



FIT EUROPE
REGIONAL CENTRE EUROPE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS
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To:

Prime Minister Helle Thorning Schmidt, stm@stm.dk

Re: Proposed repeal of Translatørloven 1988

Dear Prime Minister

FIT Europe is the European regional centre of the global *Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs* and represents the interests of practising translators and interpreters in its 52 member associations across Europe.

We are writing today in support of the three Danish associations of professional translators and interpreters, Translatørforeningen, Kommunikation og Sprog and Danske Translatører regarding the proposed repeal of Translatørloven 1988, which we utterly oppose.

Denmark has long been a bastion of an open and fair society with pioneering social structures that are the model and envy of countries all over the world. The visionary Translatørloven of 1988 preceded Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005. The proposed repeal of the Act for the authorisation of translators and interpreters therefore causes us considerable disquiet. We believe it is not only a step in the wrong direction but a fully counter-productive step.

More so than in many countries within Europe, the Danish government and the people of Denmark have for many years enjoyed the benefits of the reliable and professional translation of documents into and from Danish. This was thanks to the vision of this Act and the work and dedication of the *authorized* members of the three aforementioned professional associations.

The Danish government and the people of Denmark are rightly proud of the quality of the translation and interpreting services provided by the Danish *authorized* translators and interpreters. Rather than repealing this Act, efforts should be concentrated on safeguarding the existing standard of translation and interpreting, not to mention protecting the Danish language and ensuring the implementation of Danish law. This would help to maintain and enhance the reputation of Denmark, its translators and the Danish language itself, and may we add, at minimal cost to your taxpayers.

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We believe that the Danish professional associations would be very happy to work closely with you on revisiting the Act, if that were required, and in a manner that is of benefit to Danish society in general, to the Danish users of the translation and interpreting service and last but not least, the *authorized* translators themselves.

As the European association representing our member associations, we would be very happy to help in any way we can to ensure that this Danish model of best practice is not repealed.

Yours sincerely



Natascha Dalügge-Momme

President FIT Europe



Dr. Annette Schiller

Vice-President and PR FIT Europe