



JOHANNES HAHN
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 4 August 2021

Dear President of the Central Staff Committee,

Thank you for your note of 19 July 2021. I share your appreciation of DGT's continuous professionalism in contributing to the Commission's collective effort on its major policy initiatives, as an essential actor ensuring multilingualism in the EU's decision-making process.

In the past months, with the various initiatives the Commission has launched to address the concerns and needs of European citizens, DGT has been translating unprecedented volumes, often under very tight deadlines for high-priority political files.

I reassure you that I will continue to call for reinforced discipline across the Commission with respect to demand management rules set out in the 2016 Communication on Translation on document length, established deadlines and versions sent for translation.

This is particularly important in a context where DGT continues to contribute to the Commission's redeployment of posts, in line with the efforts of all Commission services to deliver on new tasks and priorities while operating under constant resources. Against this background, I welcome the fact that DGT is adopting a forward-looking approach to employ a flexible resources structure that combines permanent and temporary staff, outsourcing and language technologies. Outsourcing has proven a reliable and efficient means to absorb significant fluctuations in demand that cannot be covered by in-house capacity.

The use of eTranslation, in turn, not only supports the general efficiency of translators, but has also allowed the Commission to meet imperative political needs by relying on innovative approaches.

Mr Athanasios Katsogiannis
President of the Central Staff Committee



In the example of the Recovery and Resilience Facility package, eTranslation supported efficiency in the Commission both by allowing the relevant officers to assess the national plans to prepare the draft decisions, and by allowing DGT to apply a differentiated treatment for the translation of the annexes to ensure fitness for purpose for its requesters and alleviate the burden for its translators to the extent possible.

DGT's advanced digital transformation processes reflect a wider societal change and new expectations on the EU administration to set an example of effectiveness and efficiency by being truly digital and data-driven.

We all agree that the skills of DGT staff remain the essential cornerstone to ensure the efficient provision of high-quality linguistic services. I particularly appreciate DGT's investment in staff and skills, be it through the diversification of the training offer or through recruitment of new talent, including selection procedures for temporary agents that can flexibly bring in specific expertise and skills.

As you know, flexible and efficient recruitment as well as a true career management for all staff are major objectives of the Commission's upcoming corporate Human Resources strategy. I am reassured by the fact that the selection procedures recently launched by DGT have attracted a great number of candidates, which attests to the attractiveness of DGT, and the Commission, as a workplace.

Thank you once again for your valuable contributions over those extremely busy past months. Your input and ideas are extremely important to accompany the modernization we are aiming at. As I told you on previous occasions, the well-being of all our staff is the priority of the Commission.

I wish you a well-deserved summer break before a busy autumn.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)
Johannes Hahn