

Languages Service Sectoral Assembly (LSSA)

Minutes of the ninth meeting of the Bureau¹

Held via videoconference on Wednesday 29 March 2023, from 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Attendees: Marine Acker (FTS), Esmá Belfalah (ATS), Jianjun Chen (CTS), Antia Collazo Ageitos (STS), Pauline Escalante (EDPU), Mélanie Guedenet (Guest), Laura Johnson (President), Lyndsay Nash (ES), Romina Merino (SDPU), Cristina Parrondo (STS), Kristina Redesha (RTS)

1. **Mélanie Guedenet**, in charge of the Learning and Knowledge Management Programme, informed the Bureau about her vision for the role and requested input and ideas. She answered Bureau members' questions, including about the extent to which training events could lead to productivity increases.

Mélanie Guedenet withdrew after the discussion of this item.

2. **The President** briefed the Bureau on the latest developments regarding the implementation of the translators' workload standard, including the letter sent to the Secretary-General, the global town hall for Languages Service Staff, the new Staff-Management Committee (SMC) paper and the planned "mental health day". **The Bureau** discussed the next steps.
3. **The Bureau** was informed of the existence of DGACM guidelines for the determination of steps on recruitment to language positions, the right to have your step reviewed by HR if the recruitment was recent enough and the possibility of seeking legal advice through OSLA otherwise. **The President** agreed to send a message to all DCM staff to inform them of the guidelines.
4. **The President** had received a response regarding the office space assigned to the Spanish Translation Section under the SHP (see annex). Staff from other sections requested transparency in office planning. Concerns had been raised from staff with allergies about the carpets. The editors had a specific concern about a space that might be used for disruptive informal meetings. It was agreed to ask the Chief of LS about these concerns.
5. **The Bureau** was informed that Pablo Gonzalez Silva, former Vice-President of LSSA, had attended a "brown bag lunch" organized to welcome new colleagues to the Service, to present LSSA and the Staff Union.
6. **The Bureau** discussed how monitoring of monitored self-revision was organized in the different sections and the issue of translators who were not yet ready to self-revise, which meant revisers were obliged to refuse the job or ask for it to be reassigned as revision. It was agreed to raise the subject at the next DCM SRMG meeting.

¹ Unless otherwise stated, the opinions reflected herein represent staff suggestions and views collected by their representatives and are aimed at promoting communication between management and staff. In order to avoid misunderstandings, any comments or requests for corrections to the minutes should be submitted to the President of the LSSA only, for inclusion in the minutes of the following meeting.

Question from LSSA President to Chief of LS

I hope your time as officer-in-charge for the Division has been going smoothly. I am writing to you about the office space that will be assigned to the Spanish Translation Section after our move.

We discussed this when you and Kira met with the Sectoral Assembly Bureau last year and that, according to the plans at that time, the Section had not been assigned enough space for each staff member to have a separate desk.

As I recall, you and Kira were both aware of this and a solution was going to be found. In addition, the staff concerned did not wish to telecommute four days a week, as had been suggested to them.

Now I am writing because, as far as the staff in the Section are aware, they have still not been assigned enough office space. They raised this at the last Sectoral Assembly Bureau meeting and I agreed to ask you whether a solution had been found. I know that the SHP plans have changed many times and I am wondering whether, as things stand, the space allocated for STS will be sufficient, or whether it is still based on the same initial estimate?

Response from Chief of LS

Thank you for reaching out. Indeed the move will be delayed until the Q-4. There is also a chance of there being further slippage until Q1 or even Q2 2024.

STS has now updated their list from 27 to 37 to take into account the lifting of the previous hiring freeze. There should be enough space in building C. Unfortunately, the C building will not be ready if we move before the end of the year and several colleagues from several sections would have to move twice including all colleagues from STS. Moreover, during the transition period STS would be spread out over several floors. We have relayed to the SHP that we would like them to explore other options and they have said they do not have any other options at the present time except the H building.

In brief the space allocated to STS is no longer based on the initial estimate provided by the Chief but has been updated. The initial estimate was always meant to be updated once the hiring freeze was lifted. We will continue to work with SHP and all LS Colleagues to find a solution. Fortunately we will not be moving for at least another six months if not longer.