

LAWYER-LINGUISTS MEETING

What is a lawyer-linguists meeting?

It is a meeting between the lawyer-linguists and Member States' delegates. The objective is to finalise the base version.

Who are the participants?

The meeting is chaired by a Council lawyer-linguist.

The other participants are:

- one Council lawyer-linguist per language,
- Member States' delegates,
- an administrator from the relevant Council DG,
- administrators from the relevant Commission DG,
- representatives of the lawyer-linguists of the European Parliament.

Working method

We review the base text page by page.

Only legal-linguistic changes which do not affect the substance of the text can be discussed.

Result

The agreed base version is final. The other language versions are aligned to it soon after the meeting.

Why should you attend?

- We need your expertise on the subject.
- We need your input to ensure that our changes fully respect the negotiated compromise.
- This is your last opportunity to contribute to the quality of the base version.

To reach your lawyer-linguist team:

dqlequipe.XX@consilium.europa.eu
("XX" is your language code, for example
"dqlequipe.en@consilium.europa.eu"
for the English team)

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THE LAWYER-LINGUISTS

A Guide for Member State Delegates



Directorate for the
Quality of Legislation
Legal Service

WHO ARE WE?

- **The Directorate for the Quality of Legislation (DQL)** is part of the Council Legal Service. Already since 1960, we are known as the lawyer-linguists.
- A lawyer-linguist is a lawyer with specialised linguistic skills.
- Whichever is your EU official language, there is a **team of lawyer-linguists and assistants** you can contact.
- Whatever the subject-matter, from criminal justice to fisheries, your file is always **finalised in your language by a lawyer-linguist** who is a native speaker and who thoroughly examines your suggestions and all aspects of the draft legal act.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- We revise all draft legal acts to be adopted by the European Council, the Council acting alone, or the Council acting together with the European Parliament.
- We check the **quality of drafting** of the base version (used during the negotiations) and of the other language versions, making drafting suggestions and introducing linguistic improvements.
- We verify the **consistency between all the language versions**, ensuring that they have the same content.
- Towards the end of the process, for most files we hold a meeting with the Member States' delegates. During this meeting, we thoroughly review the base version which is the basis for your language version. After the meeting, all other versions are aligned and become final. For more information on these meetings, see overleaf.

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

We would like you to examine your language version as soon as you receive it from the Working Party's Secretariat.

If you notice inconsistencies, ambiguities, omissions, mistranslations etc., please let us have your comments.

■ When?

We need your contribution before the set deadline and in any case before the lawyer-linguists meeting.

■ How?

Please submit your suggestions in writing, if possible by inserting them directly in the text using the "Track Changes" function.

■ To whom?

You can contact your lawyer-linguist team directly (see back cover for details).

Alternatively, you can always submit your suggestions via the Working Party's Secretariat who will ensure that we receive them in good time.

