

## 2026 EULITA conference - The Ethics of Justice

### 2026 EULITA CONFERENCE and GENERAL ASSEMBLY

hosted by AssITIG with the cooperation of CLA,  
University Language Centre, University of Bari Aldo Moro  
19 - 20 March 2026, Bari, Italy



AssITIG

### CBTI-BKVT report on attendance and representation

Brussels, 28 March 2026

Following on from Ljubljana last year, the Belgian Chamber of Translators and Interpreters (CBTI-BKVT) and its LinguaJuris committee attended the conference in Bari on 19 and 20 March 2026.

With a focus on the ethics of justice, the conference explored related ethical themes, noting that since translators and interpreters in legal settings convey a message, they must remain mindful of the implications of such communication and demonstrate professional integrity. This is a moral compass that can easily erode over time under the pressure of deadlines and the constraints of the profession if one is not vigilant.

The conference served as a reminder of the role of EULITA – giving a collective voice to a profession that is too often overlooked – and of universities, which must provide an education that goes beyond language and technical proficiency, and fosters professional integrity and critical thinking.

Artificial intelligence (AI) was by no means absent from the proceedings. While AI was addressed at length at the 2025 conference, the approach adopted in Bari focused mainly on a call to move beyond outright rejection and instead view it as a tool as important as any other, provided that the cardinal principle of upholding human rights is applied. Prioritising these rights is the only way to ensure that procedural requirements – specifically the right to legal redress – remain guaranteed, regardless of the methods used.

Recalling the inherent flaws of AI, such as erroneous or misleading alignment (“hallucination”), over-generalisation and linguistic flattening, it was noted that machine translation (or AI-driven translation) fails to respect the integrity or completeness of a witness’s testimony. While the message is conveyed, it is not in its original form, meaning it does not encompass the entirety of the communication, which is a *sine qua non* for legal or judicial translation (whether sworn or certified) that complies with professional ethics.

Unlike a machine, a human interpreter can demonstrate empathy, identify problems, recognise trauma and adapt accordingly.

The purpose of law, as a social practice, is to protect people, relationships and life itself. If this human element is replaced by a machine, the connection is severed and, above all, the very purpose of justice is defeated. Thanks to a human interpreter, an individual unfamiliar with the language of the proceedings is fully involved in the oral arguments.

The conference also addressed the requirement for professionalism, entailing neutrality, ethics, impartiality and confidentiality. Particular emphasis was placed on the interpreter’s demeanour: they must show discretion and maintain a professional distance – upholding ethical rules while remaining empathetic. Fluency in a language is not enough: interpreters also have to understand the nuances of speech and culture and be aware of linguistic biases, while developing qualities such as neutrality and impartiality.

Drawing on real-life examples of people facing extreme situations, the afternoon discussion focused on the distinction between empathy and emotion. Demonstrating a high degree of empathy while maintaining control over one's emotions is key to professionalism.

On Friday morning, at the request of Barbara Rován, who was President of EULITA until this year's General Assembly, Francis Auquier presented the country fact sheet for Belgium, which had been drawn up by the CBTI-BKVT. He then described the framework within which sworn translators and interpreters (STIs) have been operating in Belgium since the 2014 law establishing a national register for experts and STIs came into effect. This was a direct result of the groundwork carried out by the CBTI-BKVT over several decades, and which is still ongoing through its LinguaJuris committee. The country fact sheet is available on the EULITA website at <https://eulita.eu/country-fact-sheets>.

With contributions from:

Concetta Cavallini, Chair of the CLA, University of Aldo Moro Bari

Barbara Rován, President of EULITA

Catia Lattanzi, President of AssiTIG

Christiane Driesen, AIIC

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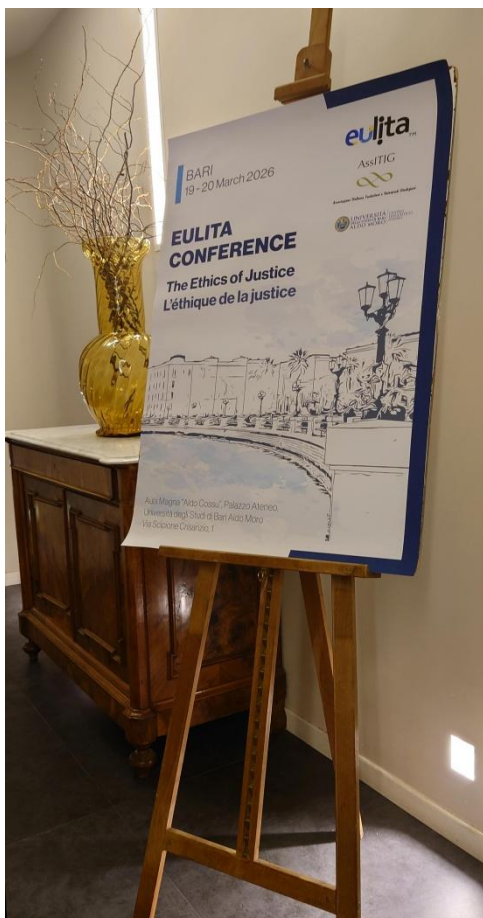
Mira Kadric, University of Vienna, and Katalin Balogh, KU Leuven Antwerp

Amal Boualga and Tristan Depré, UPTIJ-BBVT

Michele Incani, European Delegated Prosecutor (EPPO) (absent, but his prepared statement was read out)

Francis Auquier, CBTI-BKVT (Belgium country fact sheet)

Photos:







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# Country fact sheets

What's going on in the world of legal interpreting and translation



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## Belgium

A national register for sworn translators and interpreters is kept by the ministry of Justice. All translators and interpreters who would like to work as official translators and interpreters need to be registered and have a register number. They are sworn.

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[Czech Republic](#)



Francis Auquier, CBTI-BKVT representative at the EULITA Conference and GA on 19-20 March 2026 in Bari, Italy

Photo credits: Francis Auquier, Anna Maria Nyaradi-Daube

## LINGUAJURIS

CBTI-BKVT Sworn Translators and Interpreters Sectoral Committee

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