Is machine translation useful for translators?
The technological environment in the European Commission DG Translation

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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)
- 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
Other access

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

- **Webservices**
  - IMI, TED, ..
### Translation Options

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

**Target Language(s):**
- Spanish
- German
- Greek
- Italian
- Dutch
- Portuguese

**Domain(s):**
-...
-...
-...

**Other options:**
- User Codes:
- Minutes
- Letter
- Instruction manual
- Celex
- Confidential

### Translation Field

Enter the text you want to translate.

### Action Buttons:
- Reset
- Save profile
- Load profile
- Translate
IMI offers machine translation for free text

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>User</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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 en Commission</td>
<td>AUTHORITY Test</td>
<td>21/11/2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>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</td>
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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 24244-2008-IN**

   - Document search
   - Print document
   - Save document
   - View document
   - Machine translation

   **Current language**
   - Original language
   - Summary View
   - Data

   20/09/2008  S183  European Communities - Services - Design contest notice

   **F-Vitry-sur-Seine: architectural services for building**

   **2008/S 183-242644**

   **DESIGN CONTEST NOTICE**

   **SECTION 1: CONTRACTING AUTHORITY/ENTITY**

   1.1 NAME, ADDRESSES AND CONTACT POINT(S):
   - CSHLM, Vitry-sur-Seine, 4, rue de Bûrnay - BP 98, F-94406 Vitry-sur-Seine, Tel. (33) 147 18 11 20, Fax: (33) 146 11 11 38.
   - 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).
• 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:
  - Funding for research (7th R&D Framework Programme) and innovation (CIP ICT Policy Support Programme) in language technologies and machine translation - DG INFSO
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)
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
Thank you