

Attendees: Sandrine Chapon, Marion Del Bove, Marc Deneire, Shaeda Isani, Catherine Kirby-Legier, Michèle Perrin-Taillat, Isabelle Richard, Corina Veleanu and Phillipe Winkel

Apologies: Anne-Marie Barrault-Methy, Anne Brunon Ernst, Pascal Cudicio, Isabelle Depardieu, Géraldine Gadbin-George, Rosalind Greenstein, Malcolm Harvey, Marielle Leblanc, Dana Léon-Henri, Elsa Liebenberg, Anne-Marie O'Connell, Elsa Pic et Catherine Whyte.

- **Presentation of a new member: Corina Veleanu**

Corina Veleanu teaches English for law and specific purposes in Lyon , France . She obtained her PhD in 2007 at the University of Lyon on the question of the influence of the French legal language and culture in Europe, particularly Romania , Portugal and within the institutions of the European Union, and the interactions with the English language. She is an associate member of the CRTT (Centre for research in terminology and translation) at the University Lyon2 and she does research in the field of legal English and comparing legal languages. She was previously a legal interpreter and translator with the European Commission.

- **Further information about the discussion regarding the identity card of the special interest group in law**

The keywords chosen at the meeting of March 2012 were as follows: English for specific purposes, didactics, language, discourse and culture.

Following a presentation of the research areas of the attendees, the online identity card of the group posted on the website of GERAS was updated. The following text was submitted to the members not present for modification and approval:

“The Law Special Interest Group was created in 1999. It consists of researchers, teachers, university lecturers and professors, and participants involved in the field of English for law. They teach in law schools, modern language departments and joint law and languages degrees and training courses for members of the legal profession. The research fields of the group members are diversified and include law and its linguistic, discursive, cultural and didactic aspects. The group meets twice a year to work on a specific topic and organizes conferences.”

Once the definite version of the text is approved by the majority of group members, it will be posted on the GERAS website in the section “Aims of the special interest group”. Two other sections will be created:

- “Publications” where works published by group members will be listed
- “One-day conferences” where such conferences organized by group members within the meetings of the special interest group will be listed as well.

- **Discussion on the agreed topic "What are the routes to English for law?"**

After discussion, it was noted that this topic raises three fundamental issues relating to the teaching of English for law:

1. What audience? (teachers or learners?)
2. What is the meaning of "routes"?
3. What is the meaning of "English for law"?

Some answers to these questions were given:

- the non-uniform, heterogeneous nature of what is meant by English for law: the law as it stands in England is not the same as in the U.S., the European Community or the Council of Europe, and is distinct from international law.

It was recalled how important it is to make teachers and students aware of these differences and the evolution of legal systems. In addition, when students in French law enter their first year at university, they tend to model their own legal system on what they know about the English or U.S. legal systems.

- the context of teaching English for law should also be taken into account: what are the needs of our students? What do we want them to know or know how to say or to do with English for law?

The possibility of organizing a needs analysis of former law and applied languages students (three years after the three-year degree and/or two years after their postgraduate degree) was discussed. Some difficulties were raised, in particular the large number of students involved.

Several routes were briefly presented:

- a process of reformulation of LSP in everyday language.

Several examples were given: rephrase an English legal concept with one or two simple sentences, rephrase a French legal concept in English.

- an action-oriented approach with learners, the ultimate goal being the acquisition of skills, a form of know-how.

In Dijon, there is a method consisting in moving the classes outside the classroom to a courthouse or a prison within the frame of a Master's degree optional credit enabling the students to visit a courtroom or a prison and to write and present a report of their visit.

- an approach aimed not so much at the transmission of content, but at providing the learner with tools in order to identify problems and find the information to suggest solutions as in U.S. law schools.

- **Miscellaneous**

If members wish to consult online journal articles but do not have access to any, send a collective email to the members of the special interest group to check if someone can legally download the said article in pdf.

- **Interesting sources mentioned during the meeting**

website of French "notaires" in French and English:

<http://www.notaires.fr/notaires/en/home>

website You be the judge: <http://ybtj.justice.gov.uk/>

website Oyez: <http://www.oyez.org/cases/2012>

series Silk produced by BBC One

website of French law: <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr>

website of European Union law: <http://europa.eu>

more technical website of European Union law: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

websites on the legislative process in British Parliament:

<http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

Website of the UK Environmental Law Association: <http://www.ukela.org/>

- Several questions were raised regarding the next meeting in September 2013 about:

- the place of the meeting

Sandrine Chapon offered to host the group in Grenoble. Marion will organise a Doodle to see if members prefer Lyon or Grenoble.

- The possible participation of members of the legal profession (notaires, judges) during a one-day conference entitled "professional uses and needs of English for law for the French legal profession"

The next meeting of the special interest group in law will take place on 22nd March 2013 in Cachan during the GERAS conference (21-23 March).

Minutes drafted by Marion Del Bove