



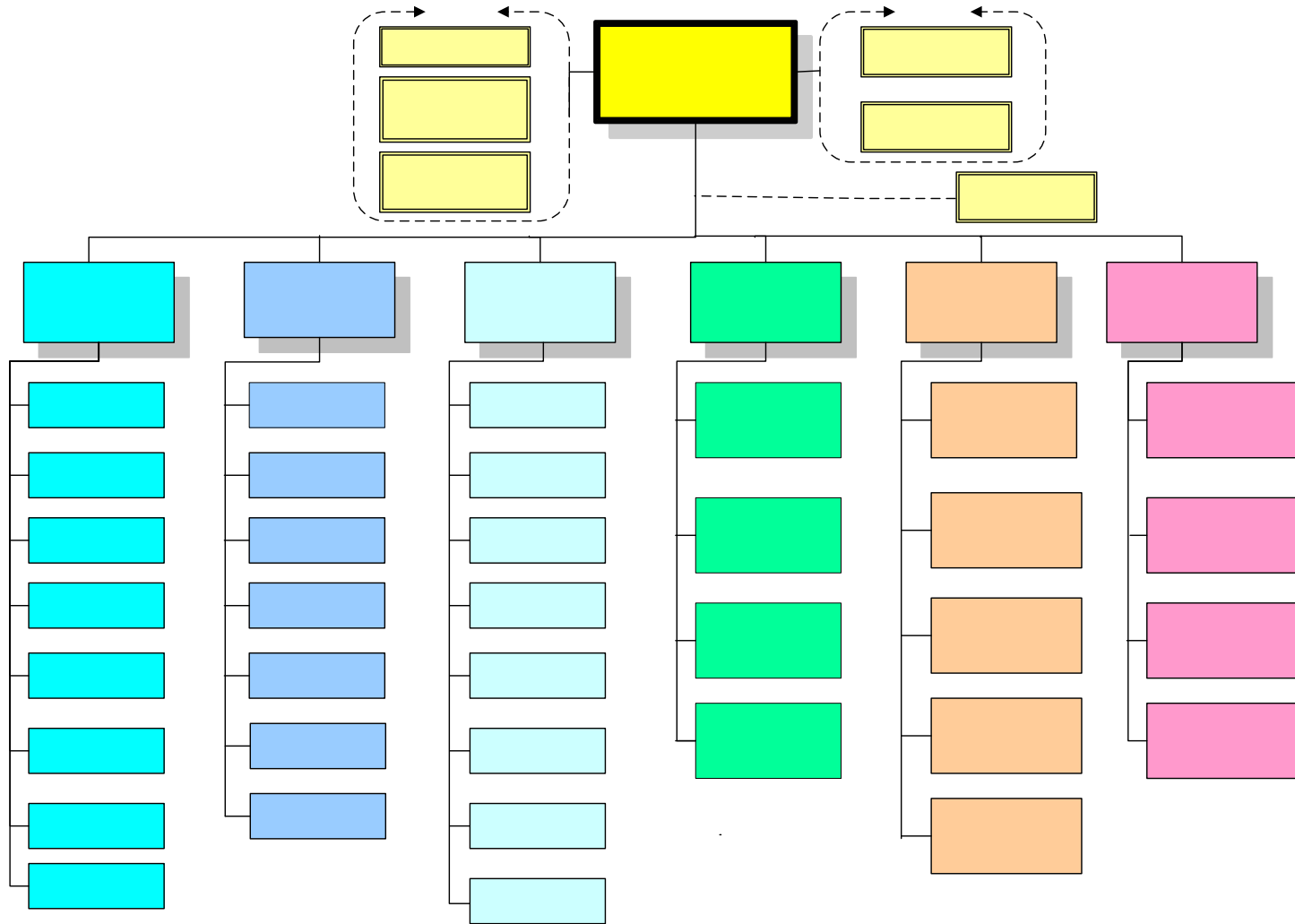
The Directorate-General for Translation at the European Commission

***Fiona Harris
Angeliki Petrīts***

Brussels, February 2008

Communication and
Information Unit

DGT: Who are we?



Why do we translate?

To enable citizens of the EU Member States:

- **to understand the laws that they have to comply with;**
- **to play a full part in EU activities;**
- **to make their contributions to the work of the EU institutions without having to learn a foreign language for the purpose.**

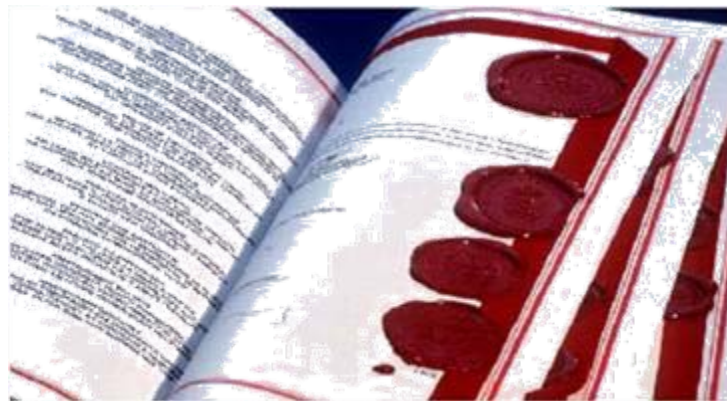
Is there a legal basis?

- **Council Regulation No 1/58:**

Regulations and other documents of general application shall be drafted in the official languages.

- **Treaty establishing the European Community:**

Citizens have a right to address the official EU bodies in any of the EU's official languages and to receive a reply in that language.



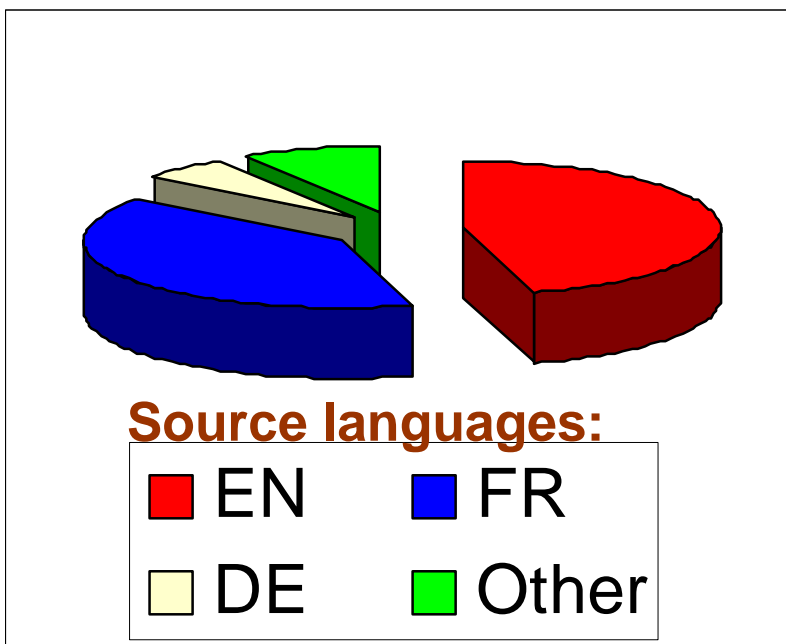
How many pages?

	1997	2004	2007
Total output in pages	1 125 709	1 270 586	1 762 773
Proportion freelance	16%	23.0%	23.8%
Source text written in English	45%	62%	72%
- in French	40%	26%	12%
- in German	5%	3.1%	3%
- in other EU languages	8%	9%	13%

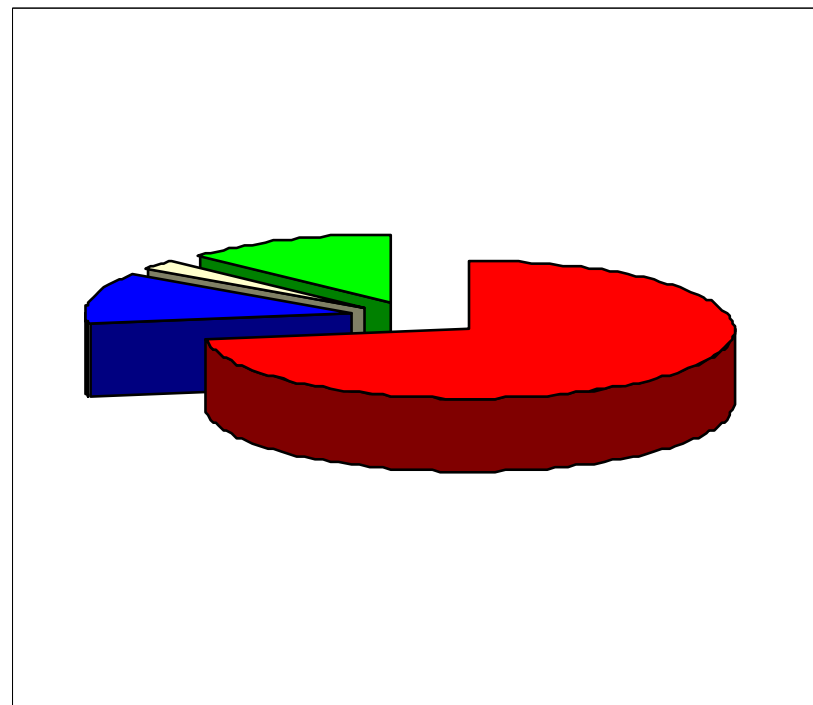
Note: Some source texts are in more than one language.

Out of which languages?

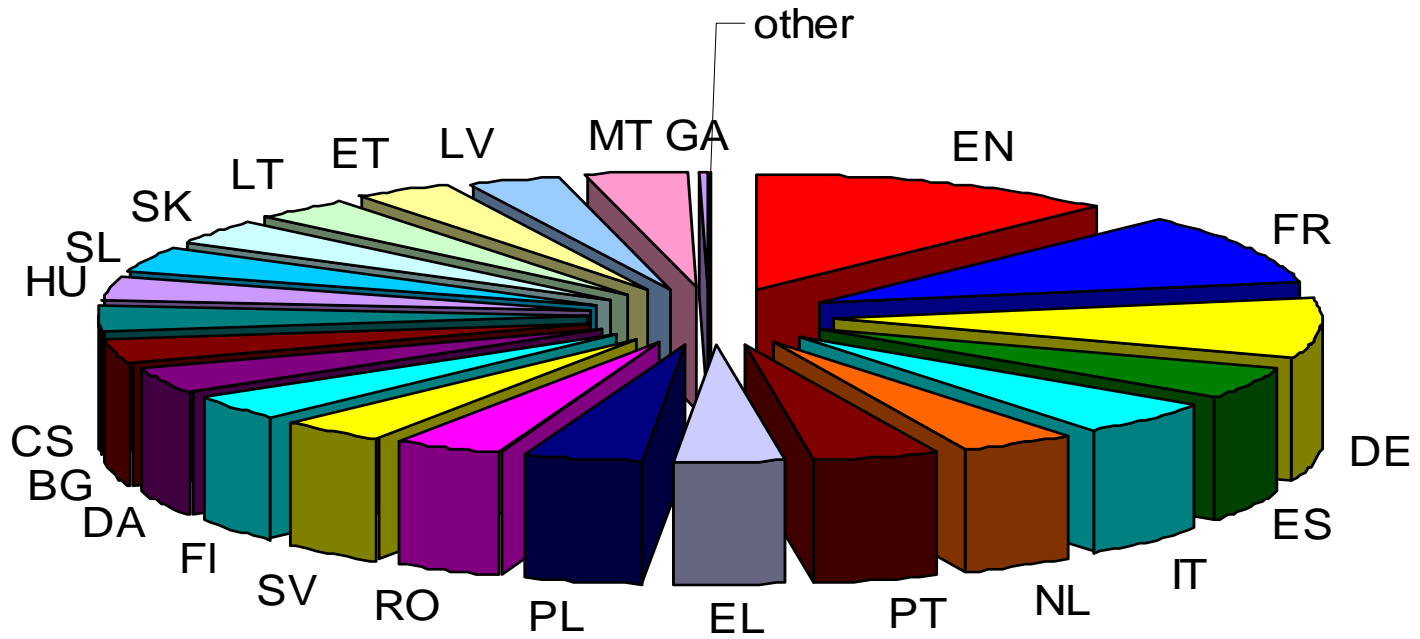
1997: 1 125 709 pages



2007: 1 762 773 pages

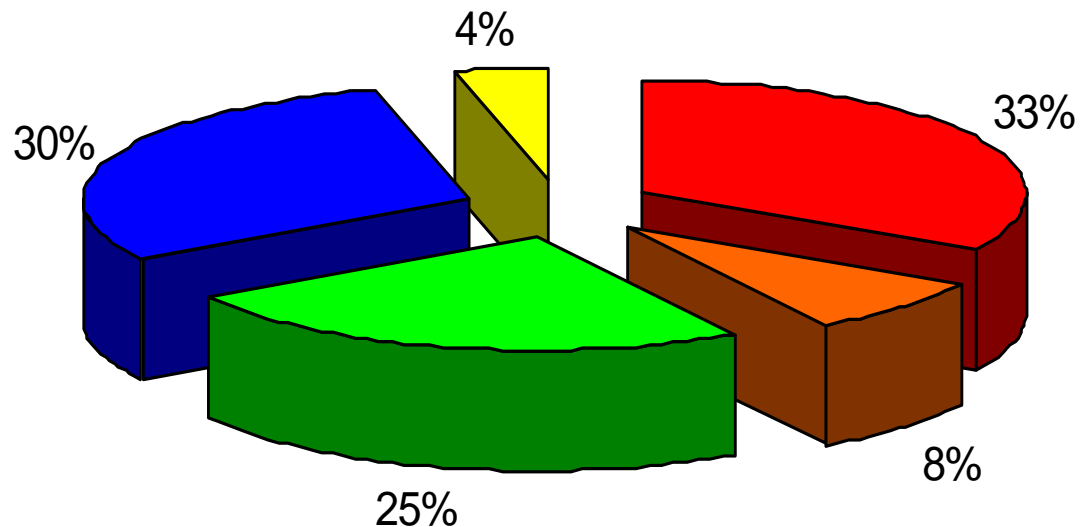


Into which languages?



What kind of documents?

Pages translated by category - 2006



■ Legislation ■ Consultation ■ Information ■ Administration ■ Other

How much does it cost?

- In EU-27 the entire multilingual system (all translation and interpreting services at all EU institutions) costs each EU citizen around 3 euros per year.
- The cost of multilingualism adds up to less than 1% of the whole EU budget.

Democracy costs money ... but it's worth this modest cost.

Our website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation/>

