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European Union of the Deaf
A European Non-Governmental Organisation in official
liaison with the European Parliament, the European
Commission and the Council of Europe



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European Day of Languages



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Language Policy Division

www.coe.int/lang

European Centre for Modern Languages
www.ecml.at

The Council of Europe celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the European Day of Languages 26 September 2011

The Language Policy Division has pleasure in inviting members of staff and
Permanent Representations to this event

Sign languages: a unique contribution to our linguistic and cultural diversity

Interpretation available in 3 languages: International Sign, English, French

[Summary of Presentations](#)

Introduction: *Philia Thalgott, Language Policy Division, Directorate of Education and Languages*

Mark Wheatley, EUD Executive Director

- Introduction to sign languages
 - What are sign languages?
 - Visual representation of spoken word?
- Sign language facts
 - Number of sign languages in Europe
 - 'International Sign Language'
- Legal situation

Humberto Insolera, EUD Board Member

- Deaf community
 - Disability Approach vs. Minority Language Approach
- Deaf culture and cultural variety
 - One Deaf culture?
 - Examples of Deaf culture
 - 'Turn the light on, I can't understand you'
- Differences in sign languages
 - What's your sign for 'water'?

Ádám Kósa, Member of the European Parliament

- Real life experiences
- 'What is it like to use more than one (sign) language at the EP'

*Christophe Berna, Accident and Emergency doctor, Anne Besançon, bilingual FR/FSL doctor
and Roberto Biedma, sign language mediator and Deaf teacher (Strasbourg Hospital) assisted by
Danièle Baly, French/FSL interpreter*

- How to communicate efficiently in a situation where communication is difficult: Deaf
people to the rescue of Hearers

Open discussion

Contact: language.policy@coe.int