



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 24 May 2013

9871/13

EJUSTICE 49

NOTE

from:	The Working Party on e-Law (e-Justice)
to:	Coreper/Council
No prev. doc.:	8829/13 EJUSTICE 34
Subject:	Use of automated translations on the e-Justice Portal

1. The Working Party on e-Law (e-Justice) had an initial discussion at its meeting on 19 and 20 November 2012 on the possibility of using in the e-Justice Portal the automated translation tool being developed by the Commission. On this occasion, the Working Party reached an initial agreement on the introduction of this tool in the Portal in 2013. The expert group on e-Justice further examined this issue at its meeting on 26 February 2013 on the basis of test samples provided by the Commission's services.
2. At its meeting on 19 March 2013, the Working Party confirmed its initial agreement, on the understanding that the automated translation tool would be used to offer on-demand provisional translations of content pages on the e-Justice Portal, e.g. when the content is published for the first time and human translations are not yet available, when the content is being updated and human translations are not yet available or when the content will not be translated (attachments). In such cases a link will be added to direct the user to the updated page with an automated translation. A specific disclaimer will be added to the pages produced by the automated translation tool.

3. In addition, a roll-down menu will be included on the Portal allowing the users to choose the language version produced by the automated translation tool for the specific content item in question.
4. These automated translations will not be searchable by other external search engines.
5. It should be noted that several Member States have expressed quality concerns regarding the results produced by this automated translation tool at this stage. It is suggested that the Council should welcome the work carried out so far by the Commission and invite the Commission to pursue its work with a view to improving the output of its automated translation engine, in particular as regards certain languages.
6. The Working Party on e-Law (e-Justice) may re-examine the issue of using the automated translation tool on the e-Justice Portal at a later stage, in the light of practical experience and possible further technical developments, as appropriate. Given the quality concerns raised by certain Member States, the Commission should report as appropriate to the Working Party on its efforts to improve the quality of the engine's output with respect to certain languages.
7. Consideration should also be given, if necessary, to the anticipated need to increase the short- and medium-term translation capacity related to the Portal due to the increasing amount of new content pages requiring translation in the future. Possible user feedback should also be taken into account in further discussions on the use of automated translations on the e-Justice Portal.
8. Coreper is invited to agree to the suggested way forward as set out above and to submit this document for endorsement to the June JHA Council.