



Opposition Matters reloaded

Online conference

22-23 April 2021



Tips for working with interpreters at oral proceedings

How can you help us to help you?

Sonja Harm



Presenter



Sonja Harm

Head of Department Interpreting Services
EPO Munich

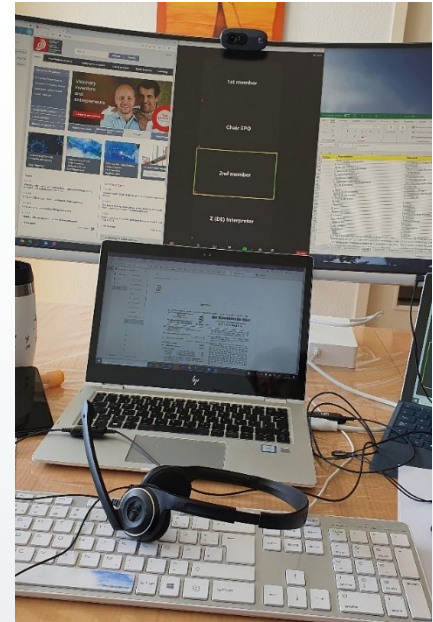


- Joined the EPO in 2019
- Previously head interpreter (2006-16) and head of the language service (2016-18) at the German Bundestag
- 24 years' experience as a conference interpreter in politics and diplomacy in Germany and internationally

sharm@epo.org

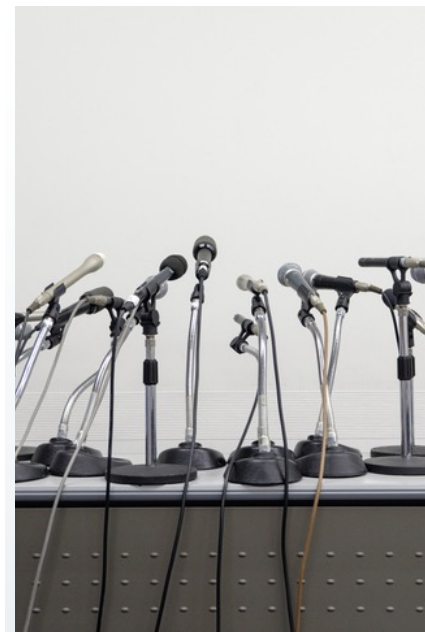
1. Interpreting – key elements

- Pool of **130 accredited EPO interpreters**
- **500 oral proceedings by VICO with interpretation** in opposition and appeal since January
- Transition from physical booths to **online meeting platforms**, from printed files to **digital files**, from interpreters working together as a team in one place to interpreters **working** in distributed mode **from various different locations**



2. Challenges – why is sound so important?

- **Major** challenge = **audio quality**, largely determined by **microphones**
- Interpreters need higher audio quality than participants. Why is that?
 1. Listening **while** speaking = **frequency masking effect**
 2. **cognitive (over)load**

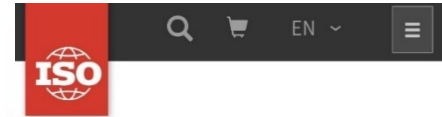


3. How to provide high-quality audio?

- Stable internet connection (ethernet cable)
- High-quality audio devices = “should reproduce audio frequencies between 125 Hz and 15 000 Hz”, cf.

Technical guidelines + ISO standard

- **Either** a **USB headset** with integrated microphone
- **Or** a **USB microphone**, clip-on or stand-alone
- In one room, one camera + one microphone **for each participant**
- **Test and calibrate your microphone** on Zoom

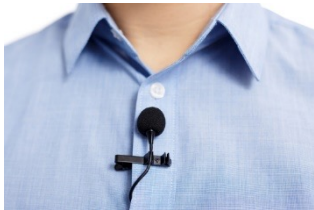


ICS > 91 > 91.040
> 91.040.10

ISO/PAS
24019:2020
Simultaneous
interpreting delivery
platforms —
Requirements and
recommendations



4. Microphones – dos and don'ts



5. Useful links – how to find out more (1/2)

- For more information on **technical requirements** and **test calls**, please refer to the EPO website:
<http://www.epo.org/applying/online-services/proceedings/technical-guidelines.html>
- **ISO/PAS standard 24019:2020** Simultaneous interpreting delivery platforms — Requirements and recommendations
<https://www.iso.org/standard/77590.html>
- How to change your zoom **audio settings**
https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362283-Testing-Computer-or-Device-Audio?mobile_site=true
- **FAQs** on how to use interpretation in zoom meetings and webinars
<https://www.alexeytheinterpreter.com/posts/zoomfaq>

Slide 4: Useful links – how to find out more (2/2)

- Some video tips to **improve your zoom audio**
<https://techhq.com/2020/04/how-to-get-the-best-sound-quality-out-of-your-videoconferences/>
<https://uit.stanford.edu/news/top-tips-improve-audio-quality-your-zoom-meetings>
<https://www.businessinsider.com/how-to-improve-zoom-audio-quality?r=DE&IR=T>
- **Tips for videoconferences** with interpretation, European Commission:
<https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/videoconference-with-interpretation>
- Video general **tips for smart speaking** to an international audience:
<https://www.calliope-interpreters.org/calliope-resources-event-planners-and-speakers/smart-speaking>
- Audio comparison – fluctuations in sound quality
<https://vimeo.com/133871472>



Questions



Now

via chat to "All Panelists"