



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRADUCTEURS
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS

president@fit-ift.org | www.fit-ift.org
Siège/Registered Office: REGUS, 57, rue d'Amsterdam, 75008 Paris

Justitsminister
Karen Hækkerup
Justitsministeriet
Slotsholmensgade 10
1216 København K

Uddannelses- og forskningsminister
Sophie Carsten Nielsen
Uddannelses- og forskningsministeriet
Postboks 2135
1015 København K

Erhvervs- og vækstminister
Henrik Sass Larsen
Slotsholmensgade 10-12
1216 København K

Dear Ministers,

Re: Proposed review of Translatørloven 1988

I am writing in support of all three Danish associations of professional translators and interpreters (Translatørforeningen, Kommunikation og Sprog, Danske Translatører) with the respect to the proposed changes.

Denmark has been a bastion of 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 the Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005. The proposed abolition of the authorisation is therefore most concerning and is deemed a backward step.

Through the implementation of this Act and the dedication of the three aforementioned professional associations, the Danish government has enjoyed reliable rendition of foreign documents and professional portrayal of Danish documents abroad. The Danish government and the wider Danish people ought to be proud of its very high level of translation and interpreting services.

It is widely anticipated that there will be rapid growth in the demand for certified translations of documents used in cross-border activities and international trade and

for official stamps of recognition of the service providers in the industry. Abolition of the official authorisation scheme in Denmark would be detrimental not only to the members of the profession in Denmark but also to the wider Danish business and industry sectors in general, as documents would undoubtedly have to be sent abroad to be translated by people who can provide them with an officially acknowledged stamp and perhaps also arrange for an apostille certificate, which is required in many countries. This would also reduce the level of quality control and assurance that a national Danish system current provides. Whereas, simply entitling all translators to 'certify' their translations without being listed in a central register would compromise the authority and acceptability of translated documents and would at least slow down cross-border activities and trade.

Rather than abolishing this Act, its coverage especially in less common European languages, languages of limited diffusion and emerging languages should be encouraged. This can maintain and enhance the reputation of Denmark and the Danish language, and may I add, with minimal cost to your government and taxpayers.

Whilst not all of the aforementioned professional associations are current members of FIT (Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs/International Federation of Translators), I am writing to you as FIT deemed this current proposal to be a threat to users of translation and interpreting services in Denmark and the wider reputation of Denmark in the European and international stage. The Federation is the global voice of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists actively involved in professional issues like implementation of best practices, which FIT considers Translatørloven 1988 as one of the best practice models.

I thank you for your kind consideration on this matter. I can assure you that the Danish professional associations can work closely with you, your ministries and your government towards improved implementation of this Act. In the event where international experts are needed, please do not hesitate to contact me as FIT will be very happy to facilitate this.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Henry Liu
President