



24 March 2020

Dear Madam/Sir,

The global outbreak of Covid-19 constitutes an immense and very acute challenge of unprecedented proportions for all professions, including that of conference interpreting. We are all in the same boat. Institutions, political decision-makers, conference and meeting organisers, technicians, conference support staff, participants, presenters, panelists and of course those ensuring seamless multilingual and cross-cultural communication for all these stakeholders - conference interpreters.

AIIC, the only global association of conference interpreters, has been at the vanguard of the profession since its establishment back in 1954. It was AIIC members that brought to life the very first conference interpreting sections in international organisations, interpreter training departments at universities and developed professional, ethical, technical and confidentiality standards. AIIC brought social dialogue to the profession and anchored it there.

Equally, AIIC is committed to weathering this veritable storm we are all bravely facing together. As physical meetings have become an impossibility, videoconferencing technology seems to offer a solution at least for the most urgent of meetings. Fortunately, over the past few years, we at AIIC have been not only following but also steering and consulting providers in the right direction, including testing of various solutions available on the market. We are on the verge of completing our drafting of working conditions applicable to distance interpreting using RSI platforms.

In order to help institutions grapple with distance interpreting in these challenging times, AIIC has prepared this set of recommendations specific to the Covid-19 scenario. Needless to say, these recommendations apply to the extraordinary emergency situation your organisations and we as interpreters are having to face right now and in no way claim to

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be the new standard for our profession, nor for our relationship with organisations. It is a helping hand extended in a time of need. Loyalty indeed goes both ways, and we as a profession are happy to share with you, our clients and employers, the unprecedented store of knowledge and expertise we have built up over the years, so that together we may emerge from this crisis as even stronger partners than before.

Stay safe, stay healthy,



Uroš Peterc, President  
on behalf of the AIIC Executive Committee