



## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**The World Association of Sign Language Interpreters /**

**The European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters**

### **Preamble**

The World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (hereinafter referred to as WASLI) and The European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (hereinafter referred to as efсли) wish to coordinate their efforts within the framework of their respective organisations, and to update their previous 2008 Memorandum of Understanding.

### **About WASLI**

The principal aim of WASLI is to advance the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide.

The objectives of WASLI are to:

- Encourage the establishment of national associations of sign language interpreters in countries that do not have them
- Be a support network for existing national associations of sign language interpreters
- Share information and be a reference on interpreting issues
- Support the work of sign language interpreters working at international events such as conferences, sporting events and other gatherings and,
- Work in partnership with Deaf and Deafblind Associations on sign language interpreting issues
- Liaise with spoken language interpreter organizations and other organizations having common interests

### **About efсли**

The principal aim of efсли is to represent the interests of sign language interpreters in Europe. efсли is a European membership-led organisation of sign language interpreters consisting of national & regional associations with individual and associate members. efсли is working towards raising the status of the profession and the accessibility and quality the sign language interpreting provision in Europe.

The objectives of efsli are to:

- Encourage and promote deliberation and mutual exchange within the profession on interpreting services within Europe
- Work to secure official recognition of the profession of Sign Language Interpreting
- Encourage and promote scientific and pedagogic initiatives to improve standards of Sign Language Interpreting and Interpreter training
- Provide advice and support to Sign Language Interpreters, Interpreter trainees, Interpreter trainers, and users and providers of Interpreting services
- Represent the interests of the profession of Sign Language Interpreting to and within appropriate European bodies, EU Member States and European countries not belonging to the EU (e.g. the non-EU countries of The Western Balkans and Scandinavia)

WASLI and efsli are independent non-profit organizations that share many common values and interests, as demonstrated by the signing of the 2008 WASLI-efsli Protocol of Cooperation.

Our cooperation will include, but is not limited to:

- Supporting the development and advancement of national associations of sign language interpreters in countries, by offering information that can be useful to their aims and objectives
- efsli will nominate a Board member (or senior, appropriate representative) to serve as the WASLI European Regional Representative, serving as a key liaison between WASLI and efsli
- Holding regular communication between WASLI and efsli so as to avoid duplication of services and projects, and to consult with each other on matters of common interest
- The parties will invite representatives from their associations to observe at WASLI or efsli General Meetings. All costs incurred for these meetings will be covered by the respective organization, and shall not be claimed from the inviting party.
- WASLI will represent the profession of sign language interpreters when interacting with international organizations, for example, the United Nations and its associated bodies and the World Federation of the Deaf, and so on
- Efsli will represent the profession of sign language interpreters when interacting with European level organizations, for example, the European Union and its associated bodies, the European Union of the Deaf, and so on.

Signed on the occasion of the 2014 Annual General Meeting of efsli, Antwerp,  
Belgium

Signatures



Debra Russell  
President  
WASLI



Peter Llewellyn-Jones  
President  
efsli

12 September 2014