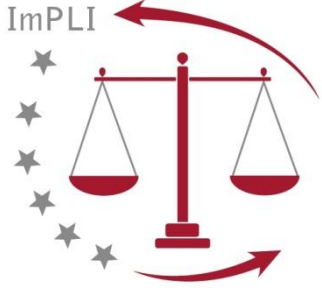


# Professional Ethics

Sylvia Kalina

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# The Directive

- **Article 6** on training stipulates that
- *Member States shall request those responsible for the training of judges, prosecutors and judicial staff involved in criminal proceedings to pay special attention to the particularities of communicating with the assistance of an interpreter so as to ensure efficient and effective communication.*



# Definitions

- **Best Practice**

Practical agreements between recruiter (police) and interpreter in the interest of avoiding any procedural problems

- **Codes of Conduct**

Outline the professional responsibilities of each of the parties (here: police and interpreter)

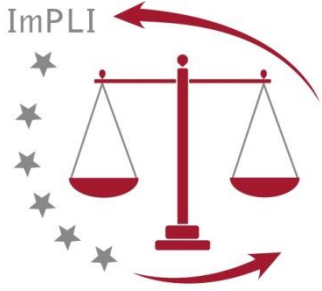
- **Professional Ethics**

Lay down guidelines for members of the profession



# Best Practice

- Working arrangements, to be agreed between **police and interpreter**
- In police interpreting, the police has control (power) of the action. Their **expectations vis-à-vis** the interpreter are crucial. Interviewees may have different expectations
- Best practice means that the police and the interpreter **agree** on expectations **vis-à-vis each other**



# Best practice *in practice*

- **Briefing** of interpreter by police
- **Seating** arrangement
- **Introduction** of interpreter
- **Mode** of interpreting  
(phrase by phrase, longer segments, chuchotage)
- **Turn-taking** (and who decides on it)
- Interpreting in the **first person** singular
- **Sight-translating** for the interviewee
- **Interrupting**: when and how?

# Briefing



Well, let's see...

# Seating arrangement



# Interpreter is introduced



and this is Ms Gehrman, your interpreter.





# Codes of conduct

- Provide **guidelines** for each **setting**
- May **vary** according to setting
- Lay down rules for **professional behaviour**
- Form part of ethical guidelines
- Overlap with codes of ethics, codes of honour



# Ethics of the profession

- Ethical codes exist for **members of the interpreting profession** (professional associations) in many countries
- Codes of ethics for **legal interpreters** are rarely found in member countries' associations
- Reference: **EULITA code of professional ethics** (see Annex to Final Report)



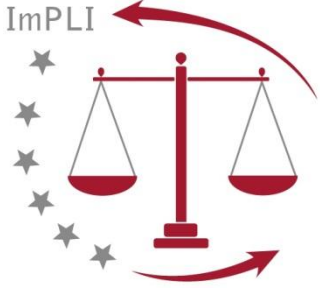
# The Directive

- **Article 5** of the Directive (Quality of the interpretation and translation) stipulates in paragraph 3:
- *Member States shall ensure that interpreters and translators be required to observe **confidentiality** regarding interpretation and translation provided under this Directive.*



# Ethics in interpreting

- Refer to
  - general **professional attitude** of interpreter
    - what the interpreter **renders** and how
    - **behaviour** of interpreter **during** the phases of interpreting
    - behaviour of interpreter **before** and **after** interpretation



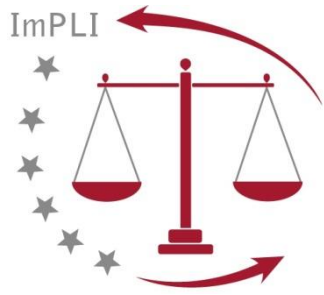
# Ethical standards

- Interpreters should be
- impartial, trustworthy, reliable, discrete, loyal, objective,
- accepting only work assignments for which they are qualified,
- declining work if it involves unprofessional behaviour or disrespect of ethical principles,
- asking for clarification if correct interpretation is not possible,
- extraordinarily conscientious in the handling of documents and files obtained.



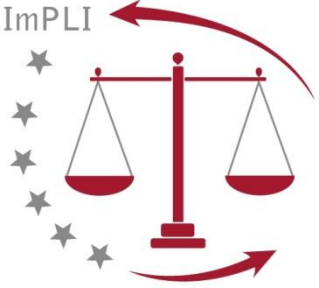
# Relying on the interpreter

- It is the interpreter alone who is **responsible** for abiding by the ethical principles of the profession.
- The police and client sides have to **rely on the interpreter** to act according to these principles.
- They **cannot** always **check upon** whether the interpreter complies with them.



# Trustworthiness

- For interpreted communication to be *„efficient and effective”* (Article 6 of the Directive), the **interpreter** must be **trustworthy**, and
- The **police** as well as the **client** side must **trust the interpreter**



# Ethical standards as a prerequisite for quality

- **Interpreting quality** is more than faithful rendering of all that has been said.
- It includes **abidance by ethical principles**.
- Interpreters who are trusted are also expected to assist in solving problems of **intercultural communication**.





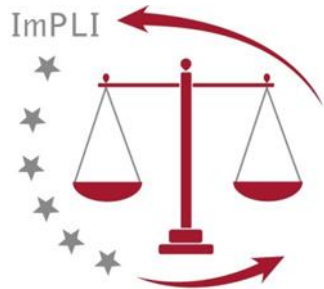
# Agencies and ethics

- Only when an agency has a clear and official **policy of heeding interpreters' ethical guidelines** should it be eligible for providing interpreters to police offices.
- **Ethical conduct** by interpreters may sometimes prolong a hearing or give rise to more questions, but it is worthwhile, and in the long run, it **builds trust**.



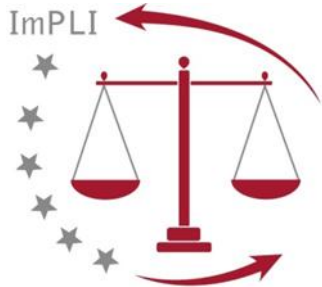
# Cooperation and training

- **Ethical principles** of interpreting are and must be part of interpreter **training**.
- Interpreters should also be acquainted with the **ethical guidelines** of the **police side**.
- **Common training** and practice sessions are an excellent way of **assuring quality**.



# Kriminalrat Steffen Kuse (detective superintendent)





## Quoted from Video (Germany)

- AS police officers, we always appreciate the competence of interpreters as our partners.
- We expect the interpreters to be able to interpret our questions in a way that enables the foreign person to understand them. We also expect them to correctly interpret the answers which is required for the official record. In Germany, the official record has to be in German meaning that we absolutely need a correct translation for the record to be correct.
- Another aspect of our cooperation with interpreters is that we expect them to assist us with intercultural knowledge. They should not only interpret for us, they should also offer advice to avoid cultural misunderstandings in the course of an interrogation.