

Brussels Declaration for international cooperation on terminology

The representatives of national and international terminology associations, networks and documentation centres,

considering that terminology is omnipresent in all human activity,

aware that terminology is a key means for conveying information in specialised communication, but that it also plays a central role in asserting and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity,

acknowledging the need to make professionals and decision-makers aware of the outstanding value of terminology as a tool for communication and the transfer of knowledge,

underscoring the necessity for terminology professionals to integrate the concerns and needs of users in their methods of work,

recognizing the need for cooperation among all actors and stakeholders at the global level and, in particular, to share terminology resources in a coordinated way,

concerned to strengthen terminology development and dissemination infrastructures,

call upon States and governments, intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, and bodies involved in language policies to:

- *support* the creation of terminology infrastructures in major economic groupings, such as Europe and the future FTAA¹ and support other existing terminology infrastructures;
- *encourage* the establishment of terminology policies in the context of training and information programmes, and so on;
- *promote* the introduction of methods of cooperation that take into account the lessons of what has already been achieved and of existing initiatives and projects;
- *foster* initiatives to raise the awareness of industry and public authorities as regards participation in terminology work;
- *promote* the establishment of specific funding programmes for terminology work and, above all, for the development and updating of terminologies;
- *encourage* national standards institutes to take an active part in regulatory bodies (for instance, the International Standardization Organization's Technical Committee 37 "Terminology and other language resources"), bodies which harmonize terminology questions at the global level, and those which regulate the Internet to ensure that all specific cultural and linguistic characteristics are present on it;
- *promote* initiatives for the appropriate use of terminology, in particular at all levels of education and specialization, both academic and non-academic;
- *render* compulsory the discipline of terminology and language for specific purposes in all translation curricula and encourage its introduction in all disciplines, in particular those of a scientific and technical nature;

¹ Free Trade Area of the Americas.

- *encourage* dialogue among countries with the same language but with different linguistic norms so as to harmonize the creation of new words and terminology standardization, taking into account the different varieties of the language, by applying the principles of locality without forgetting the need for mutual understanding;
- encourage multilingualism both as regards education and in administrative and public use;
- promote the dissemination and accessibility free of charge of terminologies, above all those contained in official documents of governments and international institutions;
- study the current use and role of terminology in the various kinds of strategic and political measures of governments and institutions;
- given the growing number of emerging countries which are endeavouring to implement language policies, ensure the training of their experts in the principles and methods of terminology in the context of sustainable development and provide, as far as is possible, support for experts from these countries to enable them to take an active part in international terminology activities.

Done at Brussels on 15th June 2002