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**Oana-Florina AVORNICESEI**

**SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETING  
IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**SAMPLE SPEECHES AND PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE USE OF SECOND-YEAR M.A. STUDENTS  
IN SPECIALISED TRANSLATION  
AND INTERPRETATION**



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## PREFACE

This book is a collection of speeches and exercises meant to be used as a basis for practical activities during the applied sessions of Simultaneous Interpretation for International Relations, which the graduate students of the Master's Programme for Specialised Translation and Interpretation (MATIS) study and practice during their third out of the four semesters foreseen by the curriculum.

The book is structured into three chapters. Chapter I contains twenty-two political speeches in English, Chapter II has the same number of diplomatic speeches in English, while Chapter III contains forty-two study and practice activities based on the speeches collected in the first two chapters, but not restricted to them.

The reason behind this structure is a thematic one. International relations, the main area of focus for developing and honing simultaneous interpretation skills in the third semester of the MATIS programme comprises two thematic areas broadly speaking: politics and diplomacy.

The speeches selected were delivered by high-ranking European officials, at various international events and functions. Due to the nature of the political structure which is the European Union and the bodies which govern it, the aspect of its uniqueness has posed and answered at the same time the question of what international means. Since relations within the EU are still internal in terms of the supranational structure but international in terms of individual member states, the reference for the distinction has been taken to be the supranational structure of the EU.

As such, all the events – whether meetings of the Commission, Parliament or European Council – which discuss EU-internal matters and were held in Brussels or Strasbourg, were taken to be at EU-internal level, and all the meetings of the same bodies which tackled issues dealing with international relations between the EU and partners from the rest of the world, and were held both at the seats of these institutions or abroad, were considered to be external to the EU and therefore international in nature.

This distinction helped classify the speeches into political (EU-internal events) and diplomatic (EU-external or international events).

The speeches have been selected from the data bases of the European Institutions and are available publicly for educational purposes. The source has been indicated at the end of each speech along with the source for the video material, whenever it was found publicly available.

The type of material selected is restricted to speeches only, as they are meant to be used as practice material for simultaneous interpretation, and as such, this type of material is best suited for this kind of practice, in terms of oral characteristics and style.

The length of the specific units of practice may vary and is not restricted to the actual length of the speeches themselves. It is to be established by the user(s) according to the particular needs, objectives and purpose established for any particular activity or training session. A usual interpretation session can be at least 10 minutes long, with interpreters taking turns in the booth after 5 minutes. In time, and as the work progresses, they can be increased incrementally, and the speech selection used for the practice can be adapted accordingly.

The topics of the speeches as inventoried at the end of the book in the Policy Area Register. Some of them are to be found in Chapter I, of political speeches, some only in Chapter II, of diplomatic speeches, while other policy areas feature in both chapters with different speeches, of course, and varying speakers, too.

The speakers can also be found at the end of the book listed in the Speaker Register, along with some information about the capacity in which they held the speeches featured in the book and links to further information.

The speeches are selected from a pool of material organised in principle from the newest to the oldest, with more topical policy areas featuring more than one speech, and more prominent speakers appearing more than once, due to their relevance and role in the policy matter.

The book also includes an extensive list of up-to-date sources for further reading and online sources, which can be used in any way that is relevant for training purposes. They can be the basis for class practice of home assignments, both and in groups and individually. They are meant to be primarily sources of practice but many of them can also be used as basis for preliminary or concluding discussions, material for comparison, discernment, analysis, and critical thinking.

This collection of speeches, practical activities and sources for further is the result of years of training and teaching work, mostly practical, but also in part theoretical. The main motivation behind it is the positive reaction and feedback from students, who found certain aspects interesting and relevant, and who also sometimes enjoyed the training of a set of skills which can be quite challenging and even frustrating at times.

But put in the right professional context and with the benefit of the insight and experience of so many brilliant interpreters out there, it can facilitate a lot of aha moments and a feeling of personal achievement when training pays off and leans to good results in the booth which lead to the appearance of this book in its present form.

It needs to be said that it is just one of the many forms in which it could have been compiled, but this volume also speaks very much of the time when it has been put together. Such a training material can very aptly evolve with the time and the political issues of the day. For while the interpreting principles remain the same, the topical issues change, and new professional aspects appear which are very well documented in the day and age when online sources are in abundance. Old and new interpretation strategies and techniques need to be tried and tested to meet these challenges.

For now this book is a labour of love which I dedicate to all my students of Simultaneous Interpretation for International Relations at the Master's Programme for Specialised Translation and Interpretation who have motivated me to start somewhere and put together this initial book which speaks for all the late evenings of booth or online RSI where we tried to motivate each other just to make it to the end of the sessions, or we watched and felt that things were moving, that they became possible, where we put up with each other's nit-picking, hair-splitting and harsh self-criticism.

Dear MATIS students, 2012-2022 and future, this is for you.

Oana-Florina Avornicesei





# CHAPTER I

## ENGLISH POLITICAL SPEECHES

### I. REMARKS BY VICE-PRESIDENT SCHINAS AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON A STRONGER AND MORE RESILIENT SCHENGEN AREA, ON 2ND JUNE 2021 IN BRUSSELS

#### **“Check against delivery”**

Schengen has become a symbol of what Europe stands for today. It's part of our model of society, of our European way of life. It's in a way the jewel in our crown. It has not always been like that. I still remember when I was 15 and travelled for the first time abroad from Greece, I was body searched at the airport of Thessaloniki by very aggressive customs officers who were trying to establish whether I was carrying with me extra foreign currency, and I was seen as a potential criminal, not as a free citizen exercising my right to mobility. Lots of time has passed since these traumatic experiences. Now Europeans move freely across the board.

Schengen is the largest free travel area in the world. It allows more than 400 million EU citizens and visitors to move freely.

It's also as President von der Leyen said in her State of the Union speech last September the linchpin of the single market and its four freedoms.

Schengen isn't only about borders, it's also about the economy.

It is clear that no system despite its success can bear the test of time without renewal.

And we saw that Schengen has suffered two sets of very severe acute pressure in the last years. First during the migratory crisis in 2016. But also recently with the pandemic. This led to uncoordinated,

sometimes blanket closures, restrictions to free movement and reintroduction of internal border controls that I don't think helped a lot, and on the contrary harmed our way of life and our understanding of society and rights.

What we are presenting today is a new Schengen Strategy, which will reinforce Schengen. We have to save Schengen by reinforcing and reforming it.

The Strategy takes a comprehensive look at the three pillars that underpin Schengen.

The first is external borders. Contrary to what many people believe, Schengen does not do away with borders altogether but relies on the premise that to have free internal borders, we have to displace our border management capacity to our external borders.

A lot has been done in that respect: a significant reinforcement of Frontex, which is now becoming a fully-fledged the European Border and Coast Guard, the introduction and digitalisation of interoperable interconnected databases, including the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)

The second pillar is the idea of alternatives. Schengen must be supported by a vast set of measures that compensate for the absence of internal controls. There is an array of tools and initiatives that can help us.

Schengen is about more than just borders. We can reinforce police cooperation. We have a common European visa policy. We have a common European system of returns. We have a common Security Union. And down the road, we hope we will have the New Pact for Migration and Asylum that will help us with alternatives in border management, and reducing the potential risks of secondary movements and absconding within our borders.

Finally, the third pillar is the governance pillar. Schengen requires a robust governance system. The whole logic of Schengen relies on a spirit of mutual trust, joint accountability and ownership of results.

We have a system in place, the Schengen Evaluation Mechanism, which is a peer-to-peer system that allows us to test continuously the resilience and efficiency of our Schengen controls and mechanisms. This system over time has become a bit cumbersome and bureaucratic. We now want to lighten it up a bit, reform it, modernise it. We also want to bring up these Schengen evaluations more to the political level. It often becomes a discussion among like-minded officials. We want politicians, Ministers in the Council, and Members of the European Parliament to have the opportunity to discuss these issues.

Later this year we will come with a separate proposal on the Schengen Borders Code. The revision of this Code would introduce targeted amendments to the rules that govern potential measures at our internal borders. Our objective there is to introduce into the Borders Code the lessons learned from the pandemic. And one of the lessons learned from the pandemic is that unilateral, blanket-type measures of closing borders do not help. We are envisaging more proportional, more logical initiatives, more coordination between neighbouring countries, greater use of the Green Lanes that helped during the pandemic. So in the future proposal on the Schengen Borders Code you should expect to see a different approach.

When we talk about Schengen, we are talking about something which is big, which matters to all in Europe. It works to the benefit of our citizens, our internal market and our economies, and we are determined to protect it and make sure that nothing can threaten all Schengen represents.

Thank you.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech\\_21\\_28](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_21_28)  
29 (21.12.2021)

## II. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONER JOHANSON AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE ON A STRONGER AND MORE RESILIENT SCHENGEN AREA, ON 2ND JUNE 2021 IN BRUSSELS

### **“Check against delivery”**

This Schengen strategy is about the European Union being stronger facing out and being freer facing in.

The Schengen area is the biggest area in the world for free movement, 420 million people. It is also important to know that 40% of our territory is an internal border territory. 30% of our citizens live in an internal border region, and 1.7 million people go every day to work in another Schengen country. 3.5 million people travel across internal Schengen borders every day. So this is a lot of achievements here that we really need to be very proud of.

But, as everybody knows, the Schengen area of freedom and security and justice has also faced severe challenges the latest years. We saw in 2015 the migration crisis, and some Member States introduced internal border checks that they still have in place. We have seen now the pandemic, where several Member States introduced internal border checks.

I sometimes hear that we need to go back to a full functioning Schengen, but I should say that we have to go forward to a full functioning Schengen area. We are facing challenges, we will always face challenges, and new ones will come. Some of them we can predict; other ones we cannot predict. Terrorism will not end, we will have new pandemics probably, and we will have other challenges coming. What we need is to prepare the governance of the whole Schengen area to be able to face and address these challenges. To secure our citizens while also having the free movement in place inside the Schengen area. That is why, we have these three pillars in the strategy.

First is the better management of our external borders. This is crucial. We already have taken a lot of decisions that now need to be implemented. First, of course, was personnel: the European Border and Coast Guard that should have 10,000 standing corps to help at vulnerable areas at our external borders. But maybe even more important are the new IT systems. We have several new systems in place that have to be implemented, and operability between the systems have to be implemented in the coming years. We have a tight timetable to follow for that and it is crucial now that all Member States really deliver all this, and in time, because we are not stronger than our weakest link at our external borders. If we have weaknesses at some part of our external border, that will have an impact on all Schengen countries.

Second, we also need to strengthen the security inside the Schengen area. Internal border checks should be a measure of last resort. But we have to see that even if we have stronger protection at our external borders, we will still have a lot of threats inside Schengen. We know that organised criminal groups are working cross-border; we know that terrorists cross borders inside the Schengen area. That is why we need to strengthen police cooperation. We are going to present later this year an EU Police cooperation code that sets a standard for the swift cooperation between police forces in different Member States. We will also put forward new proposals when it comes to advance passenger information and when it comes to the sharing of information between law enforcement in different Member States. These are important parts of securing our citizens in an area of free movement of 420 million people.

The last thing I would like to mention is governance. What we have realised, and many Member States have realised, is that we have been lacking a bit of political governance of the Schengen area. That is why this Commission organised a Schengen Forum. We had the first meeting in November last year, we had the second Schengen Forum last month and this has been an opportunity for Ministers, European Parliament and the Commission to come together and discuss the political governance of the Schengen area.

Now we propose that this Schengen Forum be permanent and takes place annually. To feed into that Schengen Forum, we will also

annually present a State of Schengen report that will deliver facts and figures on the strengths and weaknesses that we have in our Schengen area and also at our external borders. To be able to do that in a good way, we also now present, together with the Strategy, renewed legislation when it comes to the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism. That is when my services, together with experts from Member States visit all the different countries in the Schengen area, on site to really look at what is working well and if there are any shortcomings. What we propose now is to have swifter processes, make sure that severe deficiencies will be addressed immediately, and we also propose that unannounced visits will be really unannounced and not announced 24 hours in advance as is with the current legislation.

Last but not least, we will also set up a Schengen Scoreboard to make sure that we can follow the development in all the Schengen countries. The last thing I would like to say is that all Member States of the European Union have an obligation to enter Schengen when they fulfil the criteria. We now have three Member States that fulfil the criteria and are expecting to be able to enter Schengen. I hope that the Council will take the decision soon so that Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia will be full members of the Schengen area. Thank you.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech\\_21\\_2841](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_21_2841) (21.12.2021)

III. OPENING REMARKS BY FRANS TIMMERMANS AND KADRI SIMSON AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON NEW EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL PROPOSALS FOR MORE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, INCREASED CARBON REMOVALS AND A FRAMEWORK TO DECARBONISE THE GAS MARKET, ON 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021 IN BRUSSELS

**“Check against delivery”**

**Opening remarks by Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans**