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INTRODUCTION

THE

- RAPID GROWTH OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE,
- AND WITH IT THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION,
- THE SHORTENING OF PRODUCTION CYCLES AND DECISION PROCEDURES,
- THE FAST DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS THE SO CALLED "INFORMATION SOCIETY" IN GENERAL

LEAD TO A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE INFORMATION PROVISION AND EXCHANGE.

THE PROBLEM OF TODAY IS NOT THE LACK OF INFORMATION, BUT THE WAY IN WHICH IT IS HANDLED.

SOME EXPERTS RECENTLY CALCULATED THAT THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION THAT IS PRODUCED PER YEAR NOW IS EQUAL TO THE TOTAL QUANTITY OF INFORMATION THAT EXISTED IN THE WHOLE WORLD JUST BEFORE WORLD WAR ONE.

APPROPRIATE INFORMATION HANDLING WITHOUT THE HELP OF NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HAS ALMOST BECOME AN UTOPIA.

HOWEVER AT THIS MOMENT ALMOST ALL OF THE EXISTING ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES ARE BASED ON THE "GET"-PRINCIPLE, MAKING LARGE COLLECTIONS OF SPECIALISED INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM MOSTLY IN ONE LANGUAGE FOR THE RELATIVELY SMALL MARKET OF EXPERTS IN SCIENCE, HIGH TECH, BANKING, ETC. THESE EXPERTS KNOW WHAT THEY WANT TO KNOW AND HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE, TIME AND MEANS TO SEARCH FOR IT AND FIND IT.

THE SEVERAL MAGNITUDES LARGER MARKET OF COMMON PROFESSIONALS IN TRADE, INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT AND FREE PROFESSIONS ARE HARDLY OR NOT AT ALL MAKING USE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES, BECAUSE THESE ARE NOT MADE FOR THEM, NOT TO SPEAK OF THE GENERAL CONSUMER.

IN FACT THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES IS IN THIS RESPECT STILL IN ITS INFANCY.

STATEMENT 1

THE COMING DECADES WILL SHOW AN ENORMOUS INCREASE OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SERVICES FOR NON EXPERTS BASED ON THE "BRING"-PRINCIPLE AND IN THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE OF THE USER.

STATEMENT 2

THE NEED FOR THE USE OF NATIONAL LANGUAGES COMBINED WITH THE NEED FOR HIGH SPEED AND LOW COSTMAKE APPLICATION OF MACHINE TRANSLATION - FOR ELECTRONIC AND PRINTED INFORMATION - ALMOST THE ONLY FEASIBLE SOLUTION.

STATEMENT 3

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION OF MACHINE TRANSLATION IS HAMPERED BY ONE MAIN REASON, NOTWITHSTANDING THE ALREADY EXISTING POSSIBILITIES.

THIS MAIN REASON IS THAT THE TRADITIONAL TRANSLATORS, THE LINGUISTS, THE COMPUTER-SPECIALISTS AND EVEN THE COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTS DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT BACKGROUND, ATTITUDE AND TRAINING TO CHANGE THIS SITUATION. A NEW GENERATION OF WELLTRAINED PROFESSIONAL SPECIALISTS IS NECESSARY TO DO THE JOB !

STATEMENT 4

LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION OF MACHINE
TRANSLATION WILL ONLY SUCCEED WHEN BASED ON CONTROLLED
LANGUAGE INPUT.

STATEMENT 5

IN MT STILL MUCH RESEARCH, APPLIED RESEARCH, PREPARATORY
APPLICATION WORK AND TRAINING WILL HAVE TO BE DONE. FOR
STRENGTHENING EUROPE'S COMPETITIVE POSITION IN THE WORLD
MARKET OVERCOMING THE LANGUAGE BARRIER IS A PREREQUISITE. THE
HIGH INVESTMENT COSTS MAKE ALSO IN FUTURE SUPPORT VIA PUBLIC
FUNDING AT NATIONAL AND SUPRANATIONAL LEVEL NECESSARY.