

EURAMIS, the Platform of the EC Translator

Dimitri Theologitis

Abstract

Linguistic technology brings new tools to the desktop of the translator: full-text retrieval systems, terminological systems, translation memories and machine translation. These systems are now being integrated into a single, seamless workflow in a large organisation, the Translation Service of the European Commission. SdTVista is used for full-text search of reference documents; Euramis powerful aligner creates translation memories which are stored in a central Linguistic Resources Database; not-found sentences are automatically sent to EC-Systran machine translation; pertinent terminology is retrieved in batch mode from Eurodicautom. The resulting resources are brought together on the translator's workbench. Screen-shots and a demonstration complete the presentation.

Dimitri Theologitis

Born in Athens, civil engineer, specialised in integrated transportation systems and computers. Opted for a major change of career in 1984 when he joined the Translation Service of the European Commission. Responsible for the Rationalisation of Working Methods from 1990. In 1994 became head of unit *Development of Multilingual Computer Aids*, a multilingual team active in the technological modernisation of the Translation Service.

The Translation Service of the European Commission

Situated in Brussels and Luxembourg, the SdT (for Service de traduction) houses today some 1 200 translators, 100 linguistic support staff, approximately 100 management staff and close to 500 secretaries and assistants. The world's largest translation service, it produces well over one million pages per year, in a combination of in house, free lance and machine production.

Currently undergoing major technological modernisation. The main translation aids in use, being installed, or overhauled, include: the Eurodicautom termbase; the Euramis Linguistic Resources Database and search engines combined with translator's workbenches; Systran machine translation; and a document server with full text search and retrieval possibilities.

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Euramis, the Platform of the EC Translator

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Copenhagen, May 1997

SdT

Overview

- The SdT (Service de Traduction)
- Why Euramis
 - ... and not only Euramis
- Tools in the SdT
 - Descriptions
 - Demonstrations
- Workflow considerations
- Conclusions

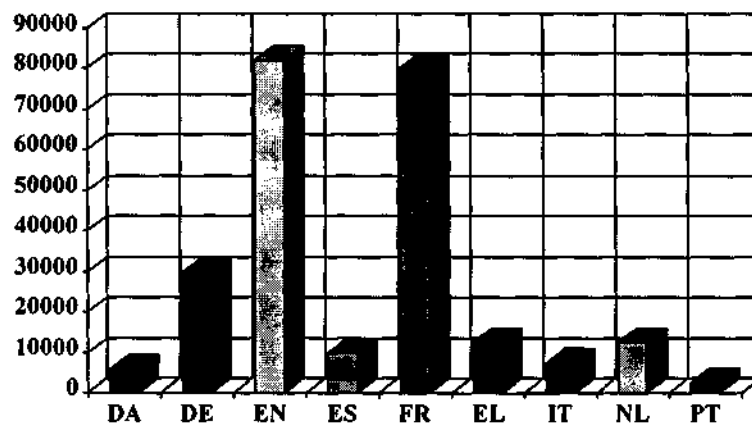
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The EC Translation Service



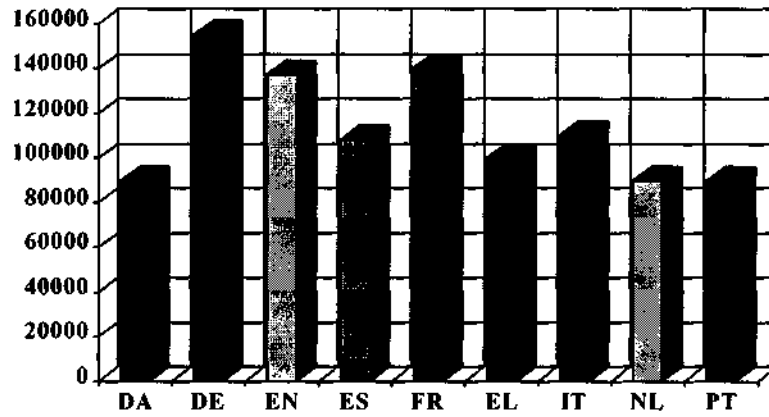
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Workload Source Languages



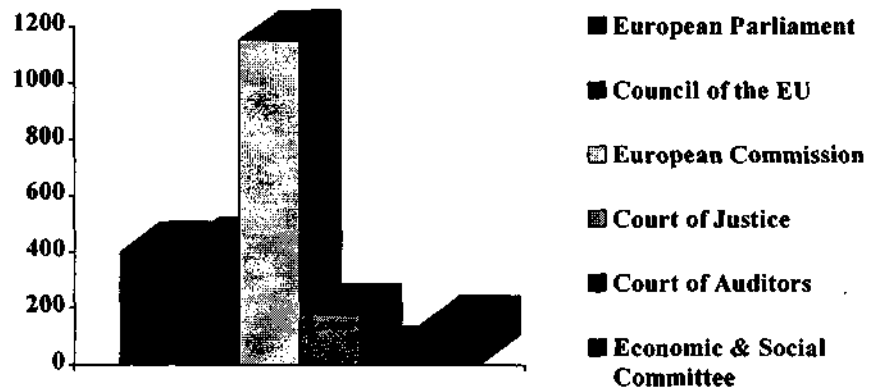
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Workload Target Languages

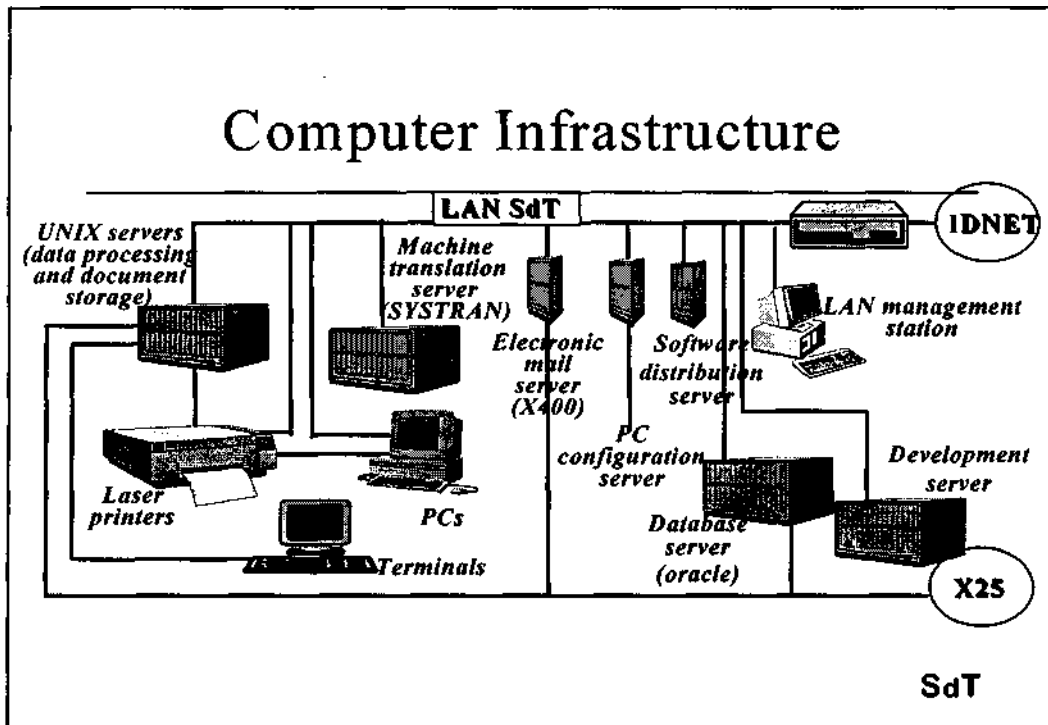


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The EU Translation Services



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Basic Software in SdT

- Operating system:
 - Windows 3.1 (Windows NT as of 1998)
- Word-processing
 - Before: WordPerfect 5.2+ Win
 - Now: Winword 6.0
- Electronic Mail
 - All European Institutions on X.400 mail with Internet gateways

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Major Systems

- Administrative
 - *Poetry*, requesting department interface
 - *Suivi*, internal translation follow-up
- Document Management
- Linguistic
 - *Euramis*, Institution-wide Translation Memory
 - *Eurodicautom*, *Multiterm*, Terminological
 - *Systran*, Machine Translation

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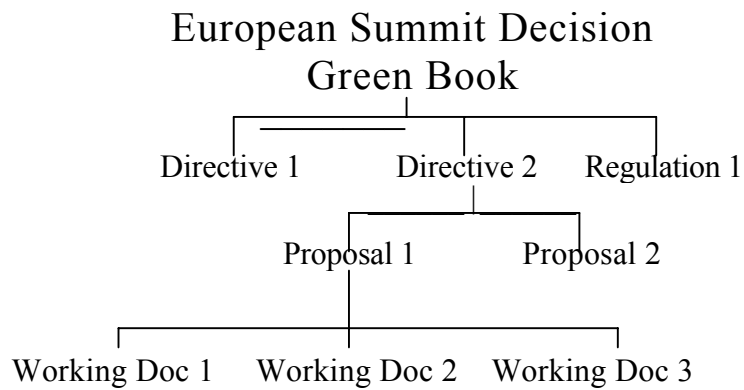
Why have Euramis at All?

What are the translator's needs?

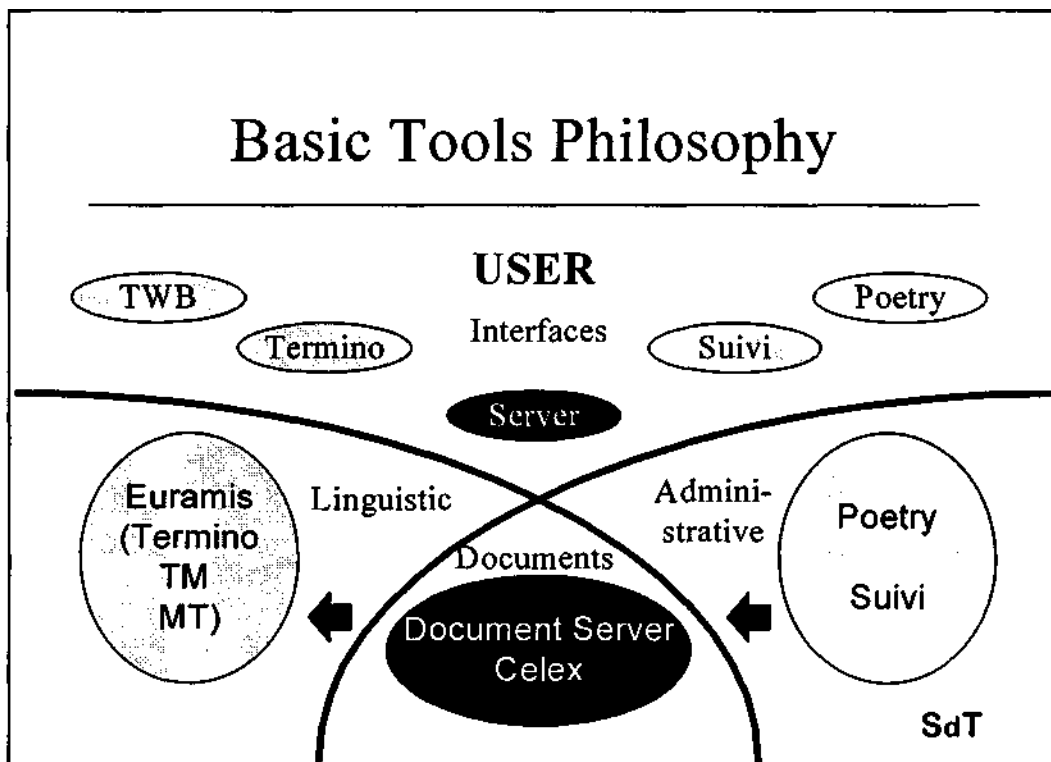
- Reference documents in electronic form
- Pertinent terminology
- Already translated sentences = Translation memory

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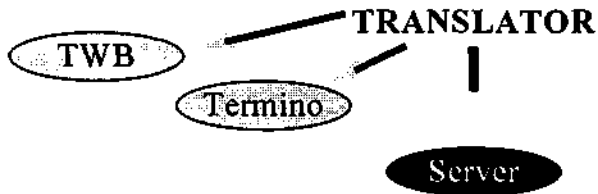
Model Based on Repetition



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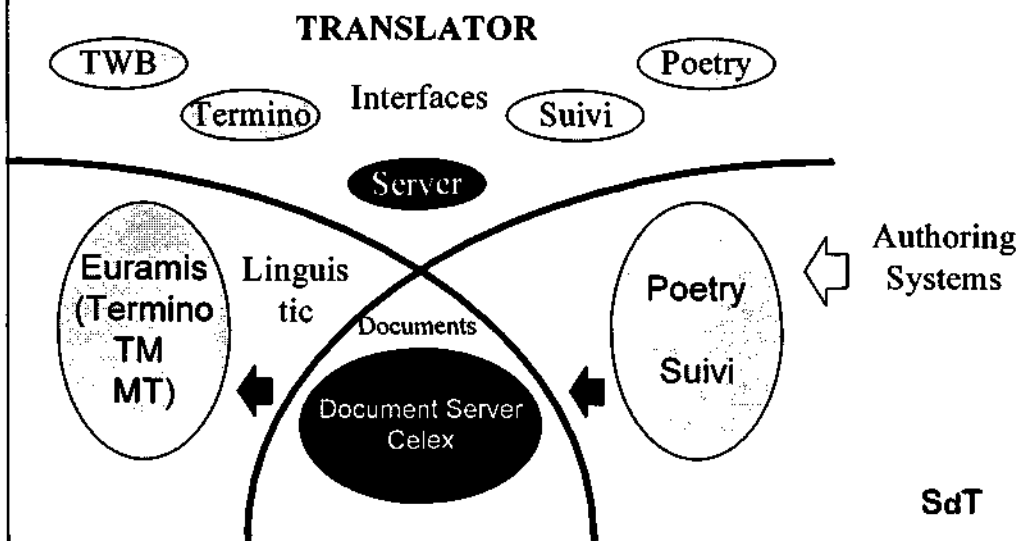


User Interfaces



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Medium Term Objective



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Authoring Tools

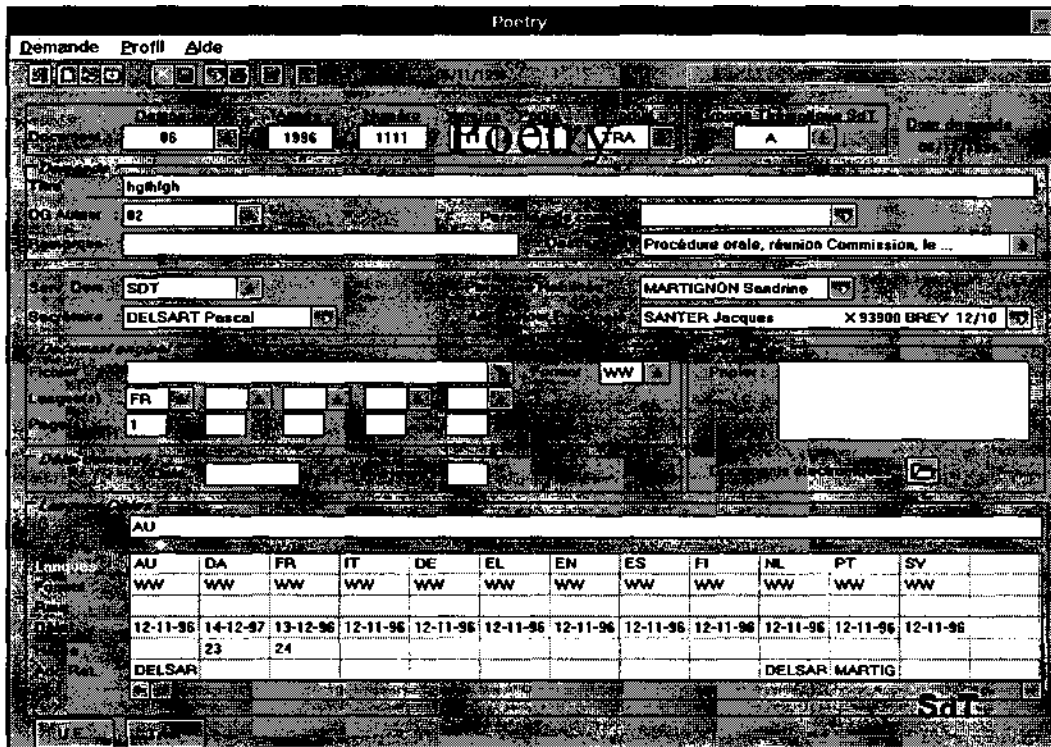
- From spelling-checkers
- Through grammar and style checkers
 - Important for Machine Translation
- To standardised multilingual document generators
- And, ultimately, to multilingual document drafting aids

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Administrative Systems

- Systems that take a document from the author to the desk (the PC) of the translator
- Transmit all administrative information
 - Author
 - Department
 - Deadlines

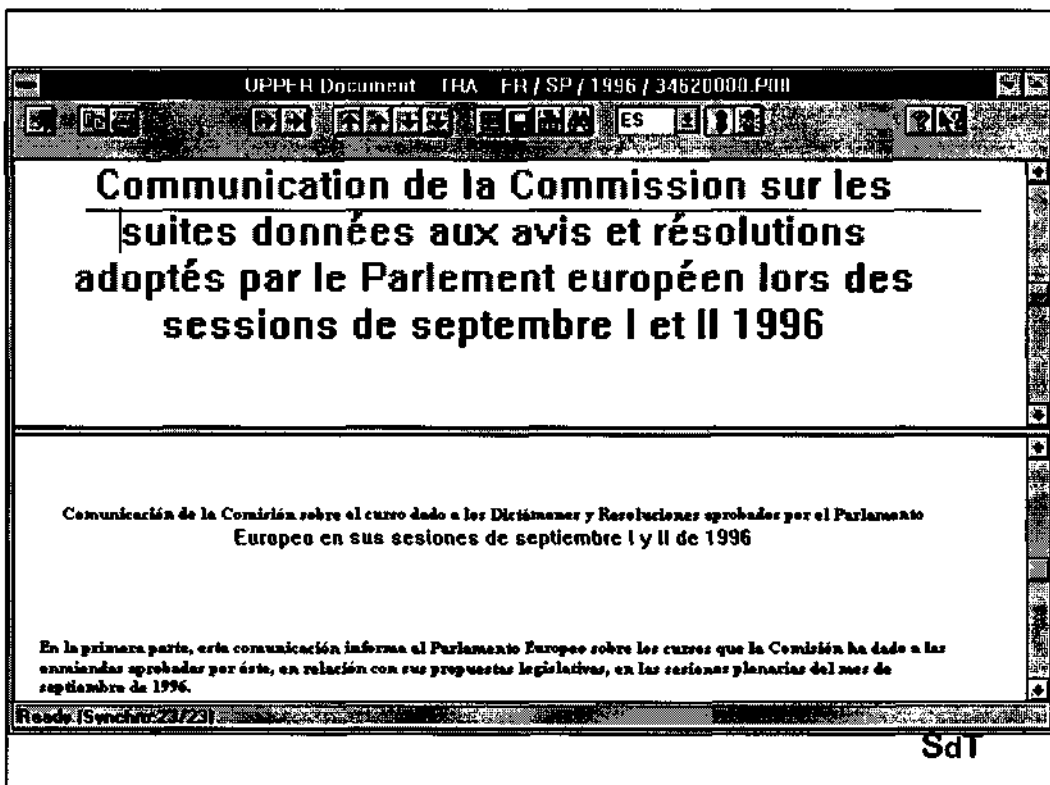
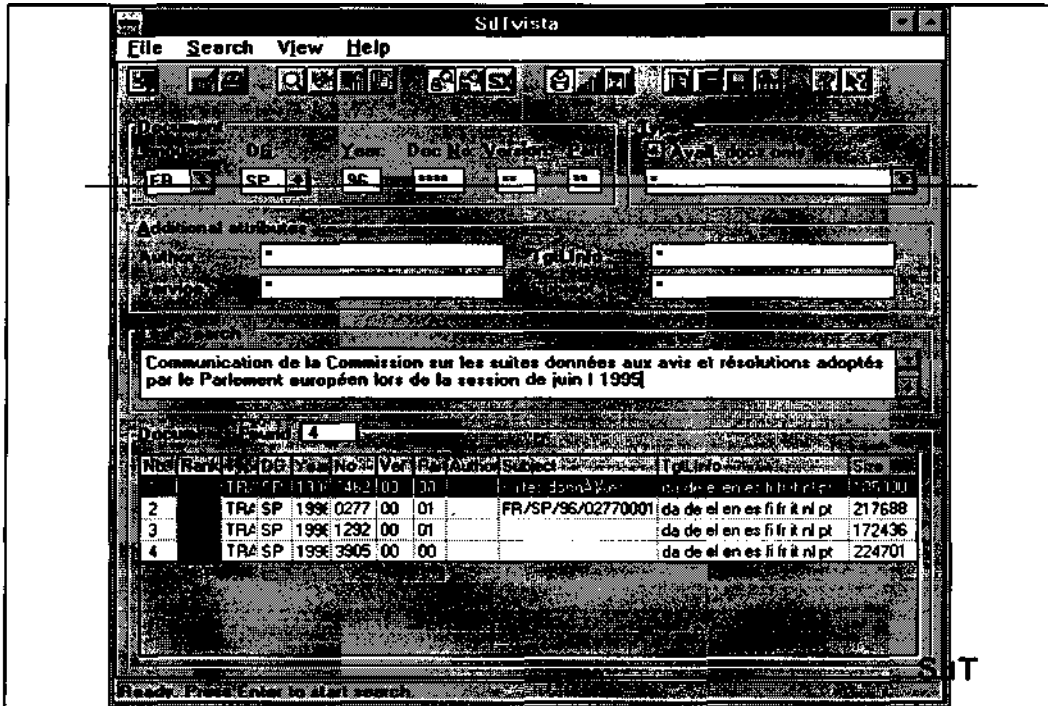
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The Document Server

- Electronic document handling
- (More than 2/3 of the originals arrive in electronic format)
- Full-text indexing (3 years on line)
 - Using "SearchTools" by Fultext (Fulcrum)
- Can display on screen two parallel language versions of same document

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Document Server Spin-offs

- Powerful terminological tool
 - Terminology "On-demand"
 - Especially with parallel scrolling
- Provides the material for all linguistic systems
 - Added-value with alignment
 - At term level (terminology)
 - At sentence level (translation memory)

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Document Comparison

- *Docucomp (by Mastersoft)*
- Simple (\$ 99) software
- Ideal to compare two versions of the same document
- Marks graphically in great detail
 - Added text
 - Deleted text
 - Moved text

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The Linguistic Systems

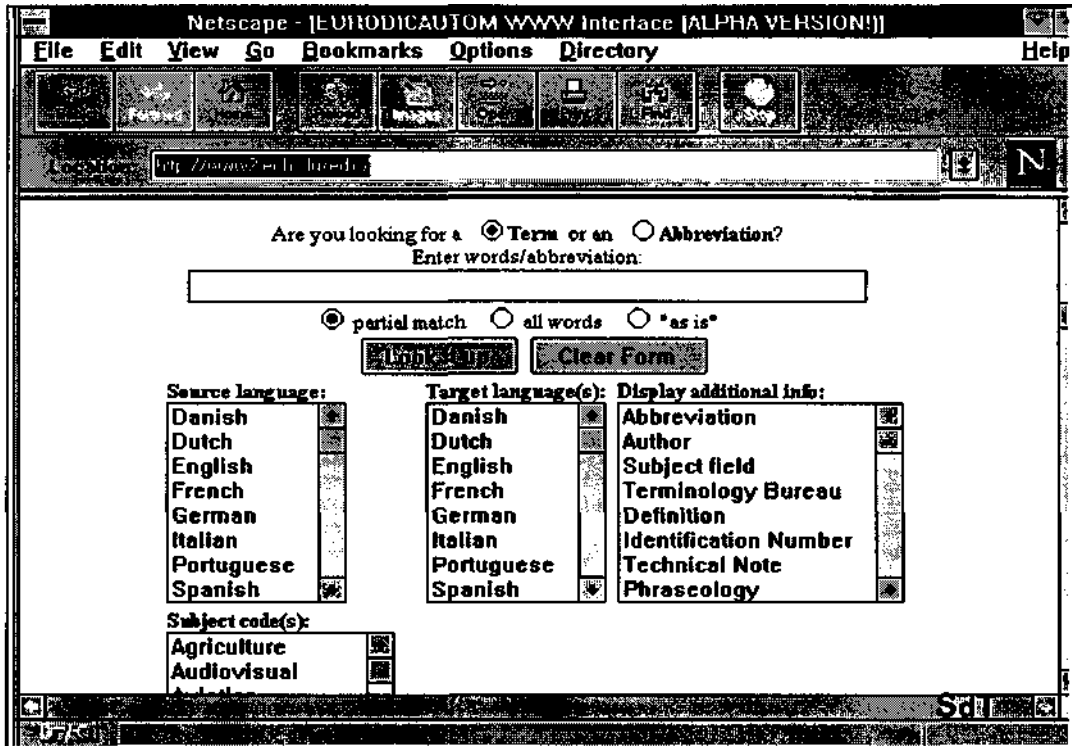
- Terminological
 - Eurodicautom
 - MultiTerm
- Translation Memories
 - Euramis
- Machine Translation
 - Systran

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Eurodicautom

- Central terminological database
 - 800.000 multilingual entries
 - 300.000 abbreviations
- Available now via a WWW (World-Wide-Web) interface
- For the moment, free connection via ECHO, (European Community Host Organisation)
<http://www2.echo.lu/edic>

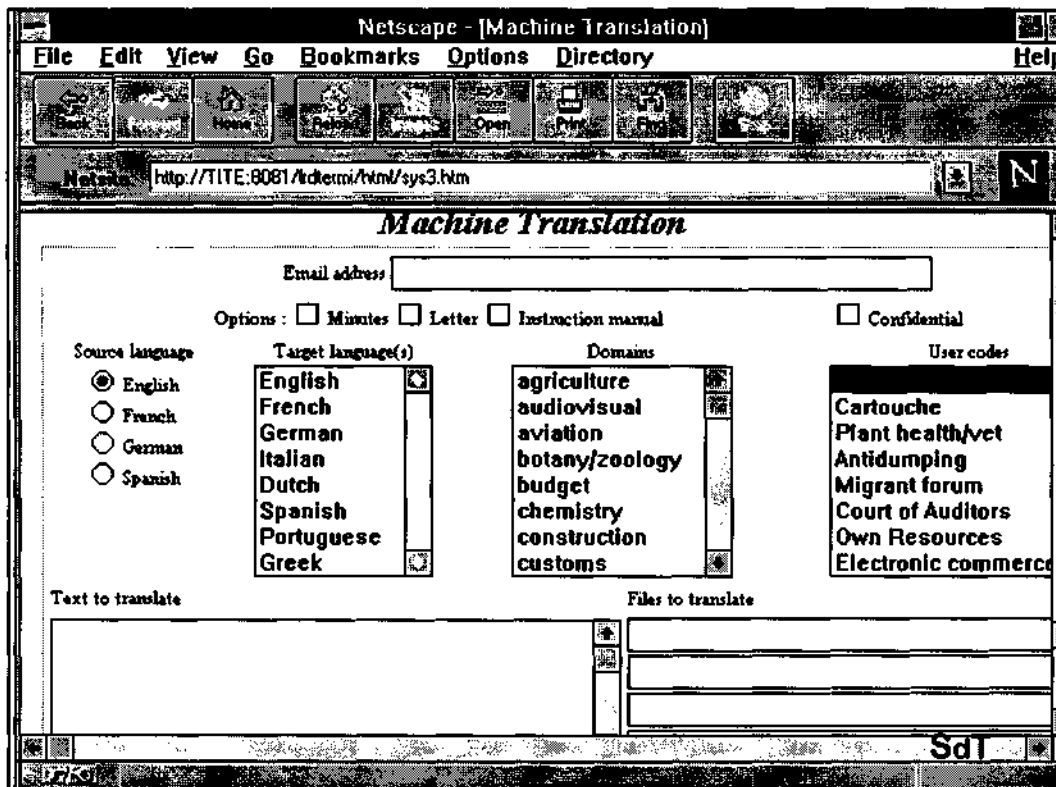
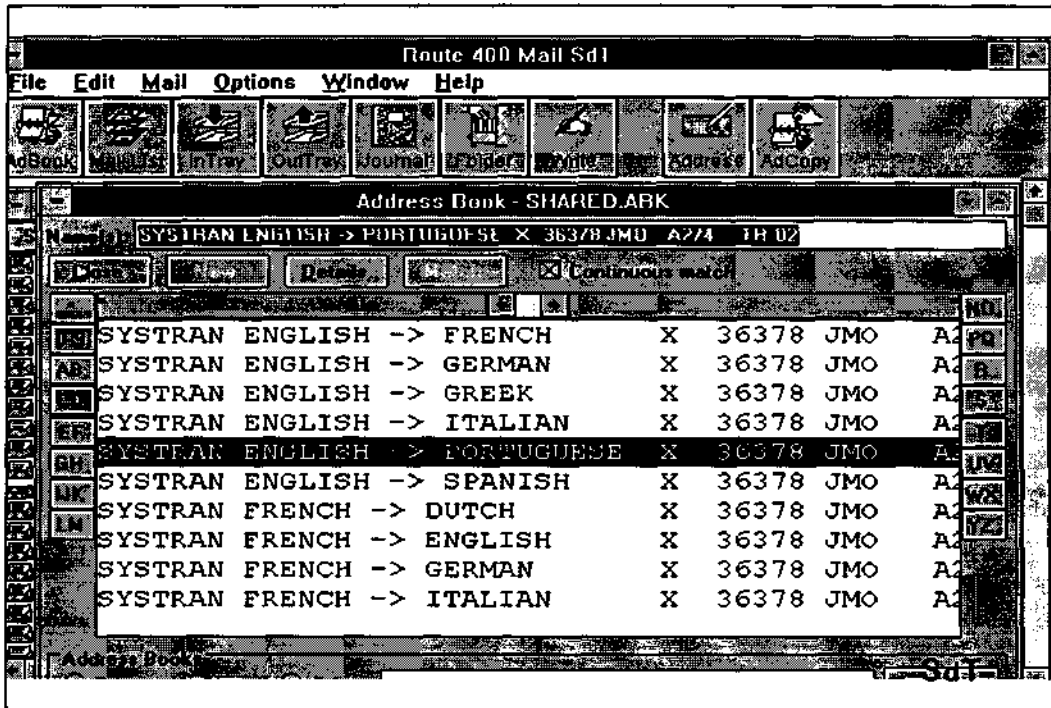
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EC-Systran

- In the Commission since 1976
- Usage explosion after introduction of simple e-mail access
- Currently available in 16 language pairs
 - Of which 8 give satisfactory results
- 220.000 pages in 1996
 - Of which 80.000 requested by SdT

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EC-Systran language couples

- English into
 - Dutch
 - French
 - German
 - Greek
 - Italian
 - Portuguese
 - Spanish
- Spanish into
 - English
 - French
- French into
 - Dutch
 - English
 - German
 - Italian
 - Spanish
- German into
 - English
 - French

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European *Advanced* Multilingual Information System



DG XIII - Translation Service

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