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Answer given by Mr Hahn
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is promoting the development and use of AI-based machine translation tools to enhance multilingualism, both internally and externally.

Since 2017, the Commission's machine translation system, eTranslation¹, has bridged the gap between human translation and no translation, expanding the language coverage for Commission's content.

As of 2021, eTranslation has been integrated into the Commission's websites (over 160 sites and 11 million page views in 2024) and the Citizens' Engagement Platform², where citizens can have their say in ongoing debates on EU policies. This tool is widely used (400 000 web pages translated in September 2024), and satisfaction surveys show that 93% of the users deem machine translation to be useful. For websites, a specific disclaimer is shown when users get a machine-translation version of texts, and each service decides whether to use eTranslation on the sites they are responsible for.

Regarding spoken language, the Commission offers a Speech-to-Text³ service that transcribes video and audio recordings, and which is publicly available.

All Commission staff can use eTranslation and Speech-to-Text for their everyday tasks. These AI-based tools, including the new real-time transcription, are co-financed by the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)⁴, and therefore are available not only to the EU Institutions, but also to Member State public administrations, and EU-based SMEs, NGOs and academia.

Furthermore, the Alliance for Language Technologies (ALT-EDIC)⁵ has been set up by the Commission. Its role is to create a common European data infrastructure and services for language technologies to strengthen Europe's technological competitiveness while supporting its cultural diversity.

¹ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/etranslation/translateTextSnippet.html>

² https://citizens.ec.europa.eu/index_en

³ <https://language-tools.ec.europa.eu/SpeechServices/Transcription>

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>

⁵ https://language-data-space.ec.europa.eu/related-initiatives/alt-edic_en