

Dear Ms. Harrison,

It was a pleasure to work with the members of the committee during the session on Thursday.

As our time was short, I had promised to provide my answers to some of the questions in writing.

Question one pertaining to the “hybrid” system you use and challenges by the European Parliament, the Commission and Council:

European Institutions appear to use a range of different systems. I have not had access yet to the technical specifications and topology of the setups used.

I did however, immediately after our meeting, write to colleagues who work for the institutions. They said that interpreters work in situ with the excellent interpretation system, which is set up as an interpreting HUB.

Question two regarding the training of conference interpreters:

Training conference interpreters to work at the highest levels is what we do at the University of Heidelberg.

The three conference halls of the postgraduate MA Conference Interpreting programme have been equipped with state of the art remote teaching equipment.

It would be our pleasure to offer assistance in setting up a local training course in Ottawa. Alternatively we could offer remote training classes at all levels, which is what we are de facto doing at the moment during the lockdown.

Please note that after our experiences with >60 classes last year, we would never stream speeches to students to be interpreted. To preserve their hearing, we are sending high sound quality recordings to be played back locally and interpreted into virtual booths.

I talked to the head of the English department Prof. Kunz yesterday and she is open to exploring a double degree in co-operation with a Canadian university or any of the above variants if you wish. Our official website is at www.lued.uni-heidelberg.de, our unofficial, first draft for the research projects website is at www.heicic.de.

Please let me know if I can be of further help,

With kind regards,
Christoph Stoll