

Brussels, 20 April 2020
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Dear Sir/Madam,

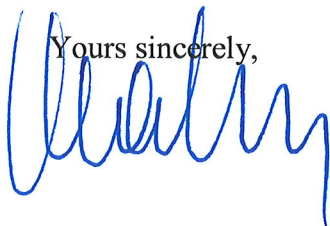
On behalf of President von der Leyen, I would like to thank you for your letter of 6 April 2020 and confirm that I am very well aware of the difficult situation that the free-lance interpreters accredited to the EU institutions are facing as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis.

The COVID-19 crisis is unprecedented in the history of the European Union. The scale of economic and social challenges that the Union, its Member States and citizens are currently facing is unseen. The Commission too is operating under special circumstances. As a public administration, we are doing our utmost to continue to discharge our duties and ensuring that taxpayers' money is used in the best way to support the public good.

I understand that the free-lance interpreters contracted by the Commission were shielded in the first months of the pandemics, as contracts for assignments until the end of May were honoured in line with the Agreement on working conditions of 1999 and despite a drastic drop in interpretation demand since mid-March.

I have also been informed that a dialogue with the AIIC Negotiating Delegation is currently ongoing at the inter-institutional level. I am in close contact with DG SCIC, the service in charge of leading the discussion on the Commission's side, which keeps me regularly updated. I hope that this dialogue will be conducive to identifying a pragmatic and forward-looking mitigating measure, while preserving the viability of the Commission's interpretation service.

Yours sincerely,



ECPD - AIIC European Commission Professional Delegation of freelance interpreters
ND - Negotiating Delegation of AIIC for the EU sector
Executive Committee of AIIC - International Association of Conference Interpreters

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