

DIGEST

News from the Executive Committee



Manuel Sant'Ilago Ribeiro



George Drummond

WHO ARE THE BASIC TEXTS GROUP?

If you hadn't heard of the Basic Texts Group (BTG) before last month's Briefing with ExCo, you probably weren't alone. Rather like the antivirus running in the background on your PC, which you happily forget is there as long as it keeps you protected, the guardians of AIIC's Basic Texts go unnoticed day after day as they efficiently and effectively catch potential legal issues before they have a chance to interrupt the smooth running of the Association.

Yet their role is a vital one, not least because of the money and headaches they save the Association (ably assisted by the Executive Secretary as ex-officio member) by keeping so many legal questions in-house. The time is undoubtedly ripe for a little recognition of their selfless work.

Who are the Basic Texts Group?

The practical-sounding name of the group belies the fun the current members, Manuel Sant'Ilago Ribeiro (AIIC member since 1988) and George Drummond (AIIC member since 1992) have in ensuring that our groups and regions stick to the spirit, and the letter, of the Basic Texts.

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Who are the Basic Texts Group? Cont...

Having held numerous positions inside the Association, possessing strong legal backgrounds, and being able to work in both AIIC languages, George and Manuel are ideally placed to offer advice and guidance to the groups and regions as the Association continues to evolve. But nothing lasts forever and after serving on the BTG for 15 years, Manuel has decided that the time has come to step down and give some of AIIC's other legal minds the chance to contribute. George is making plans for the future too and sees himself stepping down after the 2025 Assembly.

So, what exactly are these Basic Texts?

There are 80-odd Basic Texts, covering groups and committees, regions, sectors and assemblies. The first Basic Texts - Statutes, Assembly Rules of Procedure and the Professional Code (now the Professional Code of Ethics) - were published in French in 1957 and over the years have been updated and amended to reflect the changing nature of the Association. These 3 original texts, along with the Professional Standards, Staff Interpreters' Charter and CACL Regulations, can only be changed by assembly vote and as an active member, you have the right to propose changes to these 'Assembly texts', with the support of at least 4 other active members.

At one time, the texts detailed every aspect of the interpreter's professional life and while this is no longer the case, the carefully crafted nature of the texts is one of the many reasons why AIIC enjoys its reputation as the world standard for conference interpreting.

And what sort of things does the BTG do?

2021 is a busy year for them, with the addition of the DI amendments and the upcoming assembly to their regular workload. But surely, you may ask, changing a few words in the Basic Texts and adding an extra paragraph here and there can't be that time consuming? Here's where a legal background is all but essential for BTG members as they have to foresee the possible ripple effect that changes to one text may have on the other 79. If they weren't able to do this, AIIC would be forced to seek external legal advice on a regular basis.

The responsibility for the procedural running of assemblies is a big part of their job. In fact, the group itself developed from the need for the chairperson to have a Basic Texts Expert on hand throughout the assembly. As you read this they are preparing to meet with the soon-to-be-appointed Independent Assembly Board (IAB) to get things ready for AIIC's 38th Assembly in Istanbul.

Think you've got what it takes to join them? Then you are in luck as we are currently looking for 2 volunteers to join George on the BTG. Check out the announcement [here](#) to find out what this important role involves and how to volunteer.



INTERPRETERS OF THE FUTURE

During their meeting earlier this month, the AB were joined by Matthew Trojic, Arthur Beard and Oscar Hughes, students from the MA in Conference Interpreting programme at FTI University of Geneva, who interrupted their summer holidays to put their interpreting skills to the test. What did they think about the experience?



Matthew:

The experience was valuable because it was a real-life situation with the support of seasoned interpreters. It was particularly useful because we had the opportunity to try our hand at remote simultaneous interpreting, a mode of interpreting that will undoubtedly form a part of our daily lives as professional interpreters.

Oscar:

This was an interesting opportunity to learn more about AICC and interpret a meeting from start to finish - and that means more than just interpreting, of course. I learnt to prepare documents, get my head around the technical set-up and coordinate the handover, which I'm sure will all stand me in good stead for the future.

Arthur:

The experience was an interesting insight into the inner workings of AICC. I was happy to hear what working interpreters today think about the profession. It was also an excellent chance to interpret in an environment closer to real-life working conditions.



ASPIRING WRITERS

Did you know that [AICC's blog](#) is a resource that all members can contribute to? Whether to share your latest research, discuss the work of your group or region, or debate best practices, your contributions are welcomed and will be shared across AICC's social channels.

Got an idea or want to update and republish an old article? Contact Julia Poger or Gillian Misener.

URGENT REMINDER

The deadline for voting in the written consultation is fast approaching. The poll closes at 23.59 CET on **July 22nd**. For those of you who have not yet cast your vote (about half of you!) please do so as a matter of urgency. A functioning Association depends on you!

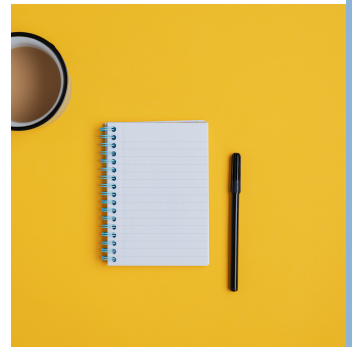
The recording of yesterday's town hall meeting is now available [here](#) for anyone who couldn't join and still has questions regarding the vote.

If you haven't been able to vote due to technical difficulties, contact the Secretariat at assembly@aiic.org



JULY/AUGUST EVENT CALENDAR

Check out the events, meetings and training opportunities for members in the coming month. Full details can be found on the Events page inside the portal.



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| July 17 | Voice Coaching Workshop (ATDP) FULL |
| July 24 | Online Consecutive Note-Taking Workshop (ATPD) SIGN UP DEADLINE 19:00 CET MONDAY JULY 19th |
| July 29 | July Stammtisch (UK & Ireland) |
| August 24 | Strategien der politischen Rede im Deutschen (ATPD) |

Is your region or group planning an event? Don't forget to ask the Secretariat to add it to the Events page as a public or members-only event.