

FULL SUPPORT FOR THE INTERPRETERS' DELEGATION TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS

Brussels, 20th June 2024

TAO-The Independents remains convinced that working conditions on platforms must guarantee auditory health and safety for interpreters. The European Parliament and Court of Justice have introduced Sound Protocols including use of approved peripherals as a condition sine qua non for interpreters to do their job safely. This decision confirms CPPT (Comité pour la Prévention et Protection au Travail) Recommendations, and the preliminary risk analysis launched by the OIB. The European Commission to this day has not followed suit.

A new technology such as Simultaneous Delivery Platforms cannot be deployed before a risk analysis is conducted and a register of cases of auditory pathologies reported by interpreters is established. In the

absence of proof that platforms are safe for interpreters, exposure levels should not be expanded beyond current levels in strict application of the **duty of care**.

Health and Safety are fundamental rights and SCIC is currently in breach.

TAO-The Independents has followed closely the negotiations on working conditions on Simultaneous Interpreting Delivery Platforms in SCIC. We have always been supportive of the Interpreters' Delegation (ID) excellent work and have spared no effort to find an acceptable solution for both parties. In the past we have not hesitated to intervene when asked for help e.g., meeting DG SCIC alongside the Delegation to try to unblock ISO participation, or more recently co-signing a letter to unblock negotiations on Hybrid meetings along with other trade unions in Front Commun.

However, the Interpreters' General Assembly has spoken. **TAO** considers its duty to respect their express wish. The Resolution passed on June 14th must be understood as a road map. Negotiations are to be resumed in-house between the Interpreters' Delegation and Management. Now is not yet the time for a concertation administrative with the participation of Human Resources and trade unions. The autonomy of the Delegation must be protected given the complexity of the dossier and the specific knowledge and know-how accumulated over time.

If and when the referendum to activate a strike action is called and in the event of a positive result, our trade union will be asked to lodge a strike action notice on behalf of the Interpreters' Delegation. From that moment onward our participation will be activated as a matter of course and we will help in any way we can at the negotiation table alongside the Interpreters' Delegation and the trade unions willing to join this fair battle. What is at stake is of crucial importance and we call upon all parties to resume negotiations responsibly.



Join TAO to reinforce the staff's action and to be informed on your rights!

TAO -The Independents

European Commission

Rue Joseph II, 70 – 1049 Bruxelles

+32 2 296 25 89 // osp-tao-afi@ec.europa.eu



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