



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRADUCTEURS
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS

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Siège/Registered Office: REGUS, 57, rue d'Amsterdam, 75008 Paris

11 August 2016

Soledad BECERRIL BUSTAMANTE
Defensora del Pueblo
c/ Zurbano, 42
28010
Madrid

cc: APTIJ, ASETRAD, APTIC

Dear Mrs Becerril Bustamante,

Re: Complaint against Ministry of Justice with reference to Directive 2010/64/EU

I am writing in support of the aforementioned complaint lodged principally by APTIJ in collaboration with two of our member associations of professional translators and interpreters in Spain (La Asociación Española de Traductores, Correctores e Intérpretes - ASETRAD, l'Associació Professional de Traductors i Intèrprets de Catalunya - APTIC).

The International Federation of Translators (FIT) - the voice of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists around the world - represents nearly one hundred thousand professional practitioners from 55 countries, over 100 professional associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists as well as academic institutions active in translation studies and the research and training of professional translators, interpreters and terminologists.

The aforementioned complaint before you concerning translation and interpreting services in judicial and police settings in Spain has come to the attention of FIT..

Access to professional legal translators and interpreters is fundamental to the principle of natural justice and due process. Many of these so-called interpreters supplied by these agencies which were successful in the tendering process lack qualifications and professionalism. They are also without adequate supervision or oversight by competent authorities. All of this violates the spirit of the Directive 2010/64/EU. Regretfully, it been widely reported by media and cited by academic and professional associations thus damaging the reputation of Spain.

Therefore FIT strongly supports the complaint in front of you lodged by APTIJ in conjunction with all interested parties and urges your Office to carry out a formal investigation of this serious matter. Should the serious deficiencies be found with regards to the provision of translation and interpreting services in judicial and police settings as supplied by these agencies, immediate actions can be taken to limit the damage and injustice caused and to safeguard this important process.

I thank you for your kind consideration of this matter. I can assure you that APTIJ and their partners can work closely with you and your Office during this investigation. In the event that impartial and international experts are needed, please do not hesitate to contact me as FIT will be very happy to facilitate this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Henry Liu', written over a faint circular stamp.

Dr Henry Liu
President