



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Skopje, 26 September 2013

**Panel discussion on the occasion of
the European Day of Languages: “*Bridging cultures:
translating across languages and genres*”**

[EU InfoCentre]

Speaking points

Aivo ORAV

Head of EU Delegation

Dear colleague Madame Auer,

Dear professors,

Dear students,

Dear guests,

- It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all today at the EU InfoCentre on the occasion of the **European Day of Languages**, which is part of our **Culture Programme Book Fair**.
- The European Day of Languages has been marked every year since 2001 by celebrating linguistic diversity and promoting language learning. We promote plurilingualism throughout Europe as we believe that linguistic diversity is a tool for bridging cultures and a key element in the rich cultural heritage of our continent.
- I am really happy to see that so many of you have come today to listen to the experiences of some of the most distinguished professors and translators in translating literary works. I hope that this event, which was organised with the great help of the local association of translators MATA, will help you in developing your future professional skills.
- I am really happy and proud to use this occasion for announcing the first **Competition for Best Young Translator** called "**Babylon**", which we are organising together with MATA. The **objectives** of this competition are

to encourage and promote young translators, like you, as well as to boost excellence in translating literary works from the official languages of the European Union into the languages spoken in this country. The competition will be officially launched **on 2 December** including the detailed **criteria for submitting applications**. We sincerely hope that we will receive many of your applications!

- The European Union is supporting the bridging of cultures through its Culture Programme, by offering funding opportunities to cultural operators for translating books from the languages of the European Union.
- I would like to invite you to have a look at the 165 titles that have been translated under the Culture Programme and which are exhibited in the front area of the EU InfoCentre. One day, you may be among the translators whose work will be exhibited here or at any other place where your fellow citizens will have the opportunity to enjoy in the work of the best European writers, but in their mother language, thanks to you.
- Thank you very much for your attention and I wish you all a very fruitful and vivid discussion.