



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
CENTRAL STAFF COMMITTEE

Permanent Delegation of Translators (DPT)

Brussels/Luxembourg, 22 June 2017
DPT-2017-4

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR MARTIKONIS,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF DGT**

Subject: Ensuring proper working conditions for translators from the ergonomic point of view

According to the Commission decision ESTABLISHING A HARMONISED POLICY FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK FOR ALL COMMISSION STAFF C(2006)1623, the general principles of health and safety at the Commission include avoiding possible risks and giving collective protective measures priority over individual protective measures.

Translators remain seated throughout our working day and musculoskeletal disorders are one of our common health problems. Ergonomic tables of adjustable height make it possible to change position from sitting to standing during the day and are an effective way of preventing these health problems. Currently, obtaining an ergonomic table as well as an ergonomic chair is only possible with a certificate issued by the Medical Service in cases of serious illness. This is not proper prevention of the disorders mentioned.

The results of the DPT translators survey of 24 April - May 8, 2017 are very clear: with response rate of more than 50 percent, almost 90 percent would like to have an ergonomic table that is height-adjustable, enabling them to work in a sitting or standing position, changeable throughout the working day, and more than 93 percent support the idea of buying such tables for all DGT translators who want them, to help prevent musculoskeletal disorders.

Taking into account the claims and requests received from colleagues as well as the results of the aforementioned survey on ergonomic tables, the DPT would like to stress that proper working conditions must be ensured for translators and other DGT staff:

- ✓ proper ventilation, lighting, heating, air conditioning and adequate office space need to be ensured for all DGT staff;
- ✓ offices must be equipped with appropriate ergonomic furniture, i.e. ergonomic tables, chairs, computer equipment etc.

Based on this we would like to ask you to consider the possibility of buying ergonomic tables/chairs for all translators and other staff who want them as a significant step towards improving their working conditions.

The DPT is ready to cooperate with you on any initiative to improve working conditions and to continue these discussions in the interests of the staff.

Hugh Annand
Chair

Rytis Virbalis
Vice president

Copy to

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