

The beauty of language

TEXT: MYRIAM GWYNNED DIJCK | PHOTOS: BELITA LINGUA

Despite what websites can lead you to believe, translating text doesn't happen by pushing a button. Precision and expert knowledge are essential. Frank Meeus knows this like none other, as a sworn-in translator he ensures quality above all in his work.

Meeus set up his company, Belita Lingua, in 1993. Translating into his mother tongue Dutch, he speaks French, English, German, Portuguese, Spanish, Polish, Italian, Danish and Swedish. "I primarily do legal translations – anything from court documents to warrants and certificates," says Meeus. "I always ensure top quality translations and prioritise proofreading so I know the result is accurate and precise with the correct terminology."

Meeus has built up good relationship with the courts in Belgium. As he visits them regularly, he offers customers an extra service. "If a translated document requires a signature for verification, I

can obtain this for the customer at a small fee. I know the procedures well, so this can save a lot of time," he says.

Any language Meeus doesn't cover personally, he can find others to do it. With a long list of trusted native speakers with their own expert fields, he makes sure the best person gets the job. "For example medical translations need to be very precise. For a recent assignment I needed a translator with a medical background. Out of 20 applicants only one had the experi-

ence and skills needed to deliver the work," he says. "As you can see, I don't compromise on quality."

Meeus prides himself on the attractive prices he can offer while being flexible and available 24 hours a day. "Honesty, respect for the language and customer care are paramount and delivering excellent translations is my passion," he concludes

www.belita-lingua.be



Frank Meeus and his Polish wife Magdalena who helped to expand his network of translator contacts in Eastern Europe. Meeus's succession seems assured by their bilingual son Maurice who is already showing a passion for language, art and culture.

The linguistic key to Europe

TEXT: EMMIE COLLINGE | PHOTOS: VISIT BRUSSELS

Having spent the past two decades establishing themselves as Europe's go-to translation agency, ETC Europe steadfastly hold onto their position as the "translation gateway to Europe".

Situated in the centre of decision-making Brussels, ETC's managing director Angelina Janssen is undeniably proud of the company's steady rise to prominence. Since 1989, ETC has won successive contracts with the European Commission and it continues to charm clients from governmental institutions, commercial businesses and private clients.

Within the global translation industry, competition is rife and choosing a service provider can be baffling with terms like reliability and quality control often bandied

about. However, a brief glance at ETC's portfolio and references from previous clients is all it takes to surmise that they are distinctive in their dependability and dedication to ensuring high quality translations, localisations, desktop publishing and copy writing. While European Union-related projects are ETC's main pillar, their extensive collection of specialised translators, interpreters, proof-readers and copywriters enable them to confidently complete a plethora of subject-specific projects, including legal and judicial documents, life sciences, medical fields and the environment.

Producing thousands of pages per month, ETC boldly offer translations to and from every single language for all situations. "Of course," says Janssen with a laugh,



"African or Asian language projects are rare but when they arise we are committed to undertaking them." Janssen is the first to admit that translation agencies have to keep up with technological developments in machine translation but stresses that nothing will ever match the human capacity for language and style. Contentedly encircled by Europe with their Brussels base and all-encompassing EU know-how, it can only be said that ETC linguistically possesses the key to this continent.

www.etc-europe.eu