

Olga Cosmidou, Hon. Ph.D.



Studies

1988-1989 M.A. in International Relations, Université Libre de Bruxelles

1977-1978 Advanced Studies in Conference Interpreting, University of Geneva

1974-1977 Studies in Law, Athens University

1971 Diploma in Greek and French Literature, Athens University

1967 Diploma in French Teaching, French Institute of Athens

Professional experience

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| 2008-2014 | Director-General for Interpretation and Conferences in the European Parliament (DG INTE) |
| 1994-2007 | Director of Conference Interpreting in the European Parliament (DG IFIN) |
| 1980-1994 | Head of Greek Interpreting Division in the General Secretariat of the European Parliament |
| 1978-1980 | Senior Lecturer at Corfu University (translation/interpretation) |
| 1967-1980 | Translator and freelance interpreter |
| 1974-1976 | Journalist presenting the French news on Greek radio and television |
| 1971-1978 | Translator for Greek railways |
| 1965-1978 | Language teacher (Greek, French) |

Responsibilities as Director-General for Interpretation and Conferences in the European Parliament

- Leading one of the most human-intensive DG's in the European Parliament (EP) - Developing and implementing the multilingualism policy of the EU
- Coordinating with the highest policy-makers and decision-takers in designing and implementing the relevant services of the EP
- Organization of all conferences at the European Parliament, including technical, human and linguistic infrastructure
- Organization of all interpretation services of the EP
- Collective bargaining arrangements with the trade union and staff representatives
- Development and implementation of training, promotion and career schemes for staff
- Contacts with the current and prospective EU Term Presidency in preparing the countries for Term-Presidency

Contacts with EU and non-EU countries on all aspects of the policy of multilingualism

- Contacts with national and international organizations such as the UN, FMI, and the State Department

- Contacts with national policy-makers on all aspects of multilingualism, including highly sensitive political aspects such as the designation of national languages, and status of minority languages

- Contacts with local and international media in promoting the language policy of the EU, preparing countries for Term-Presidency, and awareness-raising

- Negotiation and implementation of the highly sensitive and political issue of the budget of multilingualism

Select Activities

- Member Board of Directors ALLILONnet

- Founding member of the Association “Amitié Franco-Hellénique”

- Co-founding member of the EMCI (European Masters in Conference Interpreting

- Co-founding member of the HINTS (Heads of Interpreting Services)

- Member of the Board of In-Zone, platform of the University of Geneva for blended training of the refugees

Distinctions

Legion d’Honneur from the Republic of France (2012)

Dr Honoris Causa, University of Geneva (2013)