion fora.

Since this is only the second edition of a Written Consultation for AIIIC, we are aware that there are still shortcomings and are in the process of fine-tuning the system. We would crave your indulgence and assistance as we do so.

But let's not forget why the Written Consultation was introduced in the first place. It came in response to myriad calls from members to make our Assemblies more than just an endless round of amendments, sub-amendments, points of order and voting and to free up space for debate of the issues that are really affecting our profession, at the same time freeing AIIIC from the constraint of having to wait 3 years for the next Assembly to come round before being able to take decisions.

So, if we are really serious about wanting to make AIIIC the modern association that members are calling for, let's not shy away from the unknown; let's embrace the idea of change and then let's shape it all together through questioning, through listening to the responses, through debate and through constructive criticism. And then let's go online and vote once the Written Consultation opens on October 16th. AIIIC belongs to its members and this is the opportunity for them to have their say!



THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Each of the proponents has provided a roundup of their proposed amendment. Remember, if you have questions, there's still time to get answers and to discuss the proposals on [AIIIC's Forum](#).

Not-for-profit status - ExCo

Art. 1 of our Statutes contains the name of our Association and the type of organization AIIIC is by stating that AIIIC is an Association set up in accordance with the French Law of 1 July 1901. When AIIIC was founded in Paris in 1953, reference to the Law of 1 July 1901 established AIIIC's not-for-profit character without having to provide any further explanation or background. Over the years, we have found ourselves more and more in situations where that reference is not necessarily understood, giving rise to questions. For that reason, ExCo proposes to add not-for-profit to the article. It will help us when dealing with authorities or service providers requiring proof of our not-for-profit status and qualifying for discounts and reduced rates from various providers.

Financial matters - ExCo

The first amendment on financial matters concerns the deadline by which we have to pay our dues. The deadline for dues payment would be moved to the Financial Regulation. Given that dues payment is a financial and administrative matter, it would make more sense to regulate it in FIN REG. It will allow for an easier and swifter administration of the whole process by the Secretariat.

In normal circumstances, a 3-month deadline would be reasonable in times of Internet banking and online CC payments. It's important to remember that the current deadlines were set at very different times. Moving the deadline to the FIN REG has another advantage: the Association would give itself more flexibility to also extend the deadline easily, if necessary, as in the case of another pandemic or unforeseen event.

The second amendment establishes a more precise deadline for expulsion, establishing a 12-month period from when a member is suspended.

Retiree Category - ExCo

The AIIC 4000 Working Group, composed of representatives of ExCo, the AB and CACL has been working on several proposals to grow and retain membership. One of them is the creation of a retired members category to cater for colleagues who do not work anymore and have left the profession, but wish to keep abreast with AIIC matters.

AIIC should perform its 'duty of care' and colleagues should be afforded the possibility to remain members of an Association they have been part of for years.

Retired members shall have their names and contacts published in a list as provided for by Article 5 of the Statutes. Their listing will not be for recruitment purposes. They shall be on the AIIC mailing list for The Digest and have access to an aiic.org email address. They shall not hold any elective position or actively participate in the life of the Association. They shall have no voting rights and shall not be listed in the public online directory.

They will be invited to participate in social events, regional meetings, conferences, etc. If they so wish, they can engage in activities such as mentoring younger colleagues, giving talks and sharing their expertise and experience .

Registration will be done by sending a request to the Secretariat and a modest sum of CHF 50 will be charged annually.

Article 20 (CACL Regulation), Change of membership status - CACL

Currently, according to Article 20 of the CACL Regulation, requests for change of status from associate to active is via informing the Secretariat only.

The other way round, status change from active to associate, should also be via informing the Secretariat only. This is an administrative matter as "membership status" and does not fall within CACL's remit as an admission or reclassification issue.

Amendment proposal to Articles 4 and 8 (CACL Regulation), granting signature powers to associate members as presenters and sponsors - CACL

Associate members are mostly experienced colleagues, many of them have been and are still teaching, they are published on the online directory if they have not opted-out, they have become "active members" of the association by fulfilling the admission criteria, they can at any time go back to active membership. Also, on CACL, we have observed that in some regions, for some language combinations and language pairs, the only available sponsors might be "associate members" who are not actually eligible to become sponsors for membership applicants and presenters for pre-candidacy applications according to our rules. To streamline and facilitate the application process, CACL is in favour of granting signature powers to associate members as presenters and sponsors.

Currently, more than 10% of AILC members are associate members. If this amendment passes, it will mean an increase of more than 10% in the number of eligible presenters and sponsors.

Deletion of Article 19 (CACL Regulation) for requests to downgrade the language classification of another member - CACL

CACL is the body to review membership and reclassification applications. We need a change of mindset from "policing" or "detering" to "mentoring/guiding" our colleagues: Members themselves would be in a much better position to evaluate their language competences, themselves, and request downgrade of their own language classification if and when they deem necessary. CACL does not think this provision would be necessary in the Regulation on Admissions and Language Classification.

Review of the Code of Ethics and Professional Standards - AB

Why and how we have reviewed the Code of Ethics (CoE) and Professional Standards (ProfStand).

➤ Principles

- Need to review to include the Assembly's resolution on conflict of interest (R22009)
- Confusion in text in force due to a lack of logical structure
- Need to separate universal principles (CoE) from their implementation (ProfStand)

➤ Consultation procedure - Basic Texts Group involved at all stages

Drafting of the proposal

- Substantive
 - Conflict of interest
- Structural
 - Redistribution between CoE and ProfStand
 - Logical reordering of articles
 - Parts of articles become footnotes
 - Table as an annex (integral part of ProfStand but better visibility)
- Discussion by the AB and amendments
- Consultation ExCo – minor amendments + support
- Consultation CACL – minor amendments
- Consultation DDC – minor amendments
- Approval by the AB

➤ Result

- New text for CoE and ProfStand
 - Clear and unambiguous text
 - Logical structure
 - Consensus



Full details of all the amendments being proposed can be found [in your portal](#).

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Amendment 2023-005 – Advisory Board endorsement

The Advisory Board (AB) is very pleased to introduce this proposal. We would like to stress that this text is fundamentally a cleaning-up of the existing document. We are aware that Professional Standards are a living document by nature – ethical principles don't change over time, but practices do. Therefore, approval of this version does not preclude further amendments in the future.

A few words about the consensus-building process: Christiane J. Driesen and Myriam Nahón Guillén embarked on tidying up the Code of Professional Standards following the adoption of an updated Code of Ethics at the Geneva 2022 Assembly. Over the course of 2022, the AB met on several occasions to first approve the methodology, compare the existing version and proposed changes and comment on the text before reaching a consensus. The text was agreed mid-December 2022. It was then sent to ExCo, CACL and the Basic Texts Group (BTG). The three bodies sent in their comments. The final text was then officially endorsed by the AB in July this year.

The final step is the presentation of this consensus document to membership via the Written Consultation. We hope you will positively welcome this excellent work by Myriam and Christiane, it is a great example of teamwork within the AB that represents the membership at large.

Proposal requiring members to have a degree - Veniamin Daskalakis

This is an individual proposal supported by a dozen colleagues. It is simple but rather far-reaching as it adds one more requirement for new members.

This proposal, if adopted, would make it compulsory for new applicants to hold an academic title from a higher education institution (Bachelor level or equivalent) to be accepted as members. This title may be in any field (not necessarily interpreting studies) and the requirement will only apply to new members and not retroactively.

In our eyes, it is hardly possible to imagine an AIIC conference interpreter without university-level studies. The fact that such a requirement does not yet exist is probably due to historical reasons going back to when AIIC was born but times have changed and keep changing rapidly.

In today's world, topics become more and more complicated, we are obliged to deal with a vast array of subjects (many of them highly technical or of legal nature), technology has become a central part of our profession, AI is looming, and the intellectual skills that one acquires at university are essential in order to be able to work properly.

University studies broaden one's horizon, develop structured thinking, strengthen one's research skills, and generally help in shaping a global profile which is essential for an AIIC interpreter in a modern working environment.

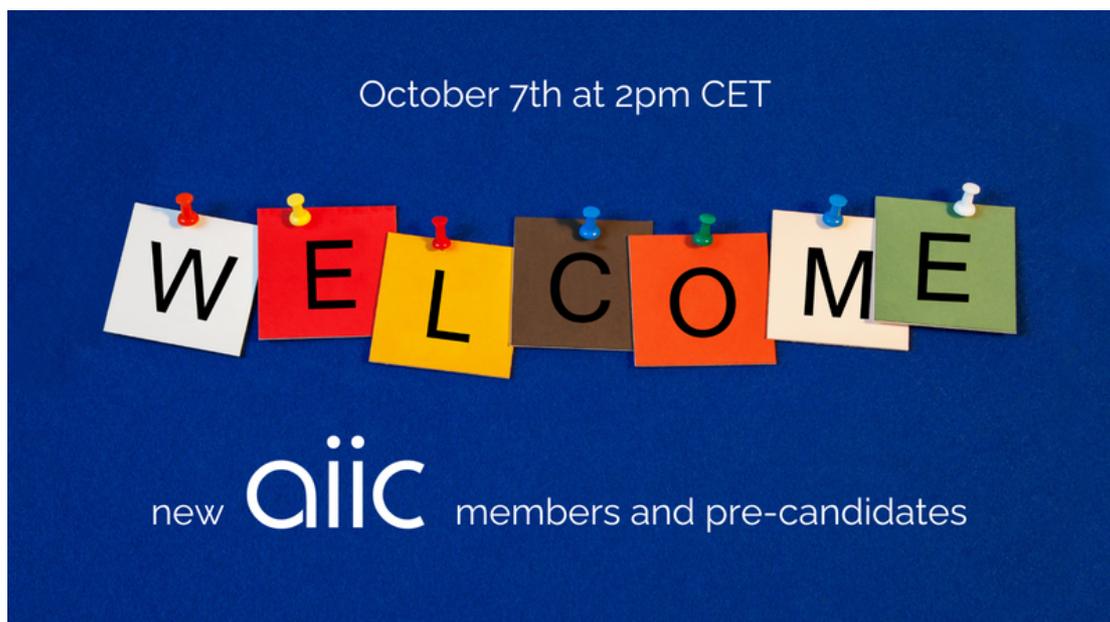
Taking into account that most of our clients already have this education level, we believe that new interpreters should also have the same "luggage" and similar skills in order to be able to deliver an excellent result.

Additionally, business wise, we know how important formal skills are for clients when comparing options and choosing the right professionals. We believe that AIIC could make this a very strong "selling point" together with our other requirements (experience, Code of Ethics, sponsoring).

AI models have already started to compete with human interpreters. The results are not yet conclusive but it seems that the gap is closing very fast. We believe that we should make the extra effort to formalise our qualifications and strengthen our standing.

In a nutshell, this proposal consolidates a practice that is already very common, takes AIIC's commitment to professional excellence one step further, in tune with changing times, and strengthens our prestige vis-a-vis our clients by underpinning the AIIC brand.

JOINING AIIC



The latest challenge period is over and ExCo is delighted to welcome all our new members and pre-candidates.

All newcomers are invited to join AIIC President, Jenny Fearnside, for an informal welcome and orientation on Saturday October 7th on Zoom. Check your email for the meeting link.



CACL

In its effort to inform members how to reclassify languages and potential candidates about the application process, CACL will hold three informative webinars at the initiative of the following Regions, VEGA, and professional associations:

October 14th [Africa Region & VEGA](#)

October 21st [US and Canada Regions](#)

October 21st Turkey Region and the Conference Interpreters Association of Turkey

We are very proud to join efforts with our colleagues from around the world to make the application process known and answer relevant questions.

Please bear in mind that the next deadline to receive applications is November 30th. If you want to benefit from the pre-screening service and have a member of CACL review your complete file before the next statutory meeting send your application before November 14th.

THE AB



A busy season awaits – what has the Advisory Board been up to?

The Advisory Board (AB) met during one of its now traditional Keep in Touch meetings to exchange ideas and maintain the momentum built up in the wake of its summer meeting in Brussels. The Zoom meeting kicked off with the approval of a new Advisory Board landing page. With AIIC's public website going live in the very near future, the AB didn't want to miss out on this opportunity to give its page a facelift. If you still don't know what we do and who we are, why not visit our page and find out?

The meeting proceeded to two more substantial topics. The first was the debate regarding the revision of AIIC's Professional Standards in the framework of the upcoming Written Consultation. This is an AB project carried out by an indefatigable duo: Christiane J. Driesen (Legal Interpreting Committee - LIC) and Myriam Nahón Guillén (Region Israel). The second matter was the AB's role during the 2025 World Assembly.

In the first instance, the AB once again commended the work carried out by Christiane and Myriam: an incredible feat lasting well over eighteen months and consisting of several rounds of consultations within the AB. With our renewed, collective blessings, the final stage of this journey is the Written Consultation.

If you think preparing for the World Assembly eighteen months before its start is overkill, think again! AB members will have to pool nominations, received from its constituents, for the creation of an Independent Assembly Bureau (IAB); the resulting shortlist will be sent to ExCo by the end of June 2024. Moreover, the Advisory Board is the body which represents the collective voice of AIIC Regions and Groups, meaning it will play an active part during the Assembly – in light of this, eighteen months don't seem that many now!

Until then, AB members will continue working on joint projects and working groups covering a vast array of topics such as communication, volunteering, and much, much more!

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

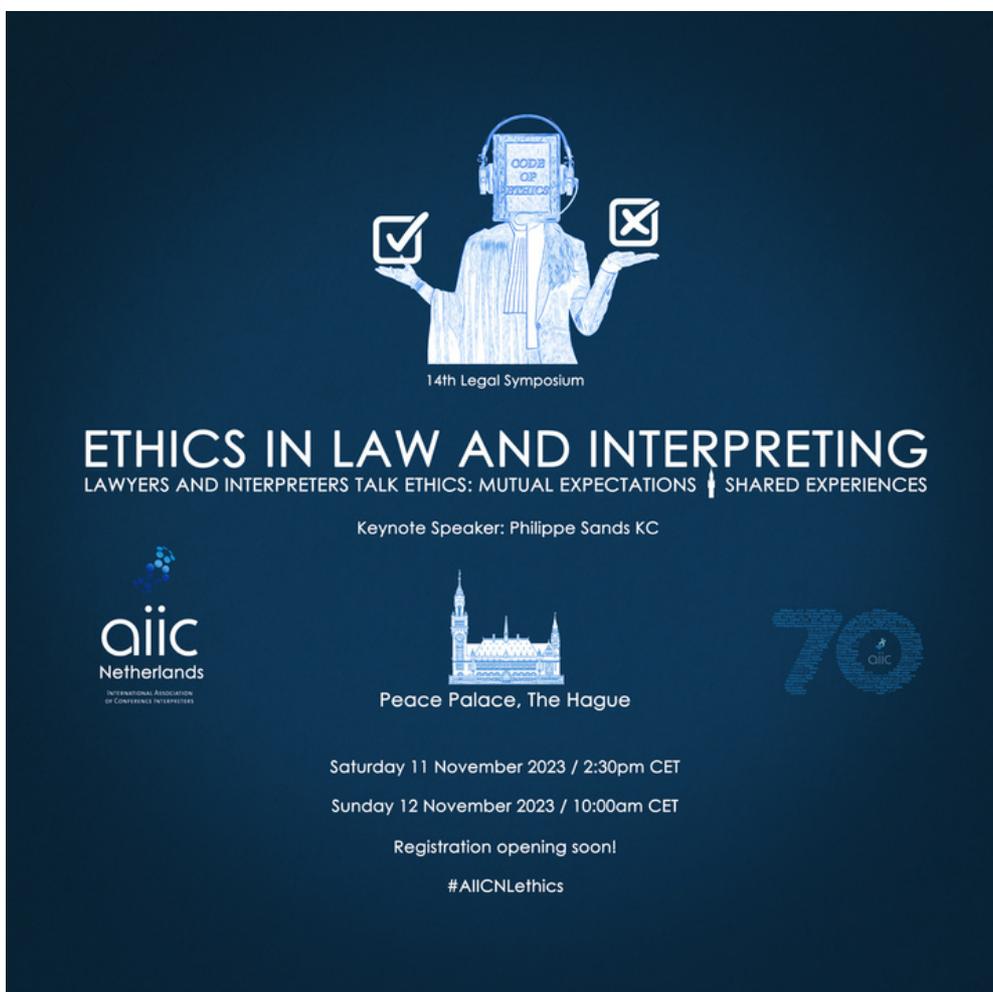
NETHERLANDS

In celebration of AIIC's 70th anniversary, AIIC Netherlands is pleased to invite you to our 14th Legal Symposium. This year's topic is ethics in the legal and interpreting professions!

Join us for one and a half days of insightful discussions with accomplished experts from two kindred professional worlds!

Professional ethics encompass the moral and ethical principles that guide qualified and skilled professionals in their conduct and decision-making processes. The topic of ethics has always been of paramount importance to any occupation, but in these unprecedented times it is becoming increasingly relevant.

Join lawyers, judges and interpreters on a quest to delve deeper into the building blocks of two formidable professions and to navigate the complexities of ontological responsibilities and dilemmas.



The poster features a central illustration of a person in a white robe and headset, holding a book titled 'CODE OF ETHICS' and two icons: a checkmark and a crossed-out square. Below the illustration is the text '14th Legal Symposium'. The main title 'ETHICS IN LAW AND INTERPRETING' is in large white letters, with the subtitle 'LAWYERS AND INTERPRETERS TALK ETHICS: MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS | SHARED EXPERIENCES' below it. The keynote speaker is 'Philippe Sands KC'. Logos for AIIC Netherlands, Peace Palace, The Hague, and AIIC's 70th anniversary are also present. The dates and times are 'Saturday 11 November 2023 / 2:30pm CET' and 'Sunday 12 November 2023 / 10:00am CET'. Registration is opening soon, and the hashtag is #AIICNethics.

14th Legal Symposium

ETHICS IN LAW AND INTERPRETING

LAWYERS AND INTERPRETERS TALK ETHICS: MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS | SHARED EXPERIENCES

Keynote Speaker: Philippe Sands KC

Peace Palace, The Hague

Saturday 11 November 2023 / 2:30pm CET
Sunday 12 November 2023 / 10:00am CET

Registration opening soon!

#AIICNethics

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

ATPD

Join Josh Goldsmith and AIIC Training and Professional Development this December for a series of tech-powered training opportunities in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

Lock in our early bird rates by signing up **before 8 October!**



São Paulo

09 December - How to use technology to prepare for interpreting assignments

10 December - AI powered interpreting

Rio de Janeiro

14 December - How to use technology to prepare for interpreting assignments

15 December - AI powered interpreting

16-17 December - Training interpreters in a digital world

Registration

Find more information and registration details on [AIIC's Event page](#). Note that AIIC members must be logged in to register.

If you have difficulties registering online, contact ATPD (training-group@aiic.org) and we can place you on a participant/waiting list.

Issues related to the registration and payment process should be reported to AIIC Headquarters (headquarters-ge@aiic.org).

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

STAFF INTERPRETERS (CDP)

This year's annual meeting of the Staff Interpreters' Committee (CdP) took place at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva from 8-10 September 2023. Colleagues representing AIC members in sixteen organisations came together from across the globe to discuss trends and concerns, to share best practices, and to meet and learn from one another.

Local staff members at the WTO put a lot of work into making the meeting a success. Colleagues who attended were much in awe – not just of the impeccable organisation, the impressive meeting facilities, and the clement Geneva weather, but also of the positive working atmosphere reported by WTO staff colleagues. A huge thank you to CdP member Mateo Reyes, the whole team of WTO staff interpreters, and to Chief Interpreter Sroda Bedarida for their warm hospitality!



Before the start of the meeting, some participants also benefited from a private tour of the UN Geneva duty station housed at Palais des Nations, which was greatly appreciated. Many thanks to the Geneva-based UN colleagues for organising that!

The overarching theme of the weekend was the advance of Artificial Intelligence and the implications it may have for our work in the booth. The CdP is convinced that it is important to engage with our employers on this subject and to make our voices heard when it comes to internal policies surrounding these developments. In our discussions, we focused on the added value of human interpreting such as the ability to auto correct and our strict rules on ethics and confidentiality.

It's also true that in order to engage in this debate we need to be aware of the power of AI and for what applications it may be useful. That is why Friday's outreach session was dedicated to a hands-on AI training session with Josh Goldsmith from techforward. Josh took the 100 participants, both online and in person, through several AI applications, demonstrating how they may be useful in our daily work and also highlighting some of the pitfalls, not least when it comes to confidentiality.

The subsequent reception organised at the UN Beach Club on Friday evening allowed colleagues to mingle with other Geneva-based staff and freelance interpreters.

Saturday and Sunday provided an opportunity to hold internal discussions and exchanges on working conditions. There was also a joint session with representatives from the Private Market Sector (PRIMS) and the Agreements Sector (SCAS). AI guidelines, remote working conditions, auditory health, hubs in the context of the refurbishing of conference venues, and negotiations with management were the main topics covered during these debates and exchanges. CdP members also met with staff interpreters who do not (yet) have a CdP representation: the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and the WHO Regional Office for Africa.

Prior to the social dinner on Saturday night there was an opportunity to take a dip in Lake Geneva at the Bains des Pâquis. This Geneva institution also serves dinner and drinks, providing an opportunity for members to meet other colleagues from the Swiss region and catch up with friends and acquaintances both old and new. 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 organisations and our profession.

We are extremely grateful to all our WTO colleagues who made this meeting come together. Thank you! Our profound thanks also goes out to all members who travelled to Geneva in order to meet in person.

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



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

LEGAL INTERPRETING COMMITTEE (LIC)

AIIC's Legal Interpreting Committee joined forces with the Legal Interpreting Committee of SYDISE (Greek Association of Conference Interpreters) to bring into focus interpreting at the International Criminal Court.

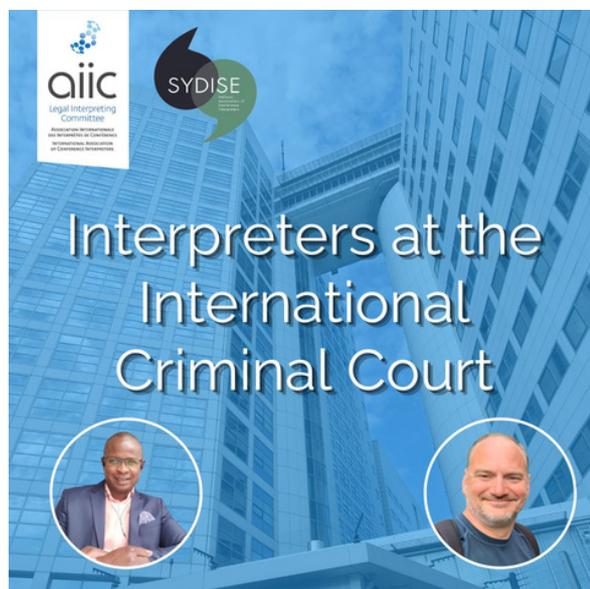
The event featured keynote speaker Andrew Constable, a staff interpreter at the ICC and an active AIIC member. His work on "Effective Communication in Multilingual Judicial Proceedings" was recently published in the legal manual "Victim

Advocacy before the International Criminal Court." Andrew provided a highly informative overview of the life of interpreters at the ICC, covering topics of interest to those working in legal settings more broadly and specifically related to the ICC.

Our second speaker, Alfred Goma Ballou, is an associate Sango interpreter at the ICC. He shared insights into the work of situational interpreters, whose contribution is invaluable when rare languages are spoken and on whose relay all other interpreters depend. Alfred has been with the ICC since 2010 and served as a paraprofessional interpreter in Sango (the national and official language of the Central African Republic) during the Bemba case. He also shed light on the unique challenges faced by situational interpreters, including how their compatriots perceive their involvement in the case and how the case's outcome reflects on the interpreters.

Both speakers also talked about the toll that working in these cases has on interpreters' health and the vicarious trauma associated with working at the ICC and war tribunals. AIIC's LIC would like to thank them both, as well as volunteers Chris Guichot de Fortis and Camille Collard for providing interpretation in this extremely well attended multilingual event.

LIC's next event will be the Africa Region-LIC Forum on the African Court on Human and People's Rights on October 28, 2023



EVENT CALENDAR

- 7 October [UK & Ireland AIIC@70 Event](#)
A panel discussion on human rights and languages in courts, linguistic justice and what happens when "rare" languages are needed
Location: London / Online
- 14 October [How and Why to Join AIIC](#)
CACL, Vega and AIIC Africa explain the application process
Location: Online
- 21 October [AIIC Training: Working with Text](#)
One day workshop with Kilian Seeber
Location: Paris
- 21 October [Join AIIC Q&A](#)
CACL and AIIC USA explain the application process
- 24 October [CAI Tools - Past, Present and Future](#)
AIIC Brazil's AIIC@70 Talks: Webinar with Patrizia Cavallo
Location: Online
- 28 October [AIIC Training: Smart Consecutive Interpreting](#)
Two day workshop with Julia Poger
Location: Online
- 3 November AIIC USA Annual Meeting
Location: Washington D.C.
- 10 November [AIIC Brazil's 70th Anniversary Celebration](#)
All members in Brazil are invited to join the celebrations.
Location: Rio de Janeiro
- 11-12 November [AIIC Netherlands Legal Symposium](#)
Ethics in Law and Interpreting
Location: The Hague
- 21 November [Black Representativeness in the Brazilian Interpreting Market](#)
AIIC Brazil's AIIC@70 Talks: Webinar with Raquel Masil
Location: Online