Disclaimer

What follows is probable scenarios based on experience from previous accession exercises and the latest thinking. No official decisions have yet been taken.
Scope (I)

- 11 official languages
  - 110 language combinations
- In future: 22 languages
  - 462 language combinations
- 9 European Institutions
- 10 European Agencies - Other Bodies
  - Each one with different requirements and rules of procedure
Scope (II)

• Most European Institutions have their own translation service
  – Total of 2 500 translators

• More than 3 000 000 pages translated every year

• Interpreting!
Background

• Regulation 1/1958, Article 1:
  – Official languages are also working languages of the European Community

• At each enlargement: automatic adaptation of Article 1

• Article 6:
  – Every Institution decides the practical application of the linguistic regime
In Practice (I)

- All official national languages remain official Union languages
  - No matter how many
- European legislation is directly applicable
- Working language regime will probably be modified
  - With deeper Institutional reform?
In Practice (II)

• At the Commission:
  – 3 working languages for the Commissioners

• English and French most important source languages
  – 1992: 44% FR - 41% EN
  – 1999: 48% EN - 37% FR

• Other Institutions: much the same
  – Except European Parliament
The Issues

• Personnel
  – Numbers (!), recruitment, training

• Infrastructure

• Workflow
  – Workload, working methods

• Outsourcing

• Translation Tools
  – Termino, memories, machine translation
Pre-enlargement (I)

• Field offices in future Member States
  – For revision of legislative translations

• External translation
  – Market (!)
  – Quality control
  – Qualifications
  – Harmonised internal procedures

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(II) Training

• In-house translators in new languages
  – Staff of the EN, FR
  – And possibly DE and ES units

• University training in CEEC
  – Course curricula
  – Requirements of the Institutions
  – List of recognised diplomas
(III) Recruitment

• Typical success rate in translator competitions < 5%
  – Local offer ? Qualifications ?

• Scenarios
  – Accession -3: Heads of services
  – Accession -2: Competitions
  – Accession -1: Recruitment

• Translation assistants
(III) Translation Technology

• Terminology tools
  – Local and central
  – Batch lookup and concordancing tools

• Translation memories
  – Local front-ends
  – Central storage of translation memories

• Machine translation
  – From and into new languages
Post-enlargement (I)

• Translation demand
  – Reduce number of translation requests - procedures (!)
  – Limit length of documents

• Number of translators
  – E.g. Commission:
  – 10% new posts (135 on 1350)
  – Liberate 165 existing posts
Post-enlargement (II)

- Translation via relay languages
- Translation via pivot languages
- Two-way (“aller et retour”) translation
  - With thorough revision

- Even more external translation
  - E.g. Commission: from 16% to 25%
Translation of the “Acquis”

- TAIEX
  - Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Office

- 80 000 pages of existing legislation to be translated in 11 languages

- Translation Coordination Units in candidate countries
Langtech for the “Acquis”

- Document server with full text search capabilities for storing translations
  - “Pre-Celex”
- Organised terminological circuit
  - “Pre-Eurodicautom”
- Translation memories
  - “Pre-Euramis”
- Machine translation

SdT
Conclusions

• Full multilingualism guaranteed
  – At least externally
• Stimulation of translation market
  – For freelance and officials
• Novel working methods
• Translation technology
• First task: translation of the “Acquis”